

Average Length of Rank Order List by Match Status: 2003-2022 Main Residency Match

The NRMP collects data on the average length of the rank order lists (ROL) of matched applicants and filled programs and the average length of rank order lists of unmatched applicants and unfilled programs. Although 20 years of data are reported, analyses highlight trends over the last 10 years.

The data do not take into account a number of factors that can influence annually both the length of the ROL and the match rate of applicants/fill rate of programs. Those factors include

- the number of registrants by applicant type;
- the unique training needs and preferences of applicants and/or programs;
- the competitiveness of applicants for the programs/specialties pursued;
- the competitiveness of programs;
- the competitiveness of specialties preferred by applicants; and
- the number of interviews completed.

The NRMP advises applicants and programs to rank according to true preferences. It also recommends that applicants include all programs where they would be willing to train and that programs include all applicants they would be willing to train. The data show that matched applicants and filled programs consistently have longer ROLs than unmatched applicants and unfilled programs; however, submitting longer ROLs in no way implies matching at lower rather than higher ranks.

[Program Data](#)

[Applicant Data](#)

[U.S. MD Seniors Data](#)

[U.S. DO Seniors Data](#)

[U.S. IMG Data](#)

[Non U.S. IMG Data](#)

Program Data

Program data are based on the number of positions offered. Any program with one or more positions unfilled after the matching algorithm has been processed, regardless of the number of positions filled, is included in the unfilled program data. Programs that donated unfilled positions to other programs through reversions are considered unfilled, and the fill status of programs that received reverted positions is based on the original quota.

Over the past 10 years, the average length of ROL for filled programs has increased 27.1 percent while for unfilled programs it has increased 87.5 percent. The number of programs filled in the same time period has increased 28.8 percent, with more than 85 percent of programs filling each year.

Year	Filled Programs			Unfilled Programs		
	Number and % Filled	Average Length of ROL	Average Ranks per Position	Number and % Unfilled	Average Length of ROL	Average Ranks per Position
2003	2,748 (74.5%)	55.04	9.32	942 (25.5%)	30.24	4.89
2004	2,936 (78.7%)	55.61	9.40	796 (21.3%)	27.93	4.85
2005	3,005 (79.4%)	55.66	9.35	779 (20.6%)	26.63	4.90
2006	3,159 (81.8%)	55.85	9.74	702 (18.2%)	25.31	4.65
2007	3,360 (84.1%)	56.80	9.96	635 (15.9%)	25.23	4.97
2008	3,410 (84.4%)	57.66	10.04	628 (15.6%)	29.5	5.37
2009	3,601 (87.3%)	58.94	10.52	526 (12.7%)	27.56	5.68
2010	3,614 (87.3%)	61.78	11.11	528 (12.7%)	27.68	5.64
2011	3,660 (87.1%)	63.35	11.33	542 (12.9%)	32.51	6.28
2012	3,767 (85.9%)	64.27	11.52	619 (14.1%)	30.52	6.63
2013	4,029 (87.9%)	68.12	11.11	555 (12.1%)	27.31	6.56
2014	4,041 (86.1%)	68.88	11.52	654 (13.9%)	32.42	7.28
2015	4,093 (86.8%)	70.72	11.64	623 (13.2%)	34.38	7.13
2016	4,191 (87.2%)	71.93	11.99	613 (12.8%)	36.01	7.54
2017	4,398 (87.5%)	72.50	12.35	630 (12.5%)	33.78	7.39
2018	4,623 (87.7%)	74.01	12.83	648 (12.3%)	34.02	7.46
2019	4,759 (85.6%)	75.81	13.12	799 (14.4%)	33.92	7.60
2020	4,975 (85.7%)	76.58	12.91	833 (14.3%)	34.61	7.52
2021	5,120 (86.6%)	88.73	15.35	795 (13.4%)	40.61	8.19
2022	5,191 (85.3%)	86.57	15.20	896 (14.7%)	51.20	9.31

Applicant Data – All Applicants

Applicant data are based on the primary rank order lists of all applicant types combined. Standard Match registration includes 20 ranks on the applicant’s primary list. The data include fully and partially matched applicants; the data do not include couples or offers accepted during the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program.

