

# FREIDA™, the AMA Residency & Fellowship Database® FAQs & Glossary

## I. Frequently Asked Questions

### **Where does FREIDA data come from?**

Program data on FREIDA come directly from ACGME-accredited programs themselves via the GME Track/National GME Census, an annual online survey jointly conducted by the American Medical Association and the Association of American Medical Colleges. Data are loaded onto FREIDA in mid-August for those programs that complete the National GME Census by the mid-July due date, again in October (for data received by the end of September), and a final upload in February. New programs are added to FREIDA as they become accredited, and existing programs update their information throughout the year. Clinical information on GME participating institutions is provided by Health Forum, LLC, an affiliate of the American Hospital Association.

### **What is the ACGME?**

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education accredits most graduate medical education programs – including all residency training programs and most fellowship programs. These programs can accept qualified MDs and DOs.

### **Can anyone search for residency/fellowship programs on FREIDA?**

Yes, anyone can use FREIDA.

### **Do AMA members have additional FREIDA benefits?**

AMA members have additional FREIDA benefits that they can access by logging in, such as saving searches into a Compare table and creating a Dashboard to help organize their search, save programs of interest, and store personal observations. In addition, AMA members can download limited program data into a .csv file. The number of different programs that can be downloaded is 100 per year. You can learn more about AMA membership [here](#).

### **I'm an osteopathic medical student. Can I use FREIDA to look for programs?**

Of course! ACGME-accredited programs accept qualified MDs and DOs. To find programs that have an osteopathic focus, meaning, they either have Osteopathic Recognition, or were accredited as part of the Single Accreditation System, use the Osteopathic Recognition/Focus Copyright 1995 – 2019 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.

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checkbox under the Program Type filter.

## How do I save results of a program search on FREIDA?

AMA members can save results of a search into the Comparison List or into the Dashboard. Select the program you're interested in, either from the Search results or from a program's page on FREIDA, and select Add to Compare or Add to Dashboard. You can also add programs to the Dashboard from the Compare table. In addition, AMA members can download limited program data into a .csv file. The number of different programs that can be downloaded is 100 per year.

If you are not an AMA member, you can add programs to the Compare table only during the current browser session.

## How do I use the filters?

Use the filter checkboxes or sliders to narrow your search. Keep in mind that not all programs answer every question – a program that does not appear in your search results could be one that did not answer the filter question.

## Why is there more information for some programs than others?

An overview is provided for all ACGME-accredited programs. In addition, most programs choose to provide even more information about their programs by "leasing" supplemental space on FREIDA. Some programs do not choose to have an Expanded listing.

## Can I bookmark FREIDA for future use?

The bookmark for FREIDA can be found [here](#). You can also bookmark a program's listing, but keep in mind that changes are made often to FREIDA, and you may want to refresh a bookmarked page to make sure that the information is current.

## Why can't I find listings for a particular specialty?

FREIDA contains listings for 2 types of programs: (1) programs in specialties that have ACGME program requirements, and (2) combined programs that are jointly approved by two or more applicable certification boards (e.g., internal medicine/psychiatry).

If you cannot find listings for a particular specialty or combined program (for example, cutaneous oncology), check with the relevant specialty society for more information about these non-ACGME accredited specialties.

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## Can I search for vacant residency and fellowship positions?

Yes! Click on the Vacant Positions Listing link from the Search Programs drop down. Program directors can post positions that have become vacant during the year, or are left unfilled after the Match. Users can search by specialty, state and program year level. You may also want to check with the specialty society of the area in which you are seeking a position.

## How can programs change their data after information has been uploaded from the annual survey?

Program personnel can make changes to the Overview program information by clicking on [Program Admin](#). (Logging in is required. Please contact FREIDA for program login information). If changes need to be made to Expanded program information, they can be e-mailed to [freida@ama-assn.org](mailto:freida@ama-assn.org). Please include your 10-digit program ID number.

## How can I find out about the accreditation status of a program?

All programs on FREIDA are currently ACGME-accredited, or are combined programs that are approved by their respective specialty boards. The most recent information on the accreditation status of ACGME-accredited programs, including program review dates by residency review committees, is located on the [ACGME's Web site](#).

## Our ACGME-accredited residency program is not listed in FREIDA. Why not?

If your program was newly accredited within the past several months, it is possible we may not yet have received the information about your program. Notify FREIDA by e-mail ([freida@ama-assn.org](mailto:freida@ama-assn.org)) with your 10-digit program ID number and basic information, and we will look into the issue.

## Is FREIDA information available for data licensing?

Some limited GME information can be licensed to non-profit medical organizations and researchers. Please contact [gme@ama-assn.org](mailto:gme@ama-assn.org) or [freida@ama-assn.org](mailto:freida@ama-assn.org) for more information.

