

Appendix 1

Survey about specialty selection sent to first year medical students

1. In order to maintain your confidentiality while we track paired responses over time, we ask that you create a unique ID. This ID will not be used to identify you. This ID is composed of six characters as follows:

- 1. First two letters of your mother's first name (e.g. Mary → MA)**
- 2. First two letters of your father's last name (e.g. Smith→ SM)**
- 3. Two digit month of your birth (e.g. August -> 08)**
- 4. Your ID would thus be: MASM12 (not case sensitive)**

Please enter your unique ID below.

Free response.

2. If you had to choose today, what specialty would be your first choice? Please list the most likely choice, even if you are considering other specialties or don't know for sure.

Anesthesia
Dermatology
Emergency Medicine
ENT
Family Medicine
General Surgery
Internal Medicine (General)
Internal Medicine (Sub-specialty)
Medicine-Pediatrics
Neurology
Neurosurgery
OB-GYN
Ophthalmology
Orthopedics
Pathology
Pediatrics
Physical Medicine and Rehab
Psychiatry
Radiology
Radiation Oncology
Urology
Other (please specify)

3. Which other specialties are you considering? Select up to three.

Same choices as above in three columns

No Other Specialties Considered

4. Which specialties are your THREE LEAST likely choices?

Same choices as above in three columns

5. Before medical school, how much total time did you spend working with or shadowing a physician of ANY specialty in a clinical environment?

None

Single day

Two days to one week

More than a week to a month

More than a month

6. Before medical school, how much total time did you spend working with or shadowing a physician of the specialty you are CONSIDERING MOST in a clinical environment?

None

Single day

Two days to one week

More than a week to a month

More than a month

7. When someone says, "That specialty has a good lifestyle," what does that mean to you?

Free response.

8. In your opinion, how important are each of the following statements to having a good lifestyle as a physician?

Statements:

Financial Compensation

Having control of work schedule

Having enough time off work

Enjoying the work environment

Enjoying the type of work I am doing

Rating Scale:

Not important at all

Slightly important

Moderately important

Quite important

Extremely important

9. When considering what makes the lifestyle of a physician good, please select the factor you think is MOST important

Statements:

Financial Compensation
Having control of work schedule
Having enough time off work
Enjoying the work environment
Enjoying the type of work I am doing

10. Below are some factors that may be important when selecting a specialty. When considering how you will select your specialty, please rate the importance of the following factors.

Factors:

Perceived prestige of the field
Average salary earned by attending physicians in the specialty
Research opportunities
Teaching opportunities
Intellectual stimulation of the work I am doing
Opportunities to work with underserved populations
How often I would take overnight call
How often I would work a night shift
How often I would work weekends
Having predictable work hours
Leaving work at a predictable time every day
Being able to have a flexible schedule
Having time to spend with family
Having time for myself outside of work
Having a balance between work life and personal life
Having an enjoyable work day
Collegiality of coworkers
Having a low stress work day
Being satisfied with the job
Availability of practice locations in large, urban centers
Availability of practice locations in rural areas

Rating Scale:

Not important at all
Slightly important
Moderately important
Quite important
Extremely important

11. What is your current age?

Under 23
23-25
26-28
Over 28
Prefer not to answer

12. What is your gender?

Male
Female
Prefer not to answer

13. Please select your ethnic background. The categories in this list were taken from responses to the AAMC Matriculating Student Questionnaire chosen by more than 2% of respondents. (If more than one is applicable, please pick the one with which you most identify)

Asian Indian
Black or African-American
Chinese
Korean
Mexican, Mexican American,
White
Other Asian
Other Hispanic
Other, not listed
Prefer not to answer

14. What is your current marital status?

Never married
Married/Domestic Partner
Engaged
Separated/Divorced
Prefer not to answer

15. Do you have children?

Yes
No (Skip to 15)
Prefer not to answer (Skip to 15)

16. How many children do you have?

- 1
- 2 or more
- Prefer not to answer

17. Do you have a parent who is a physician?

- Yes, one
- Yes, both
- Neither (Skip 19)

18. Please specify your parent(s) specialty or specialties.

- List from question 2
- Prefer not to answer

19. Have you or someone close to you been significantly affected by illness or disability?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to answer

20. Have you been previously employed in a healthcare related field where you have taken care of patients?

- Yes
- No (Skip to 22)
- Prefer not to answer (Skip to 22)

21. Please specify the work you did.

- Dentistry
- EMT/Paramedic
- Hospital Technician/Medical Assistant/Phlebotomy
- Nursing
- Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy
- Psychology/Social Work
- Other, not listed
- Prefer not to answer

22. How much time elapsed between the completion of your initial undergraduate degree and beginning of medical school?

- 0 years
- 1 year
- 2 years
- 3 years
- >3 years
- Prefer not to answer

23. Did you participate in volunteer work before medical school?

- Yes
- No (Skip to 25)
- Prefer not to answer (Skip to 25)

24. How much total time did you spend volunteering before medical school?

- Single day
- Two days to one week
- More than a week to a month
- More than a month

25. Did you participate in research before medical school?

- Yes
- No (Skip to 27)
- Prefer not to answer (Skip to 27)

26. How much total time did you spend in research before medical school?

- Single day
- Two days to one week
- More than a week to a month
- More than a month

27. How much debt do you have from your premedical education?

- \$0
- \$1-14,999
- \$15,000-\$29,000
- \$30,000-\$99,999
- >\$100,000
- Prefer not to answer

28. How much do you anticipate your debt will be for your medical education?

- \$0
- \$1-\$99,999
- \$100,000-\$149,000
- \$150,000-\$199,999
- >\$200,000
- Prefer not to answer

29. What percent of your medical school cost are covered by scholarships?

- 0-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-75%
- 76-100%
- Prefer not to answer

30. Are you participating in any programs to offset your medical school debt?

- Medical Scientist Training Program
- Military
- National Health Service Corps
- None
- Prefer not to answer
- Other (please specify)