OB/Gyn

Student Questions for Residency Directors
Video Project 2014-2015

Initial Application Review:

- Test Scores:
  - What role do USMLE I/II scores play? USMLE Step 1 is used as a filter to select candidates for an interview. The cutoff is program specific but can be as high as 220 and as low as passing score. Step 2 may be used for ranking decisions.
  - Do you have a cut-off? If so, what is it? We do not use a specific cutoff but any failure grade on Step I/II result in no interview granted.
  - Are there any mitigating factors to your cut off (in application/by contacting program)? Often lower scores are used for internal candidates, candidates from visiting SubIs at the institution, and couples applicants.

- Clinical Rotations:
  - How do you incorporate clinical grades? These are used to select candidates for interview
  - Are there certain clinical rotations you pay special attention to? Obstetrics and General Surgery
  - Do rotations not in your specialty matter? All rotations are reviewed
  - Should electives be in your specialty? Required for interview
  - How important is it for me to rotate at your institution? Not required
  - More broadly, does clinical site matter for my rotations? No
  - What electives, if any, are important for my application? Gynecology Oncology or Maternal Fetal Medicine
  - How important are away rotations? Not important unless no SubI at home institution

- Extracurricular activities/awards/honors
  - Is research valued, and if so, what type? How important is it to have specialty specific research? Any research helps but not required
  - How valued are extracurricular experiences? Any in particular you would recommend? Required

- Letters of Recommendation
  - How many do I need? 3-4
  - From whom should I request them? (which faculty, site, specialty) Must be at least 2 from specialty

- Additional questions
  - How do you view Longitudinal Integrated Curricula [LIC] (eg. RPAP, MetroPAP, UCAM, new VA LIC, VALUE)? Neither negative or positive
  - Does being a UMN graduate help or hurt me? What about not being from MN?
We interview all UMN candidates. Performance in SubI is looked at highly in rank process.

**Interview Day/Ranking:**
- When should I expect to hear about interview invitations? Within 1 week of Sep 15th
- How do you use the interview in the ranking process? Counts for 50% of decision
- What is the biggest mistake you see students make on interview day? Not prepared, not engaged, unable to address questions from CV
- What questions would you like to hear on interview day? We have no preference but at least questions on curriculum, stability of program, attrition, faculty engagement, procedure numbers, evaluations methods, mentorship
- What is the single greatest thing that can bump an applicant up the match list and the single greatest thing that can bump an applicant down? Interaction with our residents both bumps them up and down. Good fit is critical. Doing poorly on a SubI at our institution will severely effect ranking.

**Final question:** What is your program’s ratio of applicants : interviewed : ranked : matched?
- 4-5:1 for app/interview
- 9:10 interviewed are ranked
- 1/10 of ranked are matched