

May 2022

Career Advising Corner

COMSEP Career Advising Collaborative

Hello COMSEP members! After a pandemic semi-pause, we are excited to reinstate our Career Advising Corner. We will be posting “just in time” career advising information to the site as a resource for you in your role as a career advisor for students interested in pursuing a Pediatrics residency. **This edition is focused on IMPORTANT changes to the 2022-2023 application process** – and is just the first in (what we anticipate) will be a series of brief posts to help guide advisors through this new process as it unfolds. While most of our advice is based, in large part, on years of practical experience advising students, the upcoming posts on the Supplemental Application will incorporate what has been learned from last year’s pilot and discussions with representatives from medical students, program directors and other medical student advising colleagues in collaboration with the Pediatric Residency Recruitment Action Team. Please see the summary infographic at the end, and please share with colleagues at your school.

Thank you to Rachel Thompson and Jenny Soep for their contributions to this edition.

What is the Supplemental Application?

Supplemental ERAS Application



The supplemental application was piloted last application cycle in three specialties (Internal Medicine, General Surgery, Dermatology). It was developed to address “Match Frenzy” by allowing students to highlight their most important experiences and signal to programs their true interest in geographic areas and specific programs. Pediatrics is one of more than a dozen specialties that will be participating in the supplemental application in the upcoming year. Individual programs have until the end of May to decide whether they are going to participate.

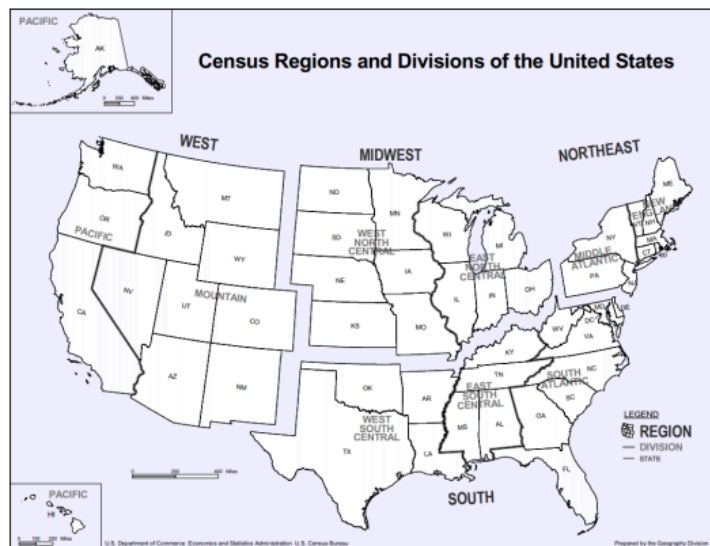
Let's break this down into its three main components:

Meaningful Experiences

Students can select up to 5 meaningful experiences and provide a brief explanation of why each experience is meaningful. Possible experiences students may highlight include: education/training, military service, research, teaching/mentoring, volunteer/service/advocacy, work, extracurricular activity, club, hobby. They may also describe impactful experiences they encountered or overcame, which could include experiences related to family or financial background, community setting or general life circumstances, with an explanation.

Geographic Preferences

Applicants can share their geographic preference for up to 3 of 9 divisions of the country and can share a preference for the rural or urban setting. Alternatively, students can indicate “no geographic preference.”



Geographic Regions:

Pacific
Mountain
West North Central
West South Central
East North Central
East South Central
Middle Atlantic
South Atlantic
New England

Signaling

Students applying in Pediatrics will be allowed to signal **up to 5 programs**. This provides students an opportunity to demonstrate interest in interviewing at specific programs; in effect asking a program to take a closer look at their application, or do a “holistic review.” Applicants will be given the following advice: 1) If the program at their medical school is one of their top five programs, then DO signal it unless they are told that they do not need to and 2) If a program where they perform an away rotation is in their top five programs, then DO signal.

It is important to understand the program code of conduct per AAMC guidelines.

