

SPARTANBURG REGIONAL HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

**GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION
POLICY STATEMENT**

**SUBJECT: Resident/Fellow Eligibility and Selection POLICY NUMBER 20
for the National Resident Matching Program
(NRMP)**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/19/97 APPROVED BY GMEC: 12/19/97;11/13/98;1/14/00;1/12/01;
1/25/02;1/31/03; 3/19/04;11/19/04;1/27/06;1/26/07;1/25/08;11/21/08;
11/20/09;1/28/11;1/27/12;1/25/13;1/24/14;1/23/15;11/20/15;7/22/16;1/27/17;
1/26/18;12/19/18**

PURPOSE

To ensure that residency/fellowship programs select from among eligible applicants on the basis of their preparedness, ability, aptitude, academic credentials, communication skills, and personal qualities such as motivation and integrity, and to select a resident/fellow group that includes individuals with potential interest of future practice in South Carolina.

POLICY

Applications

Each program director or designee shall review only applications submitted through ERAS. Only candidates deemed eligible for residency/fellowship as defined by the NRMP will be considered.

Interviews

The program director, faculty, and residents/fellows shall conduct applicant interviews. Not all applicants will be offered interviews.

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Resident Eligibility

Applicants with one of the following qualifications are eligible for appointment to the three accredited residency programs at Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System:

- a. Graduates of medical schools in the United States and Canada accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME.)
- b. Graduates of colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States accredited by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA).
- c. Graduates of medical schools outside the United States and Canada who meet one of the following qualifications:
 1. Have received a currently valid certificate from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) prior to appointment, or
 2. Be able to receive a full and unrestricted license for residency training in South Carolina in his/her current ACGME specialty program, or
 3. Graduates of medical schools outside the United States who have completed a Fifth Pathway program provided by an LCME-accredited medical school.

[Note: A Fifth Pathway program is an academic year of supervised clinical education provided by an LCME-accredited medical school to students who meet the following conditions: (1) have completed, in an accredited college or university in the United States, undergraduate premedical education of the quality acceptable for matriculation in an accredited United States medical school; (2) have studied at a medical school outside the United States and Canada but listed in the World Health Organization Directory of Medical Schools; (3) have completed all of the formal requirements of the foreign medical school except internship and/or social service; (4) have attained a score satisfactory to the sponsoring medical school on a screening examination; and (5) have passed either the foreign Medical Graduate Examination in the Medical Sciences, Parts I and II of the examination of the National Board of Medical Examiners, or Steps 1 and 2 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE).]

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- d. Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System does not make it a practice to sponsor visas and therefore does not encourage applications from individuals who would require sponsorship.

Resident/Fellow Selection

- a. Spartanburg Regional Healthcare System, through the GMEC, requires that programs select from among eligible applicants on the basis of their preparedness, ability, aptitude, academic credentials, communication skills, and personal qualities such as motivation and integrity. The GMEC assures that the programs do not discriminate with regard to sex, race, age, religion, color, national origin, disability, or veteran status.
- b. The selection of qualified applicants is made by each program through the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP). The Residency Program Director, with input from faculty and residents/fellows, determines the final NRMP rank of all candidates being listed.

Family Medicine Residency Program

The Family Medicine Program is a member of the South Carolina Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC). As such, we share the goal of educating and retaining physicians who will practice high quality care particularly in rural and underserved communities of this state. In addition to considering all applicants who have passed USMLE Part I/COMLEX I, those in good standing at South Carolina medical schools will be especially sought for recruitment.

Applications are considered as below:

1. Medical students from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine, University of South Carolina School of Medicine Greenville, Medical University of South Carolina, or Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine-Carolinas Campus.
2. Medical students from out-of-state medical schools who did their undergraduate work in South Carolina or have expressed interest to practice in South Carolina.
3. All medical students who meet outlined admission criteria.
4. Physicians trained in another specialty who wish to enter a new Family Medicine residency program.
5. Candidates less than 2 years out of medical school or another residency program.

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A standard rating scale shall be used by all interviewers to assist in determining NRMP rankings. Applicants must have passed USMLE Part II CS & CK/COMLEX II CE & PE in order to be ranked.

Osteopathic Recognition Track

Eligible US, Canadian or Foreign Medical Graduates who indicate interest and desire to complete the Osteopathic track of our Family Medicine Residency program will need to have sufficient background and instruction on osteopathic philosophy and techniques to apply for this track. Prior to matriculation, the applicant would need to

- Be a graduate of a Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA)-accredited college of osteopathic medicine (COM) and hold a DO degree;

or meet the following 3 requirements

- Attend at least 12 hours of live CME activities or conferences related to Osteopathic philosophy, structural examination and treatment skills.
- Successfully complete elective osteopathic principles and practice clinical rotations or courses at an osteopathic medical school.

An alternative option if rotations/osteopathic medical school courses aren't immediately available to the applicant, would be completion of selected readings in Foundations of Osteopathic Medicine 3rd edition and passing a written multiple choice examination regarding osteopathic concepts, diagnosis and treatment. ($\geq 70\%$ score for pass).

- Successfully perform osteopathic examination and treatment skills to 4 different anatomic areas (cervical, thoracic, lumbar and pelvic) set up by our faculty. A successful exam pass rate would be $\geq 70\%$. This practical examination would be in an OSCE format and would grade the candidate's medical knowledge, examination skills and osteopathic treatment of a simulated patient. Competent osteopathic treatment would be expected to include at a minimum generalized soft tissue, spinal direct/indirect treatments, and related facilitated segmental anatomy to the 4 areas mentioned above.

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General Surgery Residency Program

The SRHS General Surgery Residency uses the following criteria for invitations to interview for categorical residency positions:

- academic potential, (as judged by overall GPA), class standing, grades in Surgery and Internal Medicine, and academic honors (Alpha Omega Alpha, for example);
- quality of letters of recommendation, with special significance awarded to letters from faculty that are known to the SRHS Program Director and Faculty;
- USMLE/COMLEX scores;
- previous research experience;
- quality of the applicant's medical school and SRHS' residency experience with applicants from that medical school.

The SRHS General Surgery program also offers preliminary (1 year) positions that do not carry a promise for additional training. These applications are considered on an individual basis. The main criteria for selection for preliminary positions are:

- suitability at SRHS as judged by a reasonable academic record and positive letters of recommendation;
- a telephone interview with the Program Director, or designee; and
- appropriate communication skills.

Transitional Year Program

1. Considerations, in order of importance:

- Interview
- Medical school record
- Dean's letter
- USMLE transcript or COMLEX transcript
- Letters of reference

A standard rating scale is used by all interviewers to assist in determining NRMP rankings.

Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship Program

1. Candidates must have a MD or DO degree from an accredited medical school and have satisfactorily completed three postgraduate years of training at the time of appointment as a fellow in this training program.

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2. Eligible candidates must also have board eligibility or certification in one of the following specialties:
 - internal medicine
 - family practice
 - pediatrics
 - psychiatry
 - neurology
 - oncology
 - anesthesiology
 - surgery
 - radiation oncology

3. Ideal candidates:
 - successfully completed training in an ACGME/AOA-accredited residency program
 - demonstrated abilities and interest in working with clinical care teams
 - demonstrated commitment to life-long learning
 - a clear and balanced personal and emotional strength, and the ability for self-reflection and personal growth in challenging situation
 - a strong passion to serve and lead in hospice or palliative medicine as clinician, researcher, or educator.

4. Application Process:
 - The program will be accepting applications only through ERAS.
 - The program will be interviewing August through October.