



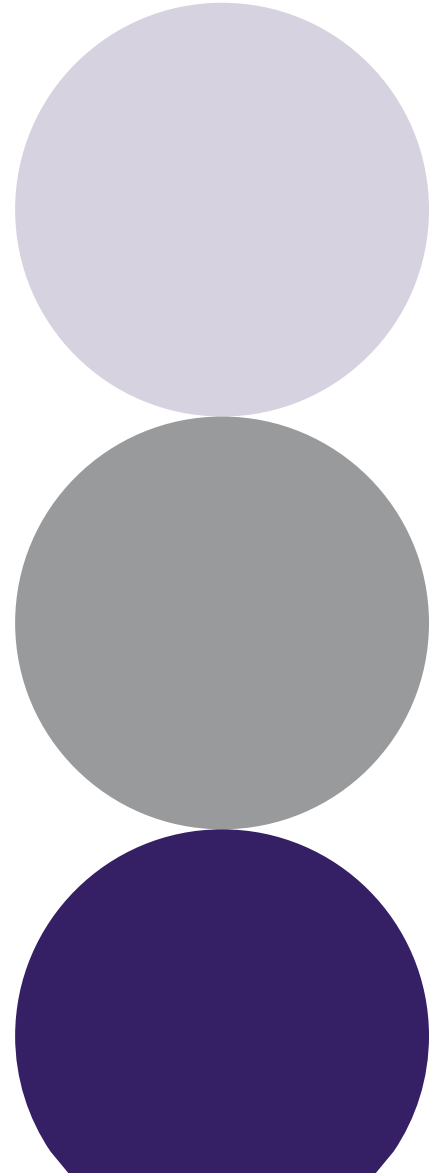
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2022 Advice for the Ophthalmology Residency Match

June 1, 2022





Purpose of this Webinar

- In this 90-minute webinar with Q&A, department chairs, medical student and resident educators in ophthalmology, as well as those who also hold roles in the dean's office will share guidance about applying for this year's ophthalmology residency match. Presenters will cover tips related to personal statements, rotations, letters of recommendation, virtual interviews, assessing residency program fit, integrated internships, and more.
- We will give you the latest available information regarding this year's match.
- Attendees will receive a handout with links to useful resources.
- This webinar and associated handout will be posted



Overview of the Topics

- SF Match Timeline and What's New? – **Rukhsana Mirza, MD, MS**
- Ophthalmology Residency Process - Developing your Story – **Keith Carter, MD**
- The Ophthalmology Away Elective – **Lisa Kelly, MD, MEd**
- Identifying Mentors for LORs / What's a Good Letter? – **Daniel Knoch, MD**
- Advice from the Dean's Office – **Chris Alabiad, MD**
- The Personal Statement – **Nandini Gandhi, MD**
- Altus Suite for Ophthalmology Residency Applications – **Jeffrey SooHoo, MD, MBA**
- Assessment of a Program – **Jeff Pettey, MD, MBA**
- Advice for the 2022 Match Cycle: Interviews/Scheduling/Open Houses – **R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA**
- Open Q/A



Chris Alabiad, MD
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute
University of Miami



Keith D. Carter, MD
Chair and DEO
University of Iowa Hospital



Nandini Gandhi, MD
Residency Program Director
UC Davis Eye Center



Lisa Kelly, MD, MEd
Director of Medical
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University of Cincinnati



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MD, MBA
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Jeffrey SooHoo, MD, MBA
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MODERATOR
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Director of Medical
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Northwestern University
Feinberg School of Medicine



MODERATOR
Anju Goyal, MD
Director of Medical
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Wayne State University
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Q/A ASSISTANT
Prithvi Sankar, MD
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Housekeeping Items

- Use the **Q&A function** to ask questions and communicate with panelists
- This webinar is being recorded

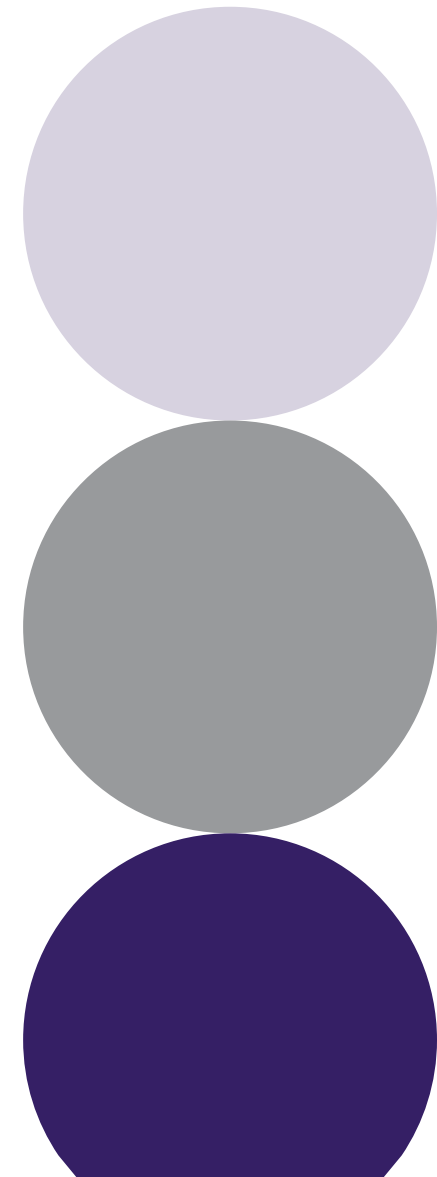


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POLL





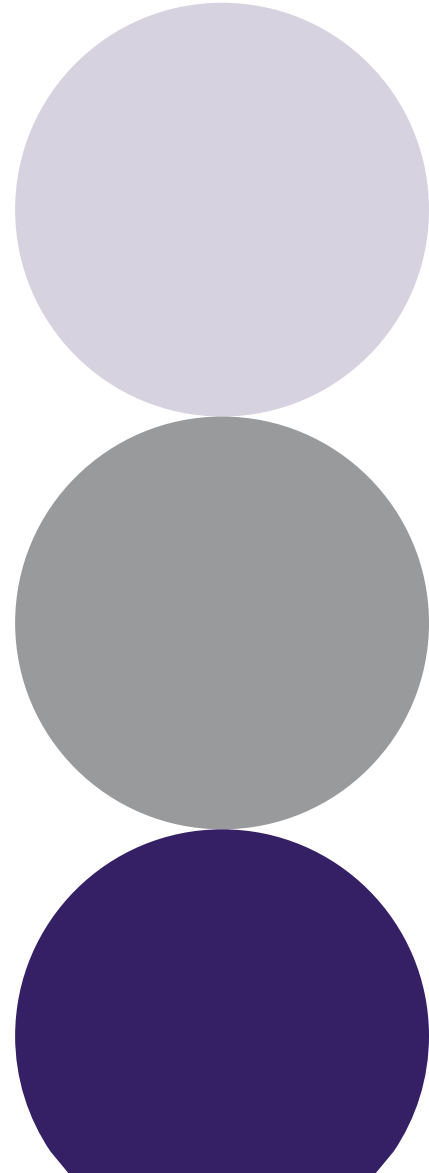
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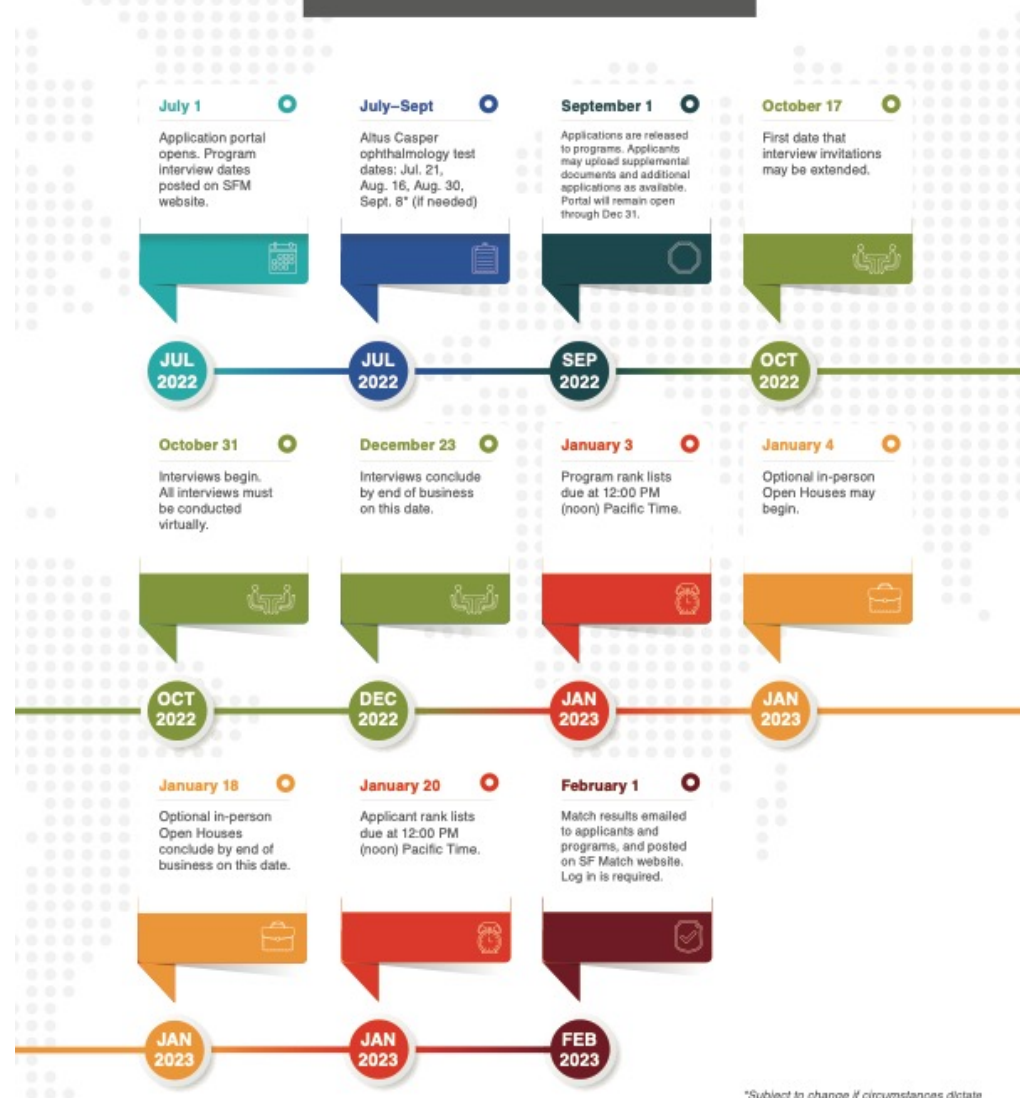
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SF Match Timeline and What's New?