## How can I find out if a program is part of a medical school?

Medical schools can have affiliation agreements with teaching institutions that sponsor GME programs. Select an institution either from a program page, or select an institution in the Institution Directory. Selecting an institution from the list will provide information about the

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institution, as well as a list of programs and medical schools that the institution is affiliated with.

## **Is there information on the various training sites that are part of a program?**

Yes, the names and locations of all the training sites that have required rotations are included in the program's Overview. Select a site from the program's Overview to learn more. Or, search for all institutions by selecting Institution Directory. Information about a hospital's clinical environment and special resources is provided by Health Forum, LLC, an affiliate of the American Hospital Association.

## **USMLE or COMLEX... which do I need?**

If you are graduating, or have graduated, with an MD degree, you will be taking the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE), created by the National Board of Medical Examiners. If you are graduating, or have graduated, with a DO degree, then you can take the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX), created by the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners. Some programs in FREIDA, however, expect ALL applicants to have taken the USMLE.

## **How can I find out what the typical pediatrics (or any specialty) program is like?**

Select Specialty Training Statistics under Tools & Resources to find averaged or aggregate information about programs, by specialty.

## **What's next for graduates of residency or fellowship programs?**

Program directors indicate the plans of their graduates. You can find that aggregated information by specialty by selecting Graduate Career Plans under Tools & Resources.

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### II. Glossary for Program Information

#### **Accepting applications for training that begins \_- \_\_\_\_**

Information is provided about applications to the program for the next academic year, and for the academic year following. Academic years typically start in the summer and last for 12 months.

#### **Accredited length**

The number of years of training the program is accredited to offer by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

#### **Additional training or educational experiences**

These include required additional training beyond the accredited length of the program, as well as additional experiences that the program offers, but are not required for completion of the program.

#### **Affiliated with US government**

Programs that are sponsored by or affiliated with federal agencies, i.e., Air Force, Army, Navy, Public Health Service, or sponsored by the VA.

#### **Application dates**

The deadline for applications for the next academic year, and the earliest date for which applications will be accepted by the program for the following year, as well as the deadline date.

#### **Average Step 1 or Level 1 scores (range)**

Programs can provide within a range the average scores of the current residents/fellows.

#### **Average hours per week on duty**

The average hours worked during the first program year.

#### **Beeper call**

Beeper or at-home call is on-call time spent away from the institution. Some residents and fellows only have beeper call.

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## Characteristics of trainees

If resident data are made available by the program, percentages of residents who are female, male, USMD, DO and IMG are provided, averaged over 3 years of data.

## COMLEX Level 1 and 2

COMLEX Level 1 and 2 scores may be required for interview consideration of DO applicants (graduates of osteopathic medical schools). Some programs post the minimum score they will accept. Some programs may require DO applicants to take the USMLE Step 1 and 2 instead of the COMLEX.

## Community-based program

The majority of experience is in a community setting that is not in an academic medical center, or a hospital with a medical school affiliation.

## Community-based university affiliated program

The majority of experience is in a community-based hospital that is affiliated with an academic medical center, but is not a primary affiliate of the academic medical center.

## Dashboard

Feature available to AMA members that allows users to save programs and add content to programs of interest.

## ERAS

Electronic Residency Application Service, by which medical students apply to residency programs through their medical schools; graduates of international medical schools apply through the ECFMG. See [www.aamc.org/eras](http://www.aamc.org/eras), and [www.ecfmg.org/eras](http://www.ecfmg.org/eras).

## GME

Graduate medical education, or medical education training taking place after graduation from medical school.

## Graduate year

The year of training in accredited graduate medical education, which may or may not correspond with program year. A resident in the first year of training after medical school is a GY1 resident. For example, if a resident has completed training in Internal Medicine, and now is in the first year of a Nephrology programs, the resident would be in his/her 4<sup>th</sup> Graduate Year, and 1<sup>st</sup> Program Year.

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## **Hospitalist track**

Track or fellowship that provides special training for a career devoted largely to inpatient care.

## **Visa information**

Some programs do not wish to manage visa issues, and are only interested in applicants that have US citizenship or permanent residency. Other programs and institutions are able to accommodate residents on visas. It is always recommended to contact the program for clarification.

## **Institution**

Residency and subspecialty programs must be sponsored by an institution. The sponsoring institution assumes the ultimate responsibility for the program and is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. A participating institution is an institution in which residents rotate for a required experience.

## **Interview via video conferencing**

Some programs may interview applicants remotely.

## **Last updated**

The date for which all or part of the information appearing for the program was last loaded onto FREIDA.

