

Highway to Excellence: Best Practices in Supporting Medical Students through ERAS Submission



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Introduction

As the largest single-campus allopathic medical school in the US, Wayne State University School of Medicine provides career development and successful residency transition for nearly 300 fourth year students every year.

There is limited research on how medical schools prepare students, especially incorporating pandemic-related changes in methods of connection, student expectations, and new aspects of the ERAS application process.

The office of student affairs (OSA) collaborated inter-professionally to demonstrate a best-practice process to support a large, diverse student body in this important step of the residency application process.

Results & Feedback

95% participated in at least one synchronous session in 2023

4-19 participated in each weekly one-hour drop-in session

100% of students applied by the ERAS submission deadline

Ideas for future expansion based directly on student feedback:

- "Specialty specific application requirements"
- "Help with revision and editing"
- "Specific flow chart to explain how ERAS works"

98%

**Consistent 5yr
Match
outcome**

Interdisciplinary Strategies

Staged development of ERAS support:

- Novel "Jump-start ERAS" session during M3 year
- M4 all-class sequential ERAS check-in sessions and ongoing ERAS support drop-in sessions

Sessions were led by OSA Administration, with faculty, class counselors, & support staff present, topics included:

- Writing a CV and Personal Statement
- Supplemental Application Process
- Special topics: International students & couples match
- ERAS Submission
- Virtual Interview Season

All ERAS sessions were adapted to a zoom-based format, recorded, and available on Canvas for asynchronous viewing

Conclusions

- OSA is vital in student preparation for a successful match
- The months leading up to ERAS submission are a pivotal time for student self-reflection, decision of specialty choice, and organization of application materials
- Students benefit from the expertise and guidance of an ongoing OSA multi-disciplinary approach