Rukhsana G. Mirza, MD, MS
Ryan-Pusateri Professor of Ophthalmology
Professor of Ophthalmology and Medical Education
Northwestern University/ Feinberg School of Medicine
June 1, 2022



Ophthalmology Residency Match Timeline for 2022–2023*



*Subject to change if circumstances dictate



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Interviews

- Will remain virtual this year
- Cap on interviews for candidate 15



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Timeline

- JUL 1, 2022 – Portal opens
- SEPT 1 – Completed application released; portal remains open
- OCT 17 – First date interview invitations may be extended
- OCT 31 – First date for virtual interviews
- DEC 23 – Last date for interviews
- JAN 3, 2023 – Program rank lists due
- JAN 4 – In-person open houses begin *
- JAN 18 – Last day for in-person open houses
- JAN 20 – Applicant rank lists due
- FEB 1 – Match results released



Personal Statement

Changed in 2021

- In order to increase diversity within the profession and to obtain a more holistic review of applicants, the former one-page personal statement has been replaced.
- 500-word autobiographical sketch.
- The application will contain a list of several short essay questions, and applicants will be asked to choose two of them to answer. (250 words each)
 - The questions will remain unchanged from last year
 - Can be customized for program



USMLE Step 2

- Applicants are not required to submit USMLE Step 2 scores, but may do so voluntarily

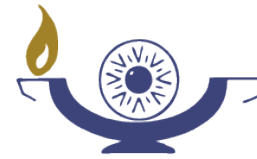


Altus Suite – Holistic Review

- Multi-level assessment of ophthalmology residency applicants
 - Professionalism
 - Social intelligence
 - Value alignment



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@rg_mirza



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Ophthalmology Residency Process

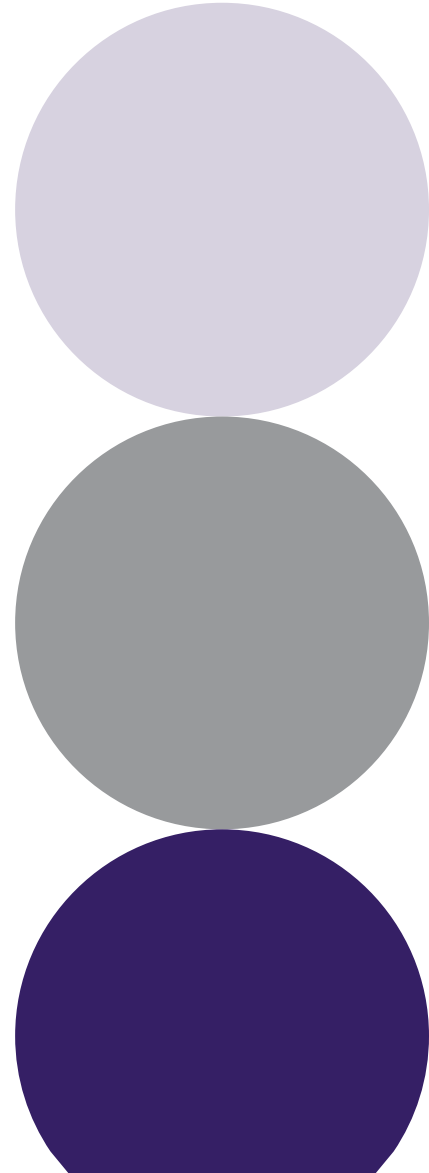
Developing Your Story

Keith D. Carter, MD

Professor and Chair

Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences

University of Iowa





YOUR Story

- Prior to filling out your application, it is important to reflect on your experiences
- How have you gotten to where you are now?
- What have you overcome?
- What experiences will demonstrate the person you are now and the resident and physician you will be?
 - Life events, experiences in school, research, clinical care, community service, advocacy etc.



Considerations

- If there is a noticeable gap or concern in your application this could be addressed in the autobiographical statement or short answer section.
 - Examples: time off for medical or academic reasons, academic probation
 - This is a personal decision.
 - Discuss this with a trusted advisor

Personal Statement

- If you're inspired now and want to get started...
 - Work on an outline of your proudest accomplishments
 - Look over your CV for experiences to highlight
 - Reflect on the personal qualities you want to share with the committee
- Work through numerous drafts and revisions
- Ask mentors, family and friends to review
 - Your parents will be proud of reading your accomplishments!
- Don't misspell O-p-h-t-h-a-l-m-o-l-o-g-y
- These steps will help you gather your thoughts for the personal statement described later in the webinar and also your interview



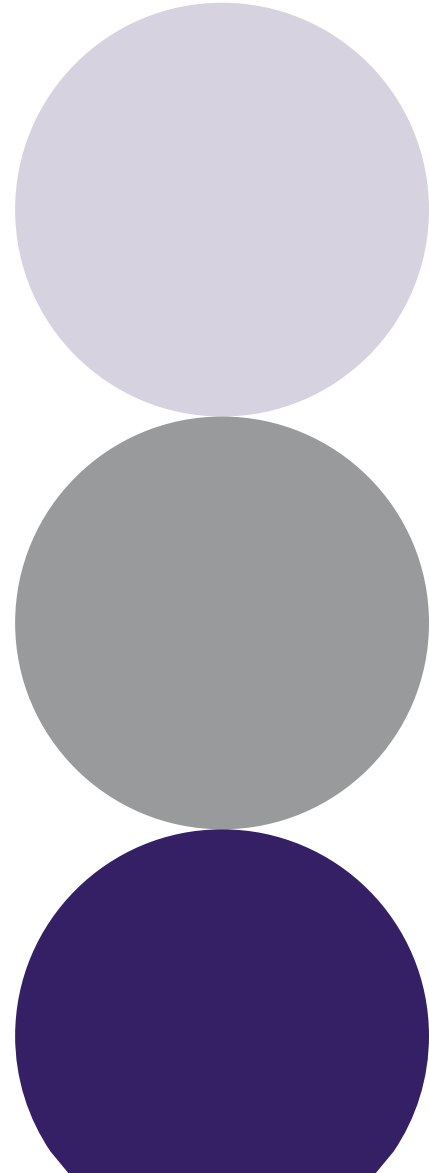
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The Ophthalmology Away Elective

Lisa Kelly, MD, MEd
Taylor Asbury Professor
Director of Medical Student Education
Department of Ophthalmology
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine

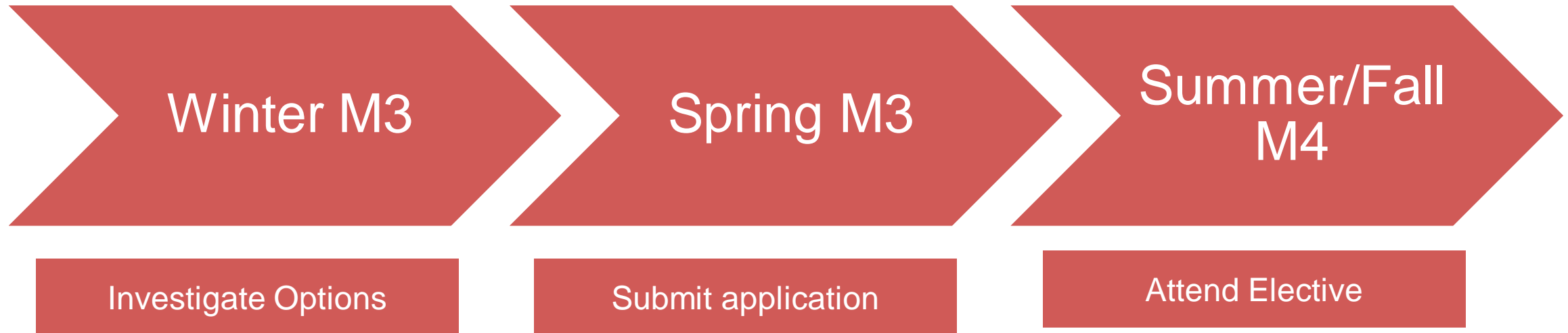


What is an Away Elective?