- Programs shall NOT disclose the identification of applicants who have signaled
- Programs shall NOT ask interviewees where they have signaled
- Programs shall NOT disclose the number of signals they have received
- **Signals are appropriate for use in the interview offer phase ONLY**

ERAS Timeline

- ▶ **May 31, 2022 – Programs notify ERAS if opt in for supplemental app, geographic preferencing, signaling**
- ▶ **July 2022 – Participating program list published**
- ▶ **Aug 1, 2022 – Supplemental ERAS application opens**
- ▶ **Sept 16, 2022 – Supplemental ERAS application closes**
- ▶ **Sept 28, 2022 – Residency programs may begin reviewing applications, including supplemental ERAS application data**

⇒ **NOTE that the supplemental application closes before the regular ERAS application.**

Potential Benefits to Supplemental Application

Based on the results of the pilot year, the supplemental application has several potential benefits to students and programs, including:

- Supplemental application allows students to highlight the most important/impactful experiences
- Geographic preferencing and signaling may help applicants be noticed by programs
- Programs may use geographic preferencing and signaling as part of the holistic process to invite applicants to interview they would have otherwise overlooked and as a tiebreaker

Potential Issues with Supplemental Application

We have also identified several potential issues and have MANY questions that remain, since this is such a new process. Potential issues include:

- Supplemental application increases the time required to prepare and review materials and may be redundant with the standard application
- Misuse of geographic preferencing and signaling
- Lots of uncertainty with this new process:
 - How to advise students
 - How to interpret geographic preferencing and signaling

What is the Career Advising Collaborative Doing to Support Career Advisors?

Representatives from the COMSEP Career Advising Collaborative and COMSEP leadership are members of a Pediatric Residency Recruitment Action Team that includes members from AAPD, CoPS, AMSPDC, AAPSOPT, FuturePedsRes and NextGenPediatrics. This group meets monthly and will be developing pediatric-specific recommendations and resources for career advisors, student affairs faculty, program directors and students.

Additional support from the collaborative:

- We will supply regular updates to COMSEP members via the weekly Buzz
- We created an Infographic (below) to summarize this information that can be used to facilitate dissemination
- We will host a Q&A for Career Advisors in June 2022 (Date TBD)

What Additional Resources are Available to Career Advisors and Students?

Webinars

AAMC Webinar for medical student advisors: May 12th 1 pm EST

<https://aamc.elevate.commpartners.com/products/supplemental-eras-application-overview-webinar-for-medical-school-advisors-may-12>

AAMC Webinar for applicants: May 19th 1 pm EST

https://aamc.elevate.commpartners.com/p/220519_ERAS_Applicants#tab-product+tab+overview

#PedsMatch2023 webinar series facilitated by FuturePedsRes, APPD, and COMSEP

- Kick-off and wrap-up webinars covering ERAS supplement, #ApplySmart, Letters of Recommendation, Interviews
- Group specific mentoring panels (DO, IMG, Equity)
- Regional program introductions
- Encourage your students to follow Future Peds Res on Twitter/Instagram

AAPD/COMSEP Virtual Cafes: June 2022

Websites

<https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-residencies-eras/supplemental-eras-application-eras-2023-cycle>

SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION AND SIGNALING

Supplemental Application



Applicants are able to list up to 5 meaningful experiences such as:

- Research
- Teaching/Mentoring
- Work
- Volunteer/Service/Advocacy

Can include explanation of why each experience is meaningful (up to 300 characters)

Geographic Preference

Applicants can indicate a preference for up to 3 of 9 US census regions with a short explanation (up to 300 characters)



Signaling

Students can indicate interest in up to 5 individual programs

Key Details

- Process designed to allow students to demonstrate their true interest
- Programs should use geographic preference and signaling during interview offer phase only
- Applicants should signal home program if it is in their top 5
- Students can "opt in" to these three processes
- Only programs that have chosen to participate can view these elements

Potential Benefits

- Supplemental application allows students to highlight the most important/impactful experiences
- Geo preferencing and signaling may help applicants be noticed by programs
- Programs may use geo preferencing and signaling as part of the holistic process to invite applicants to interview they would have otherwise overlooked and as a tiebreaker

For Additional Information:

- <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-residencies-eras/supplemental-eras-application-eras-2023-cycle>
- Attend Virtual Cafes sponsored by APPD/COMSEP/FuturePedsRes