

FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **SPECIALTY OVERVIEW**
 - Family medicine is the medical specialty which provides continuing, comprehensive health care for the individual and family. It is a specialty in breadth that integrates the biological, clinical and behavioral sciences. The scope of family medicine encompasses all ages, both sexes, each organ system and every disease entity.
 - This includes:
 - Urgent care
 - Chronic disease management
 - Preventive medicine
 - Ambulatory and in-patient hospital care

- **HOW LONG IS THE TRAINING IN THIS SPECIALTY? – 3 years**

- **ARE THERE SUBSPECIALTIES? WHAT ARE THEY?**
 - Yes
 - The subspecialties lead to a “Certificate of Added Qualifications”, equivalent to the subspecialties in Internal Medicine. The CAQ subspecialties are: Faculty development, Geriatrics, Obstetrics, Preventive Medicine, Research, Rural Medicine, Sports Medicine
 - Other fellowships are available, that don’t lead to a CAQ but allow the family physician to provide additional services. These include: hospice/palliative care, hospital medicine, and emergency medicine.

- **HOW COMPETITIVE IS THE SPECIALTY OVERALL? THE TTUHSC SOM PROGRAM?**
 - Not competitive unless you want to attend a top-ranked program
 - TTUHSC SOM Family Medicine Program in Lubbock is very competitive – it is considered one of the Top 4 in Texas

- **WHAT ARE THE AVERAGE STEP 1 SCORES OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS IN THIS SPECIALTY?**
 - Mean USMLE Step 1 score is 211 with a range from 196 to 225

- **DOES A FIRST TIME STEP 1 FAILURE PREVENT STUDENTS FROM MATCHING INTO THIS SPECIALTY?**
 - No

- **HOW IMPORTANT IS IT TO HAVE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE?**
 - Not

- **HOW IMPORTANT IS INVOLVEMENT IN STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS?**
 - Not

- **WHAT ARE THE TOP REGIONAL PROGRAMS IN THIS SPECIALTY?**
 - McClennan County Foundation, Waco, Texas
 - John Peter Smith, Fort Worth, Texas
 - UT Tyler, Tyler, Texas
 - Texas Tech Family Medicine, Lubbock, Texas

- **IN GENERAL, HOW MANY PROGRAMS SHOULD STUDENTS APPLY TO?**
 - 6 to 8

- **WHAT ARE PROGRAM DIRECTORS LOOKING FOR IN APPLICANTS FOR THIS SPECIALTY?**
 - Caring, compassionate

- Able to see the “big picture”/think systematically
- Collaborative/collegiate

- **FROM WHICH DEPARTMENT(S) AND WHAT RANKS OF FACULTY SHOULD STUDENTS REQUEST LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION?**
 - Family Medicine – Clerkship Director, other faculty that student has developed a relationship with
 - Other specialties – all ranks, all departments

- **ARE “AUDITION ELECTIVES” COMMONLY REQUIRED OR STRONGLY RECOMMENDED BY PROGRAMS IN THIS SPECIALTY?**
 - No commonly required
 - Strongly recommended if there is a particular program that the student wants to match with; second looks are an alternative if there is no time to do a rotation at that program

- **WHAT CAN STUDENTS DO DURING THEIR FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD YEARS OF MEDICAL SCHOOL TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR THIS SPECIALTY?**
 - Approach all departments with an open mind; learn as much as possible
 - Continue to keep the patient as the main focus – not just medical problems, but psycho-social issues that affect their medical conditions