An away elective is not required to match in ophthalmology

- M4 elective at a location other than your home institution
- An opportunity to broaden your experience and exposure to ophthalmology.
- Coordinated by the AAMC VSLO (Visiting student learning opportunities)
- Requires an application submitted via VSAS

Away Elective Timeline



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Why Do an Away Elective?

Pro

- Exposure to a new ophthalmology learning environment
- Opportunity to work with a mentor
- Concentrated exposure to a particular topic of interest in ophthalmology
- Increased chance of being offered a residency interview

Con

- Financial cost
- Opportunity cost
- Schools have different academic calendars
- You may not get your first choice of program(s)

Determining Where to Do an Away Elective

- Consult with your mentor(s)
- Seek advice from older students and residents
- Consider desired geographic locations
- Consider locations where you will have social support
- Consider programs with clinical strength in your area of interest
- Consult Texas Star or Doximity for program information



How to Ace the Application Process

- Study and understand the VSAS application process
- Visit individual program websites for additional information
- Start your investigation early
- Stay organized – consider creating a spreadsheet
- Know which immunizations are required
- Arrange a social support system if possible - housing, transportation and daily living.



Put your Best Foot Forward on Away Electives

- Know as much as you can about the program
- Read about the faculty that you will work with
- Review the syllabus and know what will be expected of you
- Have a support system in place for housing and transportation
- Make sure that your clinical ophthalmology skills are polished
- Practice your presentation skills
- Review your fund of knowledge
- Be pleasant to everyone that you interact with



Long-term Benefits

- Let faculty and residents know of your interest in the away residency program
- Send thank you notes/ follow-up email letting key faculty know that you appreciated the opportunity
- Stay connected via research projects or other opportunities. This is an opportunity to enhance your professional network and identify potential mentors.

Take Aways

- Consider doing an away elective early
- Study the VSAS process – know it well
- Be clear about your goals and objectives
- Optimize your application
- Be prepared to do an outstanding job during your away elective

References

- VSAS/VSLO application process <https://students-residents.aamc.org/visiting-student-learning-opportunities/visiting-student-learning-opportunities-1>
- Texas Star <https://www.utsouthwestern.edu/education/medical-school/about-the-school/student-affairs/texas-star.html>
- URIM opportunities <https://students-residents.aamc.org/students/explore-urim-opportunities-visiting-students>



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Identifying Mentors for LORs

What's a Good Letter?

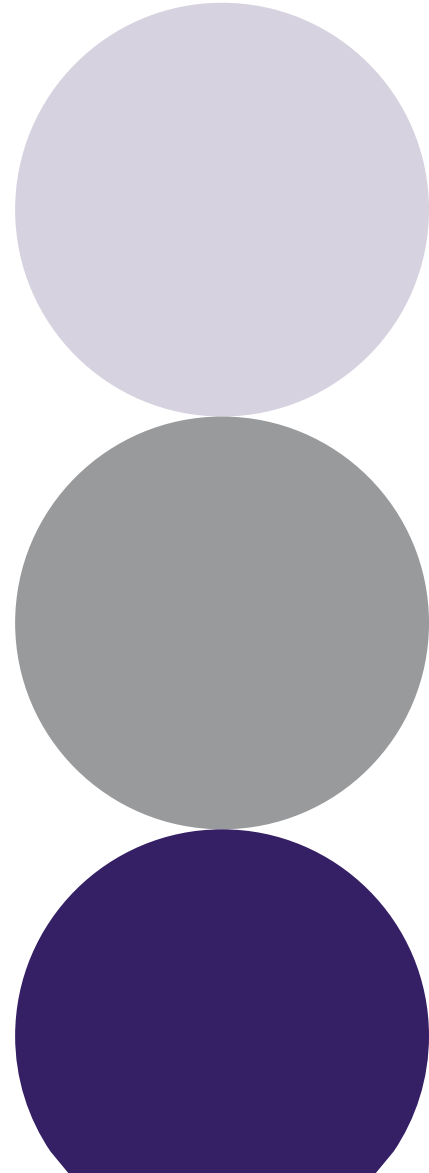
Daniel W. Knoch, MD

University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

Director of Medical Student Education

Vice Chair of Education and Faculty Development

June 1, 2022



A Strong LOR Should Tell a Story: Yours!



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For a full discussion of the ideas and research summarized in this infographic, please visit abccopywriting.com/goodstory
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ABC Copywriting

- Trust in the teller: length of relationship is key!!!
- Drama: personal achievements (clinical, research, surgical), leadership, potential hardships (scores, not matching)
- Relatability: professionalism, team, aspects that set you above the rest
- Familiarity: person writing should sound like they know you well
- Immersion: make us want to match you!!



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How to Get a Strong Letter: Choosing a Mentor

- Start early if possible: website, other students' experiences
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How to Get a Strong Letter: Choosing a Mentor

- Start early if possible: website, other students' experiences
- Track record of mentorship
- Enthusiastic
- Approachable/available
- Coach
- Hear you



How to Get a Strong Letter: Mentee Traits

- L
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- T
- T
- E
- R



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How to Get a Strong Letter: Mentee Traits

- Listen well (feedback)
- Eager to learn (prepare topics, practice exam skills)
- Trustworthy
- Timely (project deadlines, clinic/surgery start times)
- Enthusiastic
- Respectful (gratitude, clinic staff!)



How to Ask for a Strong LOR

- Should be easy if relationship
- Can do in person or email
- Use phrase like, “Thank you again for all your valuable teaching. Would you be willing to write me a very strong letter of recommendation”
- Give **at least** 4 weeks notice
- If answer is yes, set up a meeting
 - Email CV, personal statement, known deadlines, anything you want to highlight, details needed for submission (applicant number, where to submit, etc.)
 - Should discuss whether hardships should be in LOR (poor grades/scores, didn't match)
 - Reminder email, and don't forget to thank them!

Thank You and Good Luck!

More information available on the
Medical Students section of the
AAO/AUPO website at:
www.aao.org/medical-students

Interested in Ophthalmology?

Ophthalmology is one of the most satisfying medical professions. This is due in large part to the broad scope of ophthalmic practice, which includes medicine and surgery, treatment of pediatric and adult patients and provision of primary care as well as highly specialized treatment. Also, because of the nature and wide prevalence of eye problems, the patient's relationship with an ophthalmologist continues over many years, often throughout the patient's life.

Educational Resources

- [What Every Medical Student Should Know](#)
- [Basic Ophthalmology Textbook](#)
- [Basic Ophthalmology Anki Decks](#)
- [Guide to the Bedside Adult Ophthalmic Exam](#)
- [Guide to the Bedside Pediatric Ophthalmic Exam](#)
- [Interactive Cases](#)
- [Interactive Figures](#)
- [Medical Knowledge Videos](#)

Practice of Ophthalmology

- [About Ophthalmology Practice](#)
- [Careers in Ophthalmology Video Series](#)
- [Medical Student Webinars](#)

Getting into Ophthalmology

- [AUPO Resources](#)
- [Residency Match Basics](#)
- [Residency Structure](#)
- [Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring Program](#)
- [Medical Student Webinars](#)

Commitment to Diversity

- [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)
- [LGBTQ+ and the Academy](#)
- [Minority Ophthalmology Mentoring Program](#)
- [Support for LGBTQ Members in Ophthalmology](#)



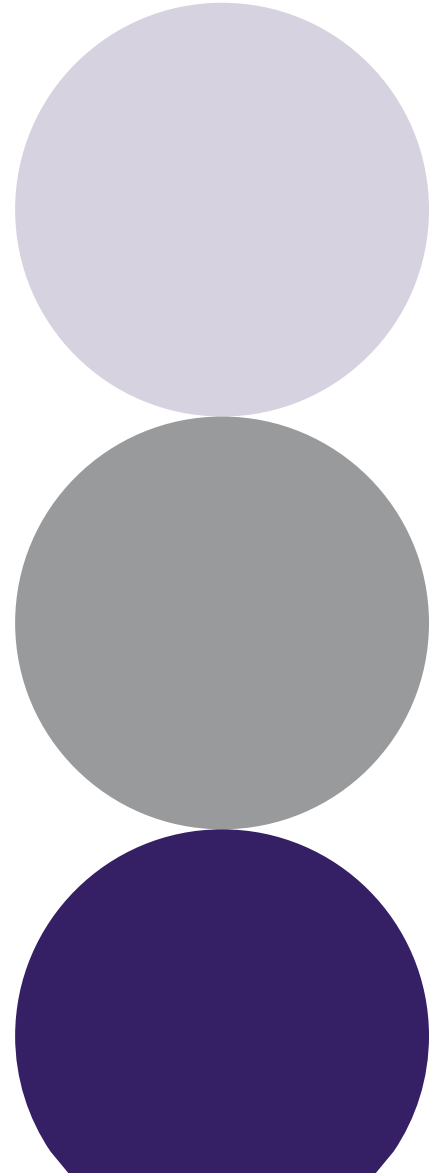
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Advice from the Dean's Office

Chris Alabiad, MD
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs
Ophthalmology Residency Program Director
Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology
Bascom Palmer Eye Institute
University of Miami Miller School of Medicine



Is Ophthalmology the Right Career for Me?