The number of applicants matched has grown by 33.6 percent since 2013. Percentages of those matched have fluctuated, ranging from a low of 74.5 percent in 2013 to a high of 81.3 percent in 2020. The average length of ROL for matched applicants has increased by 28.2 percent in 10 years while the average length of ROL for unmatched applicants has remained static.

Year	Matched Applicants		Unmatched Applicants	
	Number and % Matched	Average Length of ROLs	Number and % Unmatched	Average Length of ROLs
2003	18,382 (80.5%)	7.45	4,443 (19.5%)	4.46
2004	18,808 (78.5%)	7.44	5,156 (21.5%)	4.40
2005	19,234 (79.7%)	7.65	4,901 (20.3%)	4.48
2006	19,484 (76.4%)	7.81	6,011 (23.6%)	4.51
2007	20,042 (75.1%)	8.23	6,660 (24.9%)	4.64
2008	20,167 (74.0%)	8.52	7,094 (26.0%)	4.32
2009	20,458 (72.3%)	8.74	7,854 (27.7%)	4.46
2010	20,797 (71.9%)	9.25	8,130 (28.1%)	4.50
2011	21,363 (73.7%)	9.53	7,608 (26.3%)	4.38
2012	21,745 (73.5%)	9.75	7,855 (26.5%)	4.69
2013	24,186 (74.5%)	9.81	8,299 (25.5%)	4.58
2014	24,660 (76.1%)	10.30	7,760 (23.9%)	4.71
2015	24,918 (75.9%)	10.41	7,913 (24.1%)	4.78
2016	25,481 (76.3%)	10.60	7,903 (23.7%)	4.66
2017	26,186 (77.7%)	10.71	7,533 (22.3%)	4.24
2018	27,424 (78.9%)	10.91	7,349 (21.1%)	4.02
2019	29,044 (80.2%)	11.22	7,180 (19.8%)	4.21
2020	30,582 (81.3%)	11.29	7,050 (18.7%)	4.32
2021	31,546 (78.7%)	12.35	8,514 (21.3%)	4.47
2022	32,305 (80.6%)	12.58	7,798 (19.4%)	4.42

U.S. MD Senior Data

U.S. MD senior data are based on applicants' primary rank order lists. Standard Match registration includes 20 ranks on the applicant's primary list. The data include fully and partially matched applicants; the data do not include couples or offers accepted during the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program.

U.S. MD seniors historically have had the highest match rate and the longest average ROLs; however, the average length of ROL remains well below 20 ranks. Year-to-year, match rates of U.S. MD seniors fluctuate between 92 and 95 percent. Since 2013, the average length ROL for matched U.S. MD seniors has increased 29.6 percent and 12.5 percent for unmatched U.S. MD seniors.

Year	Matched Applicants		Unmatched Applicants	
	Number and % Matched	Average Length of ROLs	Number and % Unmatched	Average Length of ROLs
2003	12,692 (94.7%)	7.97	710 (5.3%)	5.02
2004	12,731 (93.8%)	7.99	843 (6.2%)	5.34
2005	12,975 (94.7%)	8.25	726 (5.3%)	5.29
2006	13,285 (94.7%)	8.40	748 (5.3%)	5.26
2007	13,486 (94.7%)	8.90	756 (5.3%)	5.62
2008	13,406 (95.0%)	9.26	699 (5.0%)	5.63
2009	13,560 (94.0%)	9.59	858 (6.0%)	6.27
2010	13,920 (94.0%)	10.17	896 (6.0%)	6.83
2011	14,466 (94.7%)	10.55	817 (5.3%)	6.36
2012	14,477 (95.6%)	10.93	670 (4.4%)	6.52
2013	15,099 (94.2%)	11.04	929 (5.8%)	6.58
2014	15,117 (95.0%)	11.68	796 (5.0%)	6.80
2015	15,512 (94.3%)	11.72	940 (5.7%)	7.15
2016	15,714 (94.3%)	11.97	950 (5.7%)	7.11
2017	15,950 (94.7%)	12.14	889 (5.3%)	6.61
2018	16,165 (94.7%)	12.49	911 (5.3%)	6.84
2019	16,392 (94.0%)	12.91	1041 (6.0%)	6.90
2020	16,606 (93.8%)	12.82	1,089 (6.2%)	7.40
2021	16,935 (92.7%)	13.98	1,325 (7.3%)	7.25
2022	17,064 (93.0%)	14.31	1,288 (7.0%)	7.40

