

Application Diagnostic

Sample Applicant · Match 2027 (2027 ERAS season) · Application Diagnostic — physician-reviewed ·
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Summary

HIGH: 4

MODERATE: 10

LOW: 1

CONTEXT: 2

HIGH

No passing OET Medicine score recorded

Pathways require evidence of English proficiency. Whether OET Medicine specifically is outstanding for you depends on your Pathway and what you have already satisfied.

You are not ECFMG certified and have no passing OET Medicine score recorded. Confirm against your own Pathway whether this is still required of you.

What to do: Check your Pathway's English-proficiency requirement and book OET Medicine if it is still outstanding; scores must be valid for the 2027 Pathways window.

HIGH

Personal statement not final

A statement in draft on the day programs begin reading is a statement they read in draft. Programs cannot see intentions.

Your personal statement is not final.

What to do: Finish the statement before submission, and write it for the specialty you are applying to.

HIGH

US experience has not produced a letter from a supervisor

The value of US experience is largely realised through the letter it produces. Weeks without a letter from the physician who supervised you deliver little of what programs are screening for.

You reported 12 weeks of US clinical experience but no letter from a physician who supervised you.

What to do: Ask directly for a letter from the strongest supervisor you have worked with, and do it before the cycle closes.

HIGH

Signals spent on programs you are not eligible for

A signal on a program that filters you out on visa, graduation year or attempts is the most expensive kind of wasted action: it is scarce, and it is spent before anyone reads you.

1 signal is assigned to programs you do not appear eligible for.

What to do: Move every signal off a program you cannot clear, and onto one that can actually rank you.

MODERATE

NRMP examination requirement and the rank-list deadline

NRMP requires examination requirements to be satisfied by the Rank Order List certification deadline — 3 March 2027 for this Match. That is a different and later date than the Pathways application deadline, and separate again from what individual programs ask for.

You have 192 days until the rank-list certification deadline and are not yet ECFMG certified. Examination requirements must be satisfied by that date.

What to do: Work backwards from the rank-list certification date, allowing for score-reporting and verification time rather than assuming same-week processing.

MODERATE

Programs that require certification at application

Some programs screen on ECFMG certification at the moment they open applications, which is earlier than either the Pathways or the NRMP deadline. Your certification status is visible to them in ERAS.

9 of your 82 listed programs require certification at application (11%), and you are not yet certified.

What to do: Identify which of your target programs require certification at application, and decide whether that changes your list or your timeline.

MODERATE

MSPE not uploaded

The MSPE is written by your school and transmitted through ECFMG. Because it depends on someone else, a late start is not recoverable by working harder.

Your MSPE is not yet uploaded. This one moves at your school's pace, not yours.

What to do: Chase your school now, and record when they say it will be ready.

MODERATE

Not registered with NRMP

ERAS and the NRMP Match are separate registrations. Applying through ERAS does not enter you in the Match, and late registration costs more.

You are not registered with NRMP. ERAS and the Match are separate registrations.

What to do: Register with NRMP before the late-registration fee applies.

MODERATE

Application not yet submitted

Everything submitted between the opening date and the day programs begin reading reaches programs at the same moment. After that date, submission is genuinely late.

You have 31 days until programs begin reviewing and have not submitted.

What to do: Submit before programs begin reviewing, even if some documents are still processing.

MODERATE

US experience is entirely observational

A supervising physician can describe what they watched you do. Where the experience was observation-only, the letter it produces is necessarily about attendance rather than practice — which some programs weigh differently.

All 12 reported weeks of US experience are observation-only.

What to do: Where legally available to you, convert future experience to a hands-on externship or sub-internship.

MODERATE

Much of the list does not sponsor the visa you need

Sponsorship is a hard filter. A program that does not sponsor your visa type will not rank you regardless of how strong the rest of the application is, so those places are not really on your list.

You listed 82 programs and 41 appear to sponsor the visa you need — 50% of the list.

What to do: Filter the list by sponsorship first, then count what is left. That number is your real list size.

MODERATE

Geographic preference not expressed

Programs can see geographic and setting preferences, and AAMC reports that alignment between a preference and a program's location is associated with a higher likelihood of an interview invitation. Leaving it blank forfeits a free signal of intent.

No geographic preference is selected.

What to do: Select your geographic preference and write the short explanation, making sure both match the list you actually applied to.

MODERATE

Years since graduation

Many programs publish or quietly apply a years-since-graduation limit. The threshold varies widely between programs and is rarely stated accurately in program materials, so this is a filter question rather than a verdict on you.

About 5 years since graduation, with current clinical work recorded. The degree's age is a filter at some programs; the continuity helps answer it.

What to do: Confirm the limit at every program before applying, and pair an older degree with recent clinical evidence.

MODERATE

Application narrative needs a human read

Whether the personal statement, the chosen experiences, the stated goal and the program list tell one coherent story is not something a rule can score. It is also one of the few things a reader notices immediately.

Narrative coherence — statement, experiences, stated goal and list agreeing with one another — is assessed by a physician rather than by the rubric.

What to do: Have the statement, the three most meaningful experiences and the specialty choice read together, by someone who will say if they disagree with each other.

LOW

Signals not fully assigned

Signals are scarce and expire unused. An unassigned signal is a preference you were entitled to express and did not.

4 of 6 available signals are assigned; 2 would expire unused.

What to do: Assign every signal you have, to the programs you would genuinely most like to hear from.

CONTEXT

Step 3 status

Step 3 is not required to apply. It matters mainly for older graduates, reapplicants, and some H-1B strategies, where it is evidence of continued engagement or a visa prerequisite.

Given your graduation year or prior cycles, Step 3 is worth a deliberate decision rather than a default.

What to do: Decide deliberately whether Step 3 helps your specific case rather than taking it because it is available.

CONTEXT

You require visa sponsorship

Sponsorship is the single largest structural factor in list strategy. Not every program sponsors, and fewer sponsor H-1B than J-1.

You reported needing sponsorship (J-1).

What to do: Filter your program list by sponsorship before anything else, and confirm the visa type per program rather than assuming.

This is an assessment of your residency application. It is not legal, immigration, or licensure advice — consult a licensed attorney for those. It does not predict interview invitations; use the AAMC Residency Explorer tool for that. It does not guarantee, and must not be read as implying, any Match outcome. Verify every date and eligibility requirement directly against AAMC, ECFMG, and NRMP before acting on it.