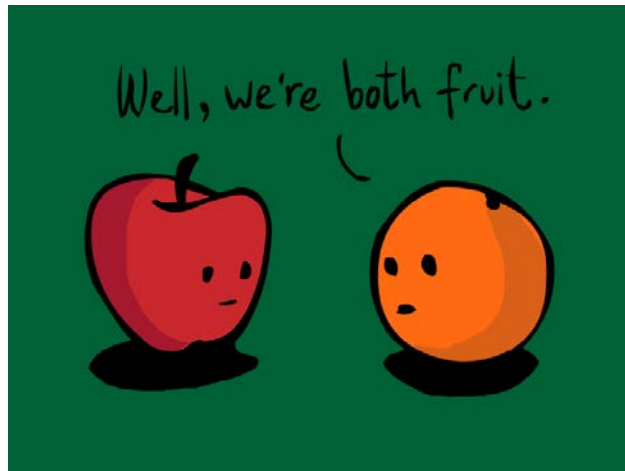
- Gauging interest
 - Clinic/OR shadowing opportunities
 - Virtual opportunities: Grand Rounds, Lectures, Conferences
- Identify an ophthalmology mentor



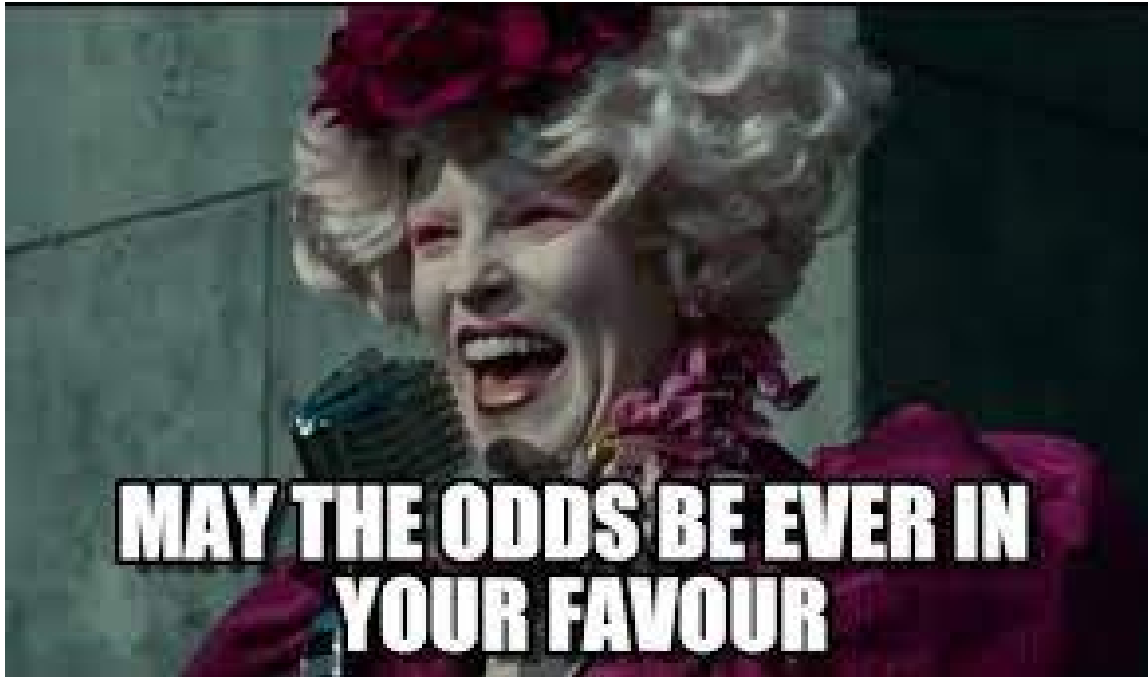
How do I stack up against the crowd?

Factors to Consider:

- Class Standing
- Research Accomplishments
- Unique Interests/Talents
- Adversity
- Supportive Mentor
- Leadership/Service
- USMLE Step 1 Score
 - Decreasing importance
 - Displayed as P/F on application
 - Programs will receive score reports



How Does One Improve Their Odds?



- No "one size fits all" answer
- Can't undo certain metrics
- But you can ...
 - Try to do well on USMLE Step 2 CK
 - Demonstrate dedication to/passion for the field through research and service



Speaking of USMLE Step 2 CK...

- When should I take it?
- How important is it?
- How long to prepare for it?
- What if my score comes in after I submit my application?



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What Options Can I Consider if I Don't Measure Up?

- Are you “Ophthalmology or bust”
 - Consider a research year
 - Not a guarantee to secure a match the following year
- Are you happy in any clinical setting?
 - Consider double applying



Taking a Year Off for Research/Other Degree



- Important factors:
 - Identify a supportive mentor with a track record of success
 - Identify a research topic that stimulates you
- Consider applying for a research fellowship
 - NIH Medical Research Scholars Program
 - RPB Medical Student Research Fellowship
 - Home institution student research programs

Working on the MSPE/Deans Letter

- Work closely with your advising dean on 3 unique characteristics/contributions
- Review your clerkship narratives for accuracy

It's Time to Apply! Where Do I Apply?

- Tips to applying SMART:
 - IGNORE THE RANKINGS!! This is about YOU!
 - Reflect on YOUR learning style and career goals
 - Do you prefer an independent vs closely supervised environment?
 - Is research a big component of your future career?
 - Could you be fellowship bound vs comprehensive ophthalmology?
 - Are there “life” mentors and “career” mentors you identify with at the program?
 - How important is proximity to your family/social support system?
 - Talk to your ophthalmology mentor to identify programs aligning with above

Thank you!



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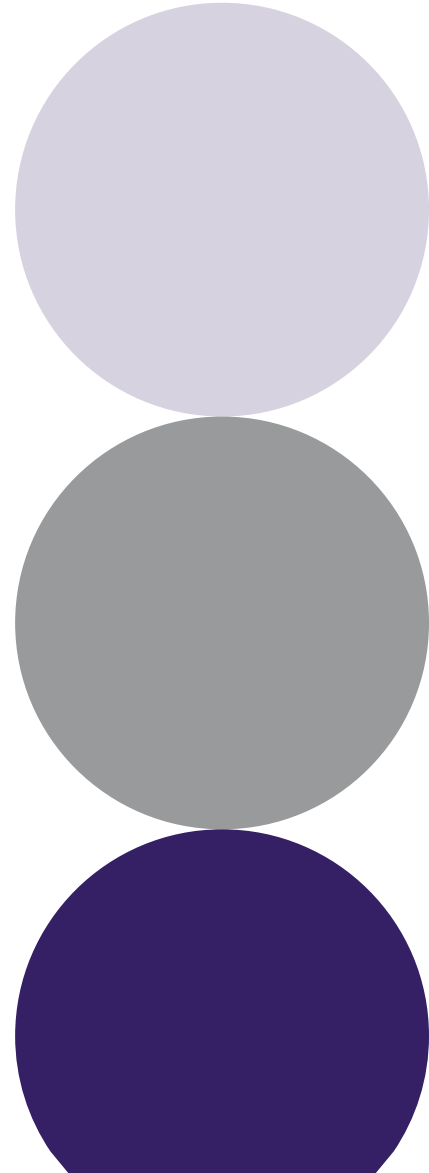
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The Personal Statement

Nandini Gandhi, MD
UC Davis Eye Center



- **General personal statement**

- Potential for vague answers
- Not as helpful for holistic review
- Potential for anxiety among applicants



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Personal Statement: Now

- **Autobiographical Statement:**

- A chance to share your journey to ophthalmology and what distinguishes **you** as an applicant
- 500 words

- **Short Answer Questions:**

- Applicants will choose **two short answer questions** (250 words each)



Personal Statement: Short answer questions

Last Year's Questions (Choose 2 - - 250 words each):

- *What does resilience mean to you? Describe a situation in your personal or professional life where you have demonstrated resilience.*
- *If you were to start an ophthalmology residency program, what would be the three core values you would base it on?*
- *Describe a way in which you will add diversity to your residency class. This may relate to your background, upbringing, life experiences, professional/personal interest, or educational path.*
- *Describe an important mentor and relate how that person has been helpful to you.*