U.S. DO Senior Data

U.S. DO senior data are based on applicants' primary rank order lists. Standard Match registration includes 20 ranks on the applicant's primary list. The data include fully and partially matched applicants; the data do not include couples or offers accepted during the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program.

For U.S. DO seniors, participation rates have increased dramatically since 2016, largely in response to the creation of a single accreditation system that commenced in 2015 and led to the establishment of a Single Match in 2020. Increased participation rates among U.S. DO seniors since 2016 likely have contributed to faster growth in average length of ROL compared to U.S. MD seniors or applicants overall.

Using 2016 as a turning point, the mean ROL length has increased 37 percent among matched U.S. DO seniors and 11.7 percent among unmatched U.S. DO seniors. At the same time, the number of matched U.S. DO seniors has grown 180 percent while the number of unmatched has seen modest increases. Over 85 percent of U.S. DO seniors have matched every year since 2016, with the percent matched now approaching historical match rates for U.S. MD seniors.

Year	Matched Applicants		Unmatched Applicants	
	Number and % Matched	Average Length of ROLs	Number and % Unmatched	Average Length of ROLs
2003	956 (86.4%)	6.12	151 13.6%	3.29
2004	1,076 (85.2%)	6.11	187 14.8%	3.74
2005	1,037 (83.6%)	6.16	203 16.4%	3.92
2006	976 (82.2%)	6.14	211 17.8%	3.87
2007	1,082 (82.0%)	6.62	237 18.0%	3.92
2008	1,304 (82.9%)	6.96	269 17.1%	4.15
2009	1,352 (80.6%)	7.05	325 19.4%	4.78
2010	1,365 (81.2%)	7.82	316 18.8%	4.52
2011	1,494 (81.6%)	8.18	338 18.4%	4.73
2012	1,664 (83.4%)	8.39	332 16.6%	4.80
2013	1,894 (82.6%)	8.84	399 17.4%	4.85
2014	2,030 (86.1%)	9.57	328 13.9%	4.98
2015	2,180 (85.5%)	9.57	369 14.5%	5.08
2016	2,220 (86.2%)	9.92	355 13.8%	5.63
2017	2,706 (87.0%)	9.83	405 13.0%	5.45
2018	3,453 (85.9%)	10.15	566 14.1%	5.73
2019	4,567 (89.1%)	10.89	559 10.9%	5.69
2020	5,531 (90.8%)	11.45	559 9.2%	5.81
2021	5,927 (89.3%)	13.31	708 10.7%	6.28
2022	6,211 (91.7%)	13.59	564 8.3%	6.29

U.S. IMG Data

U.S. citizen students and graduates of international medical schools (U.S. IMG) data are based on applicants' primary rank order lists. Standard Match registration includes 20 ranks on the applicant's primary list. The data include fully and partially matched applicants; the data do not include couples or offers accepted during the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program.

The average length of ROL for matched U.S. IMGs has increased over the past 10 years by 10 percent while the average length of ROL for unmatched U.S. IMGs has declined over the same time period. Percent matched has increased 8.7 percentage points since 2013.

