

## **Military Residency Match**

Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) and Health Profession Scholarship Program (HPSP) students have the same chances of getting their residency of choice as civilian students. The military will never dictate which specialty to choose. In general the more competitive the student and the more programs the student applies to the better the chances of matching. The availability of residency slots, however, depends on the military's need at that particular time and how competitive the residency is overall.

Students who do not receive their first specialty choice may elect to take a transitional year internship and reapply for their first specialty choice in the following years. Unlike students in the civilian match, USUHS and HPSP students will still receive internship training. If a student has a particular specialty in mind and are wondering about the chances of getting their choice of residency, they are advised to contact a recruiter for further information.

The process of matching to a residency is slightly different for military medical students than it is for civilian students. Since this will not apply to UNDSMHS students it is only mentioned here for completeness.

The military match takes place first, in December of the fourth year of medical school, and students are most likely to be matched at that time. If the student does not match into a military residency or post graduate year 1 program, the student will be authorized to participate in the civilian match.

If the student is selected for a military residency, they will start working at a military healthcare facility as an active duty physician and will be paid as a Captain in the Army and the Air Force or as a Lieutenant in the Navy. Students are reminded that time spent in a military residency will not count towards their service commitment but it will count towards their eventual promotion, pay longevity and retirement.

The military may allow a student to attend a civilian residency if there are not enough military slots available in the specialty desired and if the military still has a need for physicians in that specialty. Students should plan on interviewing for military residencies to be on the safe side. Other specific parameters may apply.

For students who do not match into the military or, if permitted a civilian residency of their choice, they will still have other options. In some cases they could switch to a military residency in another field if a slot is available. Otherwise, they should plan on doing a one year civilian or military internship. After that internship they will be able to get their license to practice medicine and can then either reapply for a residency or serve as a General Medical Officer (GMO).

The position of GMO offers a relative opportunity but is available only for the Air Force and Navy. GMO's provide primary care medicine to active duty personnel which means they will get military specific medical training such as flight surgeons or undersea medical officers. Time served as a GMO does fulfill active duty service obligation for participation in a medical scholarship program.

Be aware that the number of military residency slots can fluctuate from year to year depending upon the specific manpower needs of each military branch.

Fourth year medical school rotations need to be considered when deciding where to do a military residency. The military suggests you chose elective rotations wisely and think of them as auditions. At least one rotation should be the military medical facility where the student may want to do their residency. Nonmilitary medical students will go through the regular residency match process, the results of which are announced in mid-March of their senior year and approximately three months after military match announcements.

These are general guidelines for military match residencies and can change from year to year with little advance notice. UNDSMHS students who are part of this process report that it helps to be in contact with medical students from other institutions who are experiencing the same situation. It appears that information given by one branch of the military or even one military residency program may not be identical.