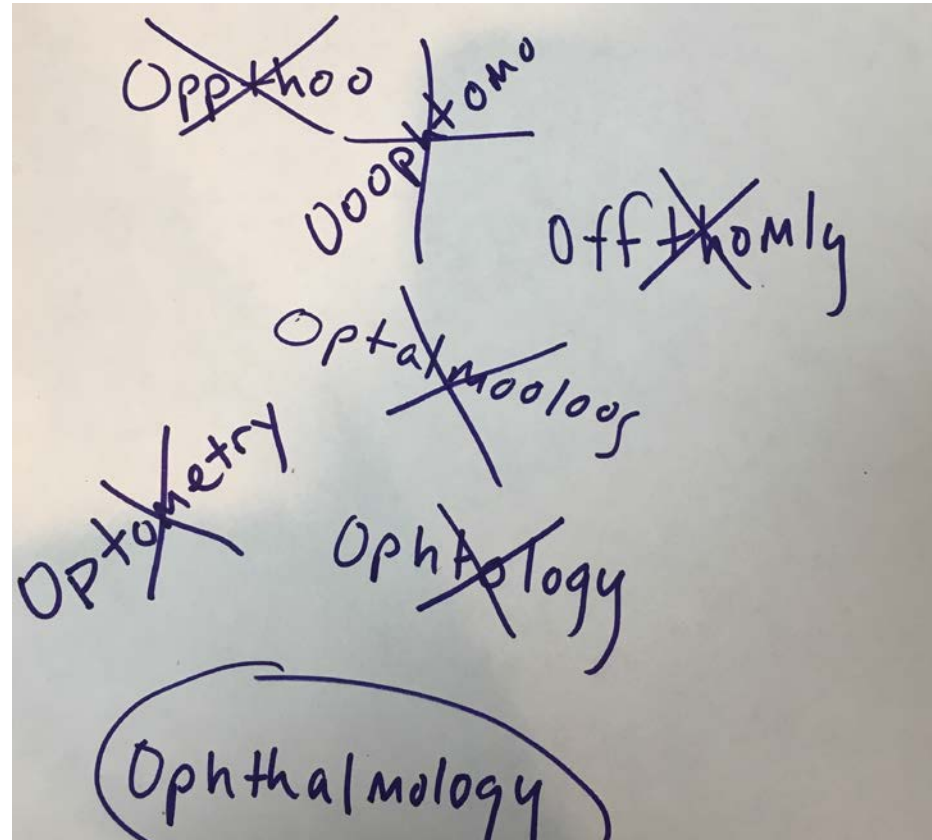
Personal Statement: Customization

- Applicants may create and save multiple personal statements and assign specific statements to specific programs
 - Can be a way for you to “signal” your interest to certain programs

Personal Statement: Do's and Don'ts

- ✓ Do use this as a chance to tell **your** story
 - Prior careers
 - Impactful experiences
 - Gaps in your training
 - Weak spots in your application
- ✓ Do have a second set of eyes on your work
- ✓ Don't be redundant
- ✓ Don't explain why ophthalmology is interesting in general
- ✓ Don't over-customize
- ✓ Don't use cliché phrases that are likely overused- "The eyes are the window to the soul"

Best of Luck for a Successful Match!



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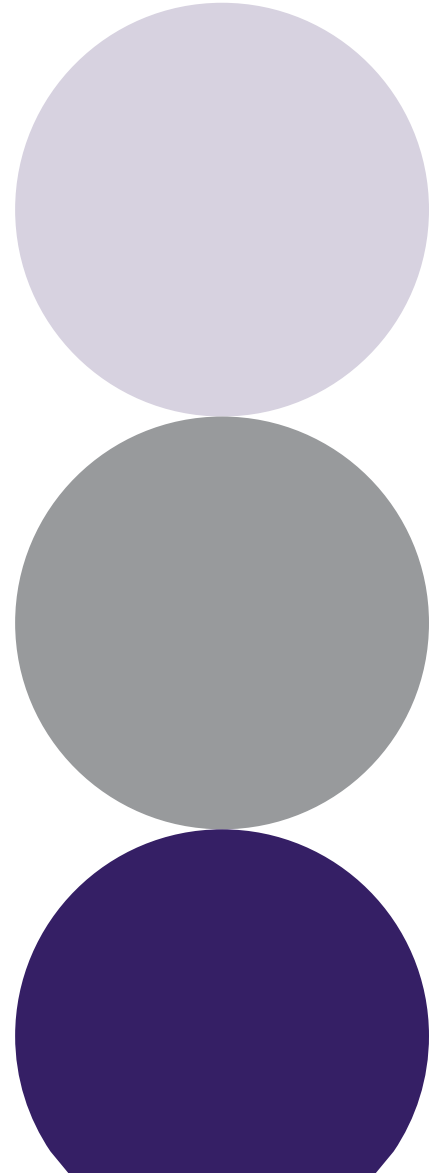
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Altus Suite for Ophthalmology Residency Applications

Jeffrey R. SooHoo, MD, MBA
Associate Professor of Ophthalmology
Residency Program Director
Assistant Dean of Admissions
University of Colorado School of Medicine





Outline for the next 5 minutes

- What is Altus Suite?
- Why is ophthalmology adding this to the application?
- How will programs use Altus Suite?

What is Altus Suite?

- CASPer situational judgment test (SJT) - ~ 90-minute test, online
 - Open ended responses
 - Assess applicants' ability to reflect and respond to various interpersonal and professional dilemmas
- Duet value alignment tool
- Snapshot one way video response
 - CASPer may be familiar to you – 95% of US and Canadian medical schools use Altus tools in their admissions processes
 - Able to practice CASPer and Snapshot

How and When Will I Complete?

- Altus will be holding webinars starting in June to explain the process
- Multiple dates to complete CASPer
 - Applicant support team for scheduling, support, etc
 - Duet and Snapshot on demand/on your schedule (with a deadline)

How are Results Communicated to Programs/Applicants?



- Applicants will get a quartile score for CASPer
- Applicants will also get their Duet profile
- Programs will get applicants CASPer scores
- Programs will see applicants' Duet profiles
- Programs can view Snapshot responses on demand

Why is Ophthalmology Adding This?

- Enhances our goal of holistic review
- Add in more information about non-cognitive competencies
- Creates a more diverse interview pool by decreasing reliance on other metrics such as USMLE Step 2



How will Programs use Altus Suite?

- Like all other pieces of information, variably
- AUPO is allowing programs to opt into different groups that will use information from Altus at various stages in the application and interview process
 - This will allow us to better understand how to use these data and when they add the most value to the process

Data

- Webinars will share information about test development, reliability, predictability, etc
- www.takealtus.com for more useful information (note UME versus GME content/assessments are different)