Year	Matched Applicants		Unmatched Applicants	
	Number and % Matched	Average Length of ROLs	Number and % Unmatched	Average Length of ROLs
2003	1,087 56.2%	6.31	846 43.8%	4.34
2004	1,101 56.4%	6.20	852 43.6%	4.01
2005	1,153 56.2%	6.68	900 43.8%	4.41
2006	1,245 52.0%	6.72	1,149 48.0%	4.04
2007	1,342 50.9%	7.47	1,295 49.1%	4.62
2008	1,513 52.7%	8.03	1,356 47.3%	4.35
2009	1,582 48.2%	7.98	1,703 51.8%	4.28
2010	1,707 47.7%	8.31	1,870 52.3%	4.45
2011	1,840 50.2%	8.42	1,825 49.8%	4.17
2012	2,041 49.1%	8.23	2,113 50.9%	4.71
2013	2,636 53.1%	8.63	2,326 46.9%	4.47
2014	2,690 53.8%	8.84	2,308 46.2%	4.68
2015	2,575 53.2%	8.87	2,266 46.8%	4.55
2016	2,774 54.0%	9.02	2,362 46.0%	4.18
2017	2,695 54.8%	9.22	2,223 45.2%	3.83
2018	2,821 57.4%	8.91	2,095 42.6%	3.43
2019	2,908 58.8%	9.20	2,037 41.2%	3.54
2020	3,056 61.1%	8.80	1,948 38.9%	3.33
2021	3,069 59.7%	9.49	2,072 40.3%	3.51
2022	3,021 61.8%	9.49	1,870 38.2%	3.70

Non-U.S. IMG Data

Non-U.S. citizen students and graduates of international medical schools (non-U.S. IMG) data are based on applicants' primary rank order lists. Standard Match registration includes 20 ranks on the applicant's primary list. The data include fully and partially matched applicants; the data do not include couples or offers accepted during the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program.

Compared to other applicant types, the average length of ROL for non-U.S. IMGs has remained relatively stable over the past 10 years (a 7.5 percent increase) while the average length for unmatched non-U.S. IMG applicants has declined by 15.2 percent. The numbers matched have increased since 2013 but the percentages matched have fluctuated, ranging from a low of 48.1 percent in 2013 to a high of 61.8 percent in 2020.

Year	Matched Applicants		Unmatched Applicants	
	Number and % Matched	Average Length of ROLs	Number and % Unmatched	Average Length of ROLs
2003	2,780 56.1%	6.66	2,177 43.9%	4.61
2004	2,957 53.1%	6.69	2,610 46.9%	4.46
2005	3,089 56.4%	6.75	2,389 43.6%	4.53
2006	3,112 49.2%	6.83	3,215 50.8%	4.68
2007	3,206 46.6%	6.92	3,671 53.4%	4.60
2008	3,097 42.9%	6.90	4,116 57.1%	4.15
2009	3,119 42.5%	6.89	4,224 57.5%	4.24
2010	2,887 40.4%	6.81	4,257 59.6%	4.06
2011	2,712 41.3%	6.47	3,849 58.7%	4.05
2012	2,776 41.3%	6.46	3,939 58.7%	4.44
2013	3,574 48.1%	6.96	3,863 51.9%	4.14
2014	3,655 50.6%	6.83	3,568 49.4%	4.24
2015	3,643 50.4%	7.30	3,586 49.6%	4.26
2016	3,726 51.2%	7.19	3,556 48.8%	4.25
2017	3,795 53.3%	7.19	3,326 46.7%	3.69
2018	3,902 56.5%	7.27	3,002 43.5%	3.20
2019	3,968 59.1%	7.11	2,747 40.9%	3.32
2020	4,172 61.8%	7.53	2,584 38.2%	3.36
2021	4,283 55.3%	7.52	3,459 44.7%	3.51
2022	4,466 58.2%	7.48	3,209 41.8%	3.51

Updated 05/31/2022