## **Maximum consecutive hours on duty**

The maximum number of consecutive hours a resident/fellow is allowed to be on duty by the program during the first program year.

## **Military-based program**

The majority of experience takes place in Army, Air Force, Navy, and Uniformed Services institutions.

## **Moonlighting allowed**

Moonlighting is allowed by the program, beyond GY1.

## **Most taxing call schedule and frequency**

This is the call schedule that places the resident/fellow in the hospital the most nights for the year. This particular schedule may be maintained for a short period of time, or could be for the entire year. Night float is not part of this call schedule.

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## **My notes**

Part of the Dashboard – in the My Notes section, users have several opportunities to add personal content to programs of interest, such as: ratings of programs based on research or personal observation, like cultural/personality fit, faculty teaching availability, community type; completing items regarding applying, being offered an interview, interview dates; rating a program overall; intentions to rank a program; and adding comments.

## **National Resident Matching Program**

The NRMP matches medical students and residency programs to optimize the rank ordered choices of students and program directors. The NRMP also conducts matches for fellowship positions in more than 60 subspecialties, through its Specialties Matching Services. See [www.nrmp.org](http://www.nrmp.org).

## **Night float system**

A rotation where residents only work during the nights (eg, 10pm-8am), with minimal or no daytime duties.

## **OSCEs**

Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) are patient or computer simulations that are used to provide standardized assessments of residents' clinical skills.

## **Osteopathic Recognition and/or is accredited by the ACGME and the AOA**

The program has received Osteopathic Recognition from the ACGME, or is a program formerly accredited by the American Osteopathic Association and is now ACGME-accredited.

## **Other matching program**

Programs using another matching program are primarily using the military match, the urological match or the Match for osteopathic programs.

## **Other program setting**

The majority of experience takes place in settings that are not university, community, or military based, such as in foundations, blood banks, research institutions, cancer centers, or private practices.

## **Participant institution**

See Institution.



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## **Part-time/shared positions**

Some programs will allow two residents to "share" one position in the program, or allow the resident to progress through the program at a slower pace, or part-time.

## **Portfolio system**

A portfolio is a collection of selected resident/fellow work packaged and organized for easy review and evaluation.

## **Preliminary positions**

Positions for residents who are obtaining training required to enter another program or specialty. Preliminary positions are usually 1 year in length, and usually offered for Graduate Year 1. Internal medicine, surgery, and transitional year programs commonly offer preliminary positions.

## **Primary care track**

Track or separate path solely devoted to primary care medicine.

## **Primary teaching site**

The site that provides the single largest amount of clinical experience for the program.

## **Program faculty**

Provides a breakdown of physician, non-physician, full-time and part-time faculty, the percent full-time female physician faculty, and a ratio of faculty to number of resident positions.

## **Program size**

The number of resident/fellow positions the program is approved to have.

## **Program year**

The year of training in the specialty.

## **Ratio of FTE faculty to positions**

This ratio is calculated by adding the number of full-time paid physicians to one-half the number of part-time paid physicians, and dividing this sum by the number of positions in the program.

## **Required length**

The accredited length of the program, plus any additional training that is required (not optional) by the program.

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## **Requires previous GME**

The program requires training in another specialty or in a preliminary position prior to entry. Some programs require all residents to have had previous GME, some programs never require previous GME, some programs in special cases will require previous GME for some residents, and some programs may exempt a resident from the requirement.

## **Research rotation**

A research rotation occurring while training in the program, not to be confused with a research track/non-accredited fellowship. Some programs require a research rotation, for others the rotation is optional, or not available.

## **Research track/non-accredited fellowship**

A non-accredited research or fellowship year beyond the accredited program length.

## **Rural track**

Track or separate path solely devoted to rural primary care medicine.

## **San Francisco match**

The San Francisco match provides a matching service for some residency programs and fellowships, primarily surgical. See [www.sfmatch.org](http://www.sfmatch.org).

## **Specialty in-service/in-training examination**

This examination parallels the specialty's board certification examination, and is typically used to provide feedback to the program on the resident's progress.

## **Sponsor**

See Institution.

## **Survey received**

The date the AMA received the program survey which supplies much of the information about the program on FREIDA.

## **360-degree evaluation**

An evaluation of the resident/fellow that is completed by attending faculty, peer residents/fellows, nurses and others that have worked with the trainee.

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## **Twenty-four-hour off duty period**

A full 24-hours released from program duties, including beeper or at-home call.

## **University-based program**

The majority of experience takes place in a hospital that serves as a primary affiliate of the medical school.

## **USMLE Step 1 and Step 2**

USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 scores may be required by some programs for interview consideration. Some programs post the minimum score they will accept.

## **Women's health track**

Track or fellowship that provides special training in the area of women's health.