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Assessment of a Program

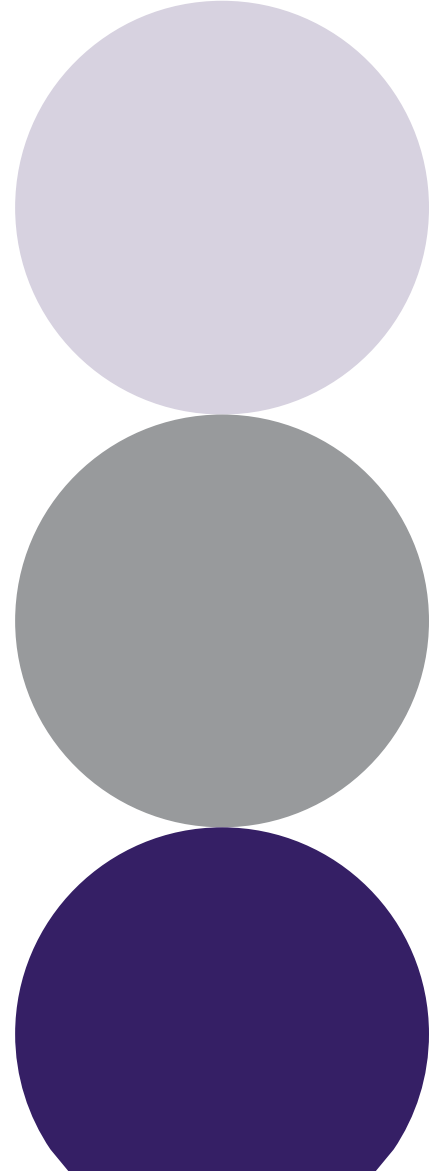
Jeff Pettey, MD, MBA

Residency Program Director, Vice Chair Education

Moran Eye Center, University of Utah

June 1, 2022

No Financial Disclosures



PRETTY PLEASE

WITH SPRINKLES ON TOP

Match Algorithm



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Match Algorithm



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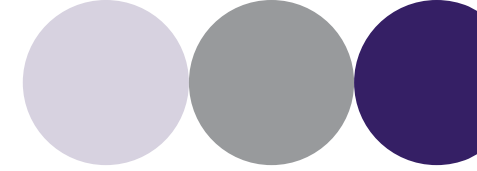
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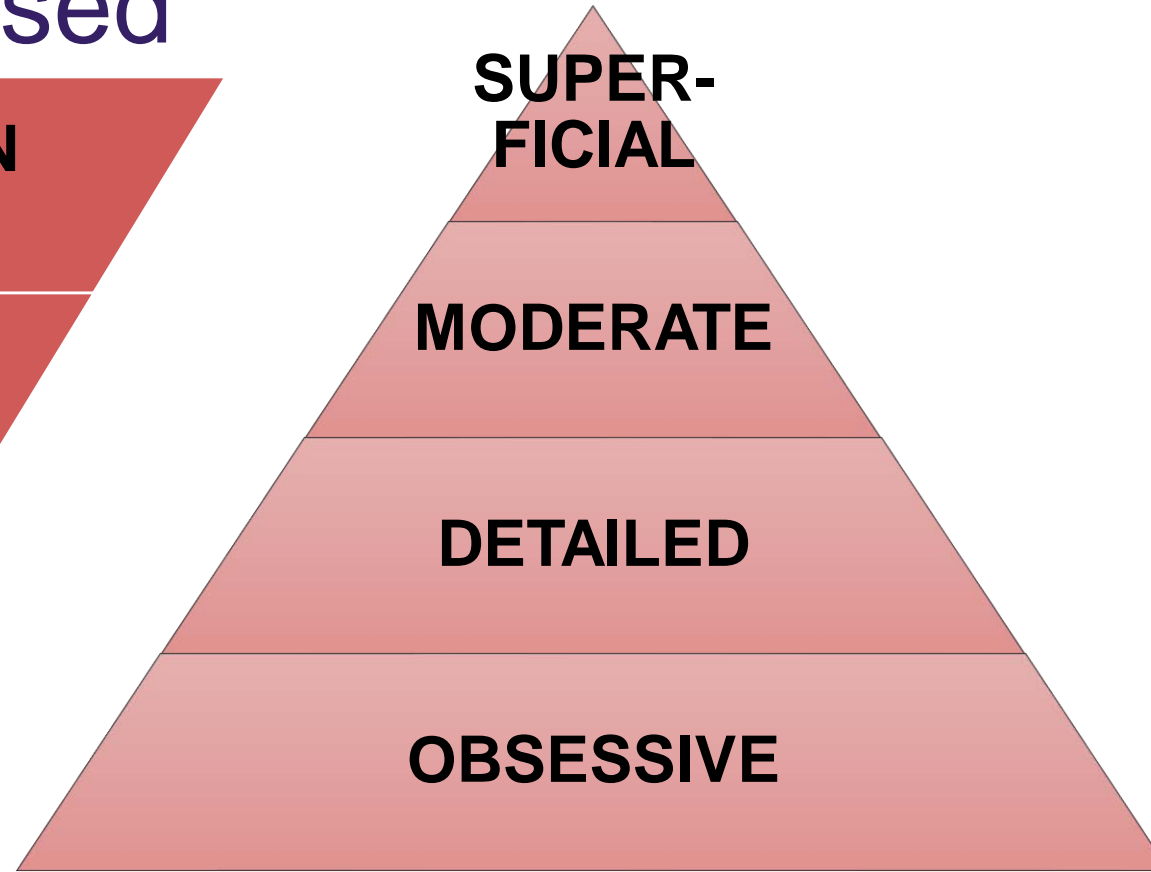
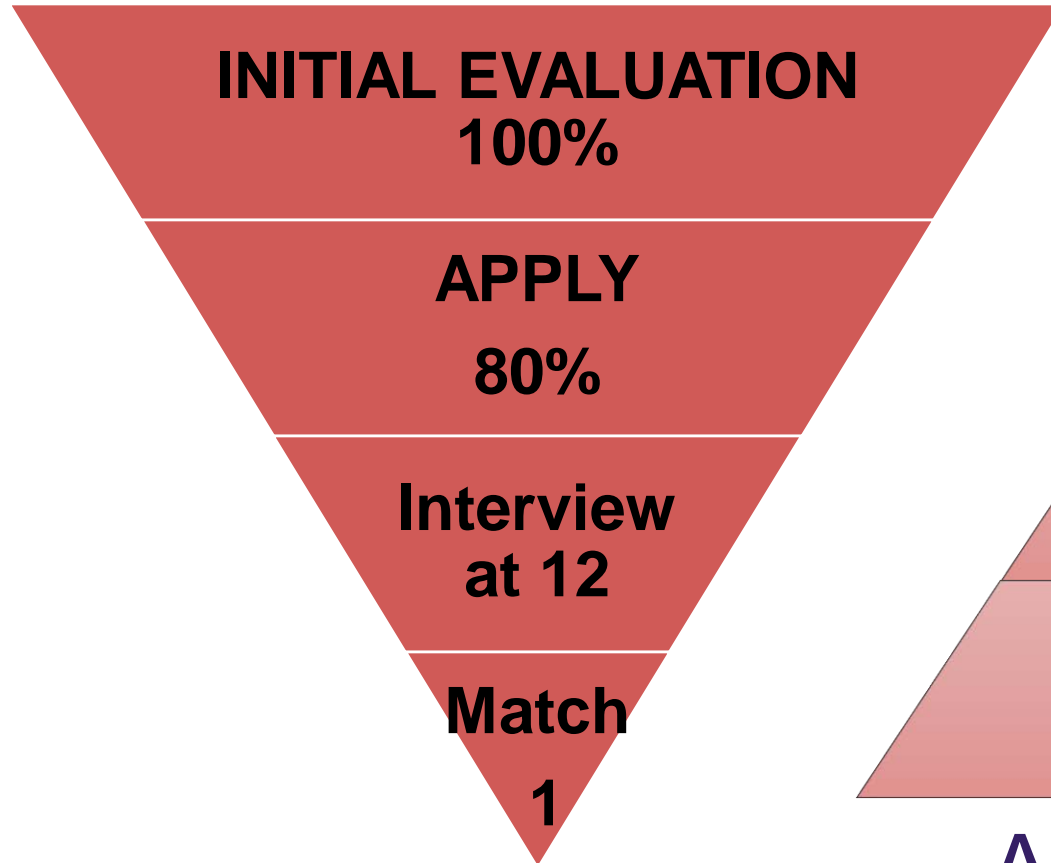
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Programs Assessed



Assessment Depth



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Program Assessment Pearls



Lean Into Bias

Sampling Bias
Confirmation Bias
Familiarity Heuristic



Limited Information and Data



Culture, Culture, Culture



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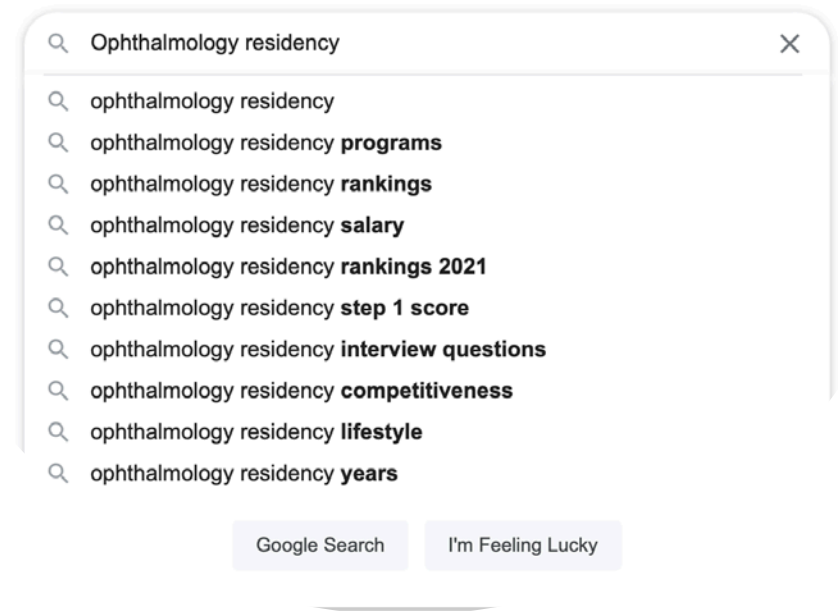


