



ERAS Update: Unlocking the Platforms Potential

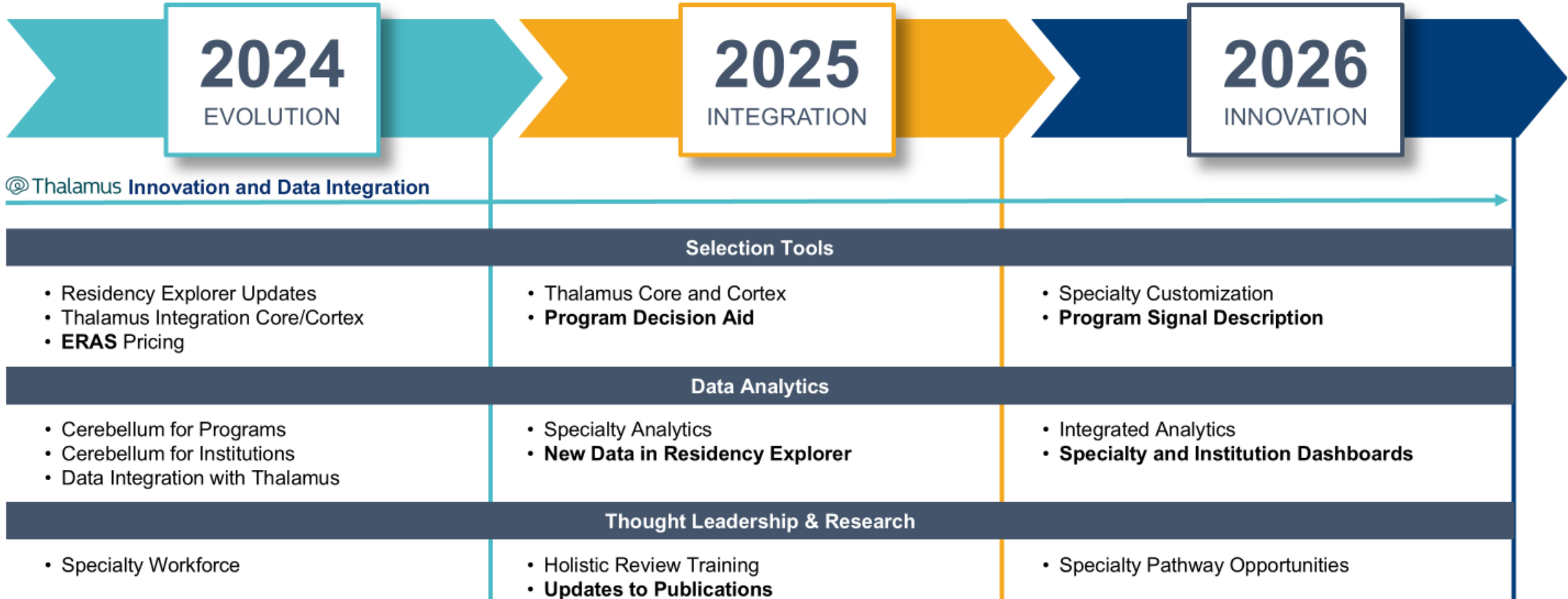
2026 SAU Winter Meeting
February 7, 2026
Richard Peng, ERAS Director for Engagement

FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

I do not have any relationships to report with ACCME defined ineligible companies.

I will not be discussing unlabeled/investigational uses of medical devices or pharmaceuticals during this presentation.

Our Collaboration Continues to Evolve & Innovate



Now Powered by  Core  Cortex and  Cerebellum we can offer more.

Publications to Scholarly Works

Publications Update: Introducing Scholarly Work

- Section to be renamed to “Scholarly Work” from “Publications”
- Applicants can up to 3 meaningful scholarly works or research projects they want to highlight
- Applicants can use scholarly collections to map how scholarly work led to various publications and presentations

1. Genetic epidemiology contribution to understanding ★

Author A, Author J, **Author R**, Author Z.
Journal (2017 May); 57 (312): 90-115. Cited in PubMed; PMID: 98760762. Pub Status: Published.

[URL to Article](#)

★ Most Meaningful Journal Article (peer-reviewed) 📄 First Author 🗂️ Genetic epidemiology contribution to...

↑ ↑ ↑ ↑

Marked as Most Meaningful Type Marked as First Author Scholarly Collection assigned

Scholarly Work

Placeholder Language

[Add Work](#) ▾ [Manage Scholarly Collections](#)

- Book Chapter (peer-reviewed)
- Journal Article (peer-reviewed)
- Journal Abstract (peer-reviewed)
- Oral Presentation
- Poster Presentation



Scholarly Collection Grouping View

Scholarly Collection A

Scholarly Collection

1. Sample Journal Abstract (peer-reviewed) Title

Sample Author, Another Author

Sample Journal (2024); 15 (3): 123-145. Cited in PubMed; PMID: 12345678. Pub Status: Published.

[URL to Article](#)

★ Most Meaningful Journal Abstract (peer-reviewed) Scholarly Collection A

2. Oral Presentation Example #1

AB Student

1. ABC Conference #1. Apr 2024

2. XYZ Conference #2. Feb 2025

★ Most Meaningful Oral Presentation First Author Scholarly Collection A

Scholarly Collection B

Scholarly Collection

1. Sample Poster Presentation Title

Sample Author, Another Author

Sample Journal (2024); 15 (3): 123-145. Cited in PubMed; PMID: 12345678. Pub Status: Published.; (2024); 15; (3); 123-145; Cited in PubMed; PMID: 12345678; Pub Status: Published.

[URL to Article](#)

Journal Article (peer-reviewed) First Author Scholarly Collection B

2. Quantum Computing Applications in Cryptography 6

Wilson ST, Moore UV, Taylor WX

Journal of Science (2024); 41 (6): 7-136. Cited in PubMed; PMID: 95711567. Pub Status: Published.

[URL to Article](#)

Journal Abstract (peer-reviewed) Scholarly Collection B

Other in Publications



Publications *

This page allows multiple entries for each of your publications. To add a publication, click the Add Entry button and fill in the required information. When you're done, click the Save button. If you have no publications, please click the none button.

+ ADD ENTRY

NONE

Benefits Across the Community

For Applicants:

- Encourages clarity and consistency in how scholarly work is reported
- Supports a personal narrative with meaningful work designations
- Reduces guesswork around what to include and how to present it

For Advisors:

- Makes it easier to guide students on what to include
- Provides better visibility into the types and quality of work
- Aligns with growing expectations around structured advising tools

For Programs:

- Enables faster, more objective review across applicants
- Provides standardized data to inform review and scoring
- Connects more easily with downstream systems like Thalamus/Cortex

For Everyone:

- Reflects a more modern and transparent approach to scholarly contributions
- Designed to better organize existing information and enhance clarity

AAMC Letter Writer Portal and SLOEs

Letter Writer Portal: Modernizing the LoR Experience

A new, streamlined portal for easier, faster, and more transparent letter submissions.

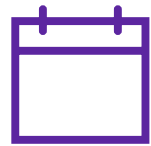


For Specialties:

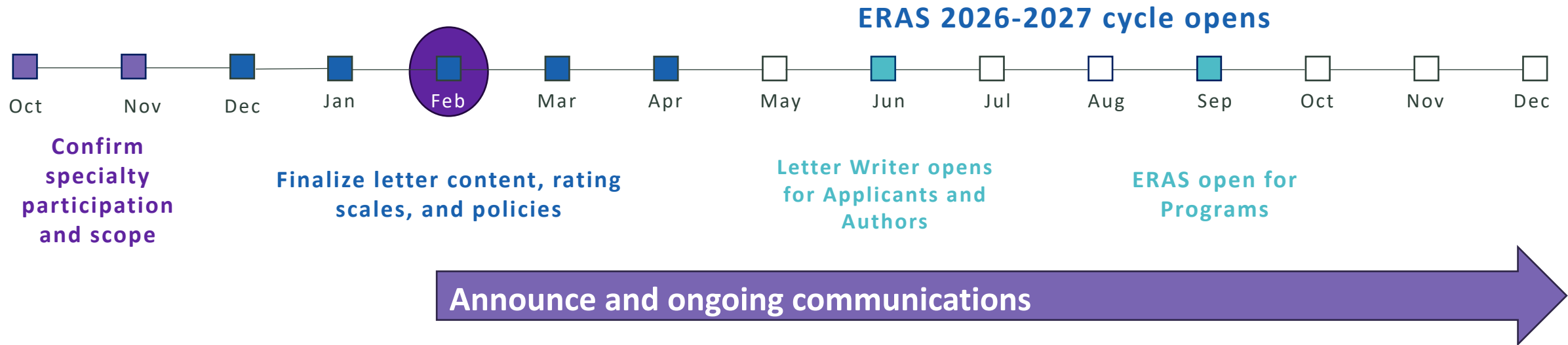
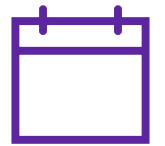
- Data integration enabling holistic review.
- Customizable standardized letter tailored with support from AAMC's Selection Sciences team.
- Normative data and insights for continuous improvement.

For Letter Writers:

- Direct email link for quick access
- Flexible submission with or without an AAMC account
- Dashboard to manage requests and track status
- Digitized and integrated standardized letter with space for submitting narrative letter content in one place

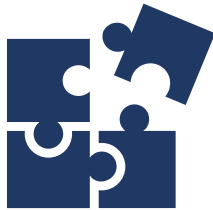


Letter Writer Portal Update – Key Dates



ERAS 2026 Pilot Updates

The Challenges



Programs struggle to identify which applicants are **genuinely interested** in their programs and **why** they are interested



Programs want more information about applicants' **competencies** at the time of application review



Programs want more information about applicants' **professional interests** and fit with **institutional mission and training environment**

2026 ERAS Pilots



Geographic Preference
Opt-Out



Orthopaedic Surgery
Otolaryngology



Short Answer Specialty
Specific Questions



Anesthesiology
Neurological Surgery
Plastic Surgery



Program Signal
Explanation



Anesthesiology
Plastic Surgery

Conclusions | Specialty-specific Essays

1 | A vast majority of responses demonstrated alignment to at least one target competency

2 | Across specialties, prompts involving reflection, learning, or self-awareness typically produce more *Moderate-to-Strong Evidence* of target competencies

3 | Applicants gravitate toward reflection, self-regulation, and interpersonal behaviors more readily than primary clinical or operational actions

4 | Specialty questions linked to an Accountability competency yielded overwhelmingly Weak Evidence responses

5 | Across specialties, MD, DO, US-IMG, and Non-US IMG applicant responses do not often diverge meaningfully in terms of demonstrated evidence or competencies

Conclusions | Program Signal Statements

- 1 Applicants used the full range of characters, although IMGs used a little less
- 2 Most signal statements were of moderate similarity in Anesthesiology
- 3 Signal statements were more differentiated in Plastic Surgery
- 4 Exact duplicate responses were uncommon in both specialties
- 5 Dominant themes across both specialties included: Culture & Location, and Academic & Research Focus, but some differences existed by Applicant type

2026 ERAS Pilot Studies

Further Insights Available Online!

[AAMC Webinars and Online Courses: MyERAS Content Refresh: Evaluation of New Specialty Specific Essays - December 4](#)



Short Answer Specialty
Specific Questions



Anesthesiology
Neurological Surgery
Plastic Surgery



Program Signal
Explanation



Anesthesiology
Plastic Surgery

2027 ERAS Pilot Additions



**Geographic Preference
Opt-Out**



Anesthesiology
Orthopaedic Surgery
Otolaryngology



**Short Answer Specialty
Specific Question
Essays**



Anesthesiology
Neurological Surgery
General Surgery
Plastic Surgery



**Program Signal
Explanation
Statements**



**Anesthesiology
Plastic Surgery**

For more information:

ERAS Statistics and Dashboard Data




What You Need to Know About the 2027 ERAS Season



ERAS 2026 Season Data

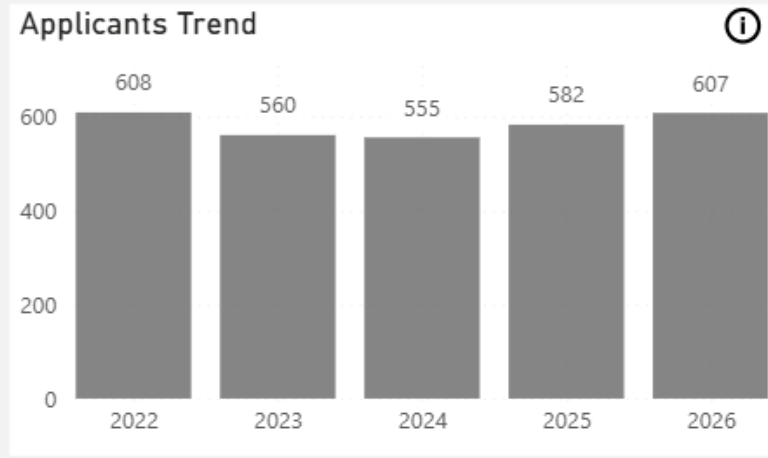
Urology Applicants & Application Data


ERAS 2026  ⓘ

607
Total Applicants

202
Cross-Applicants [View](#)

45.3
Avg Applications per Applicant



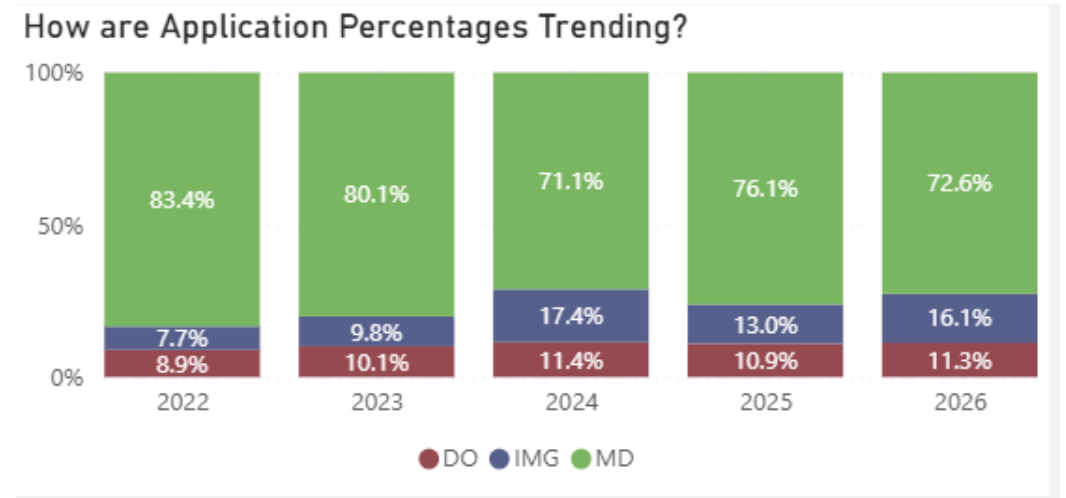