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Program Generated Content

- Websites
- Virtual Open Houses
- Promotional Materials



Program Assessment TOOLS

- Doximity's Residency Navigator
- SF Match
- AMA's FREIDA
- GME Track
- ACGME



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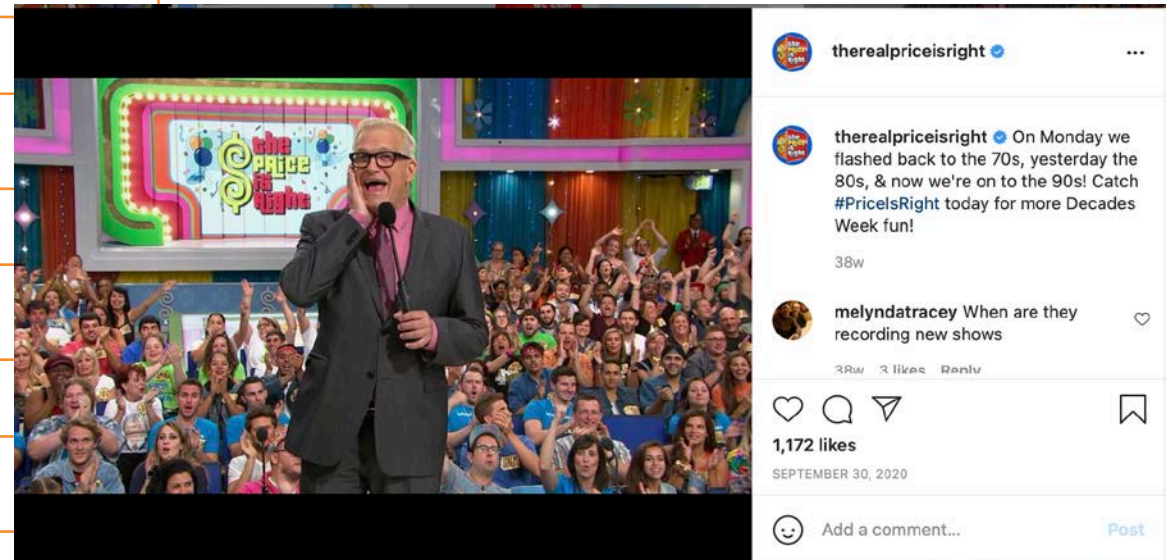
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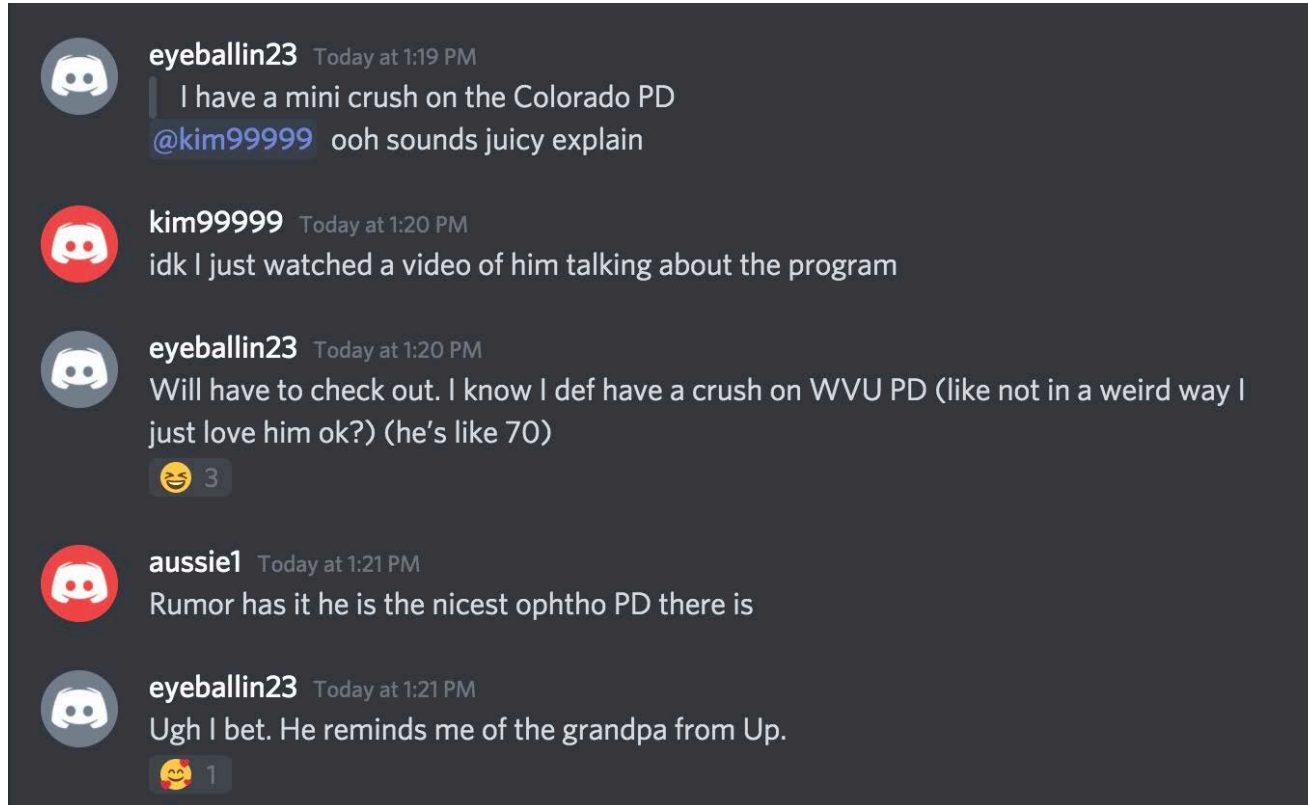


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Dark Web - Web Comments Section



Dark Web



eyeballin23 Today at 1:19 PM

I have a mini crush on the Colorado PD
[@kim99999](#) ooh sounds juicy explain



kim99999 Today at 1:20 PM

idk I just watched a video of him talking about the program



eyeballin23 Today at 1:20 PM

Will have to check out. I know I def have a crush on WVU PD (like not in a weird way I just love him ok?) (he's like 70)



3



aussie1 Today at 1:21 PM

Rumor has it he is the nicest ophtho PD there is



eyeballin23 Today at 1:21 PM

Ugh I bet. He reminds me of the grandpa from Up.



1

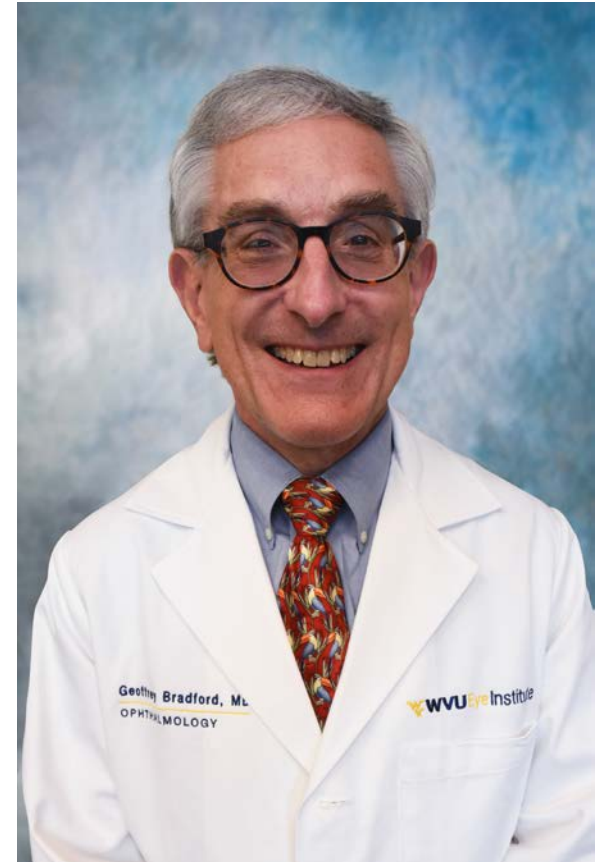
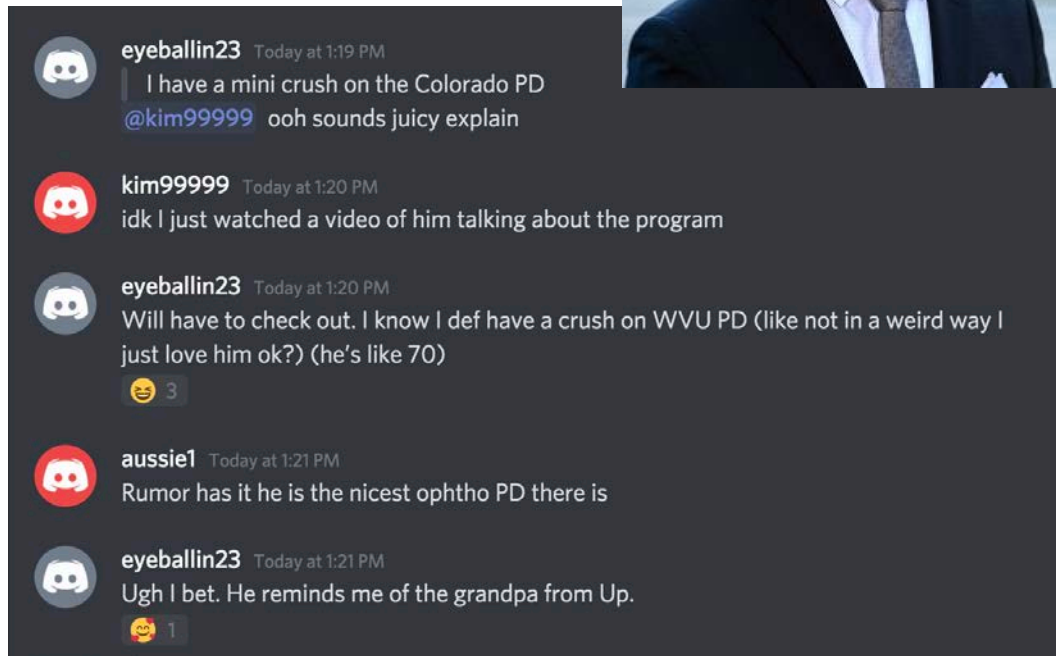


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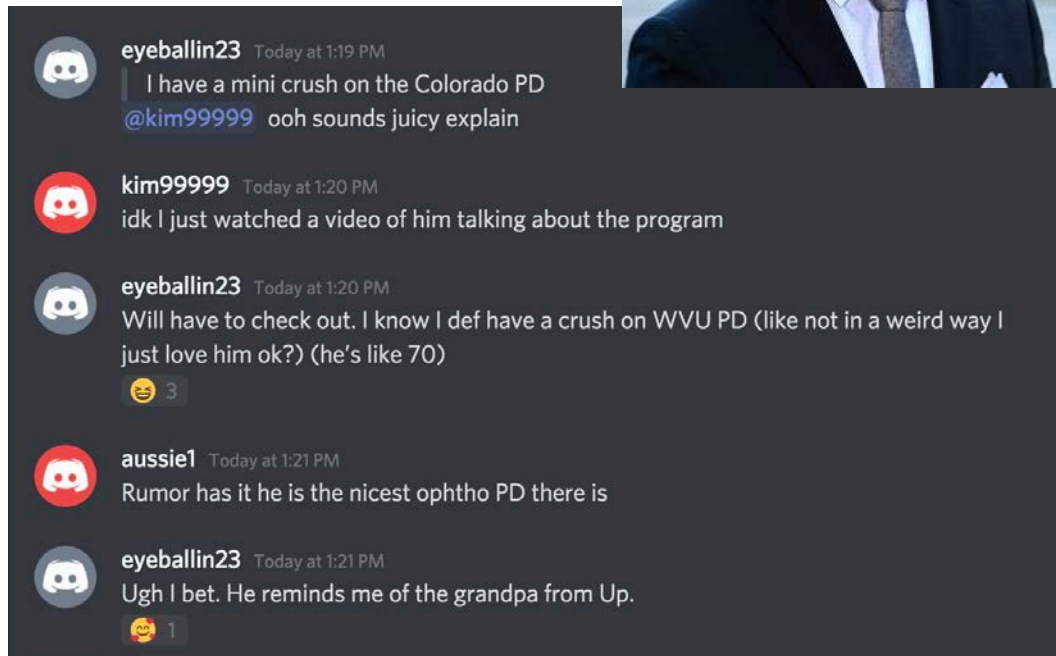
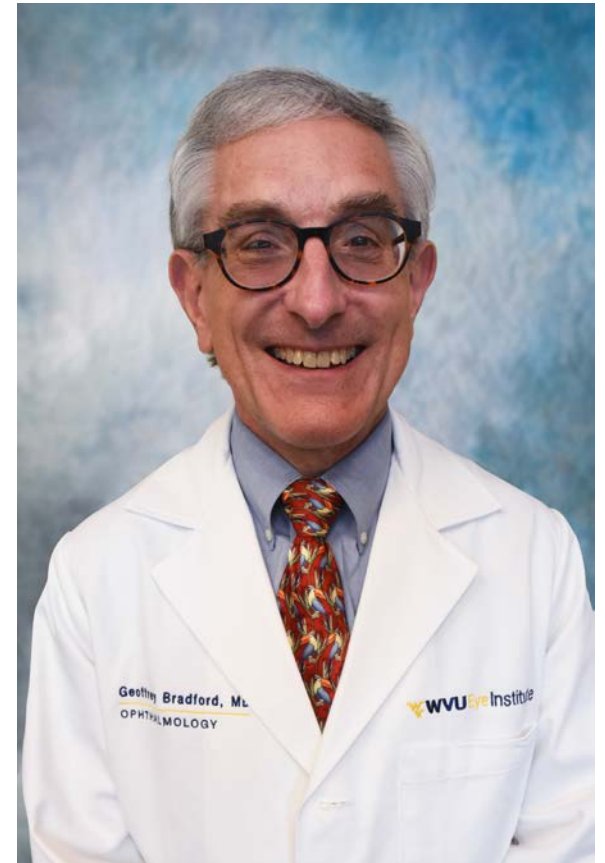


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Program Assessment Pearls



Lean Into Bias

Sampling Bias
Confirmation Bias
Etc.



Limited Information and Data



Culture, Culture, Culture



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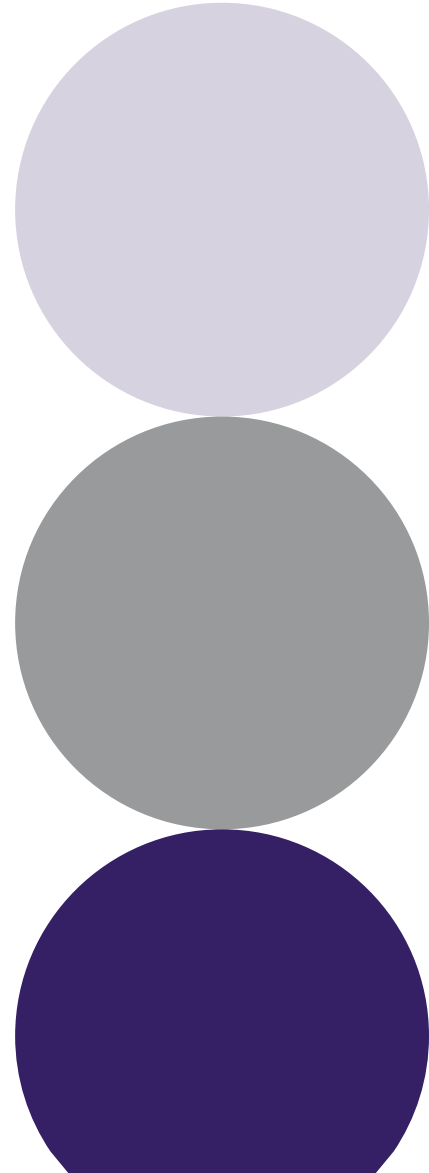
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Advice for the 2022 Match Cycle: Interviews/Scheduling/Open Houses

R. Michael Siatkowski, MD, MBA
Chair, SF Match Oversight Committee
CEO, Dean McGee Eye Institute
Edward L. Gaylord Professor and Chair
Department of Ophthalmology, University of Oklahoma



Interviews

- All interviews will be virtual
- Cap of 15
- All are scheduled through the SFM Central Scheduler
 - Cannot hold overlapping interviews or more than 15
 - Demonstration
- First date programs extend interviews October 17
- Interview season October 31 – December 23



Post Interview Process

- Program rank lists due January 3
- Live, in person open houses January 4-18
- Applicant rank lists due January 20
- Match day February 1



Open Houses

- Attempted for 2021-2022 cycle but altered by omicron
- Low-stress optional opportunity for applicants to visit programs at which they have interviewed
- Easily scheduled like interviews through SF Match platform
- When?
 - **After** programs submit their rank lists
 - **Before** applicants submit their rank lists



Live Open Houses

- No limit on number of open houses that applicants may attend
- Up to 4 hours in length
- May include one meal/reception
- Tour of facilities, city highlights, campus
- Information sharing and socialization with residents, fellows, faculty, PC
- NO interviews, discussion of rank lists, or coercive activity permitted
 - Coercive activity should be reported to AUPO



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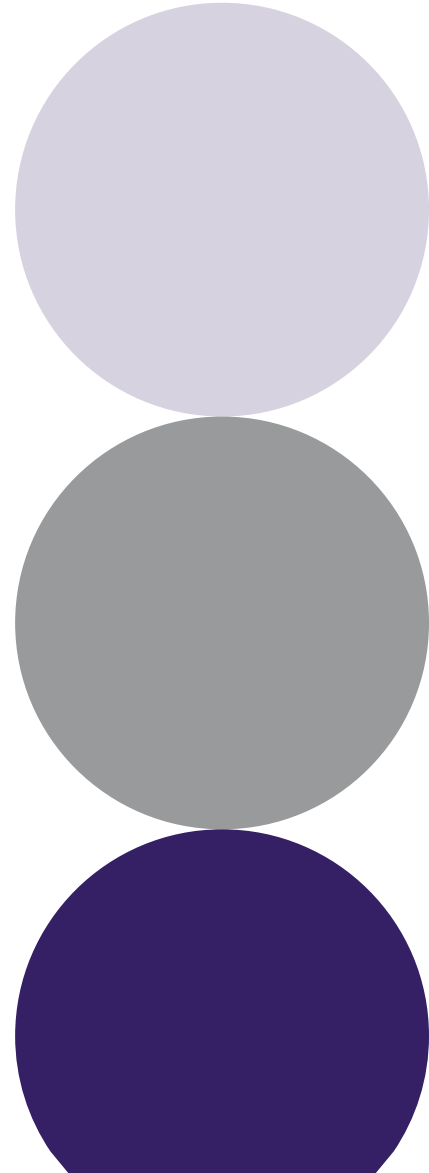


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2022 Advice for the Ophthalmology Residency Match

Question & Answer

Webinar Handout: <https://bit.ly/3wYu0Im>





Thank you for attending!

Webinar Handout: <https://bit.ly/3wYu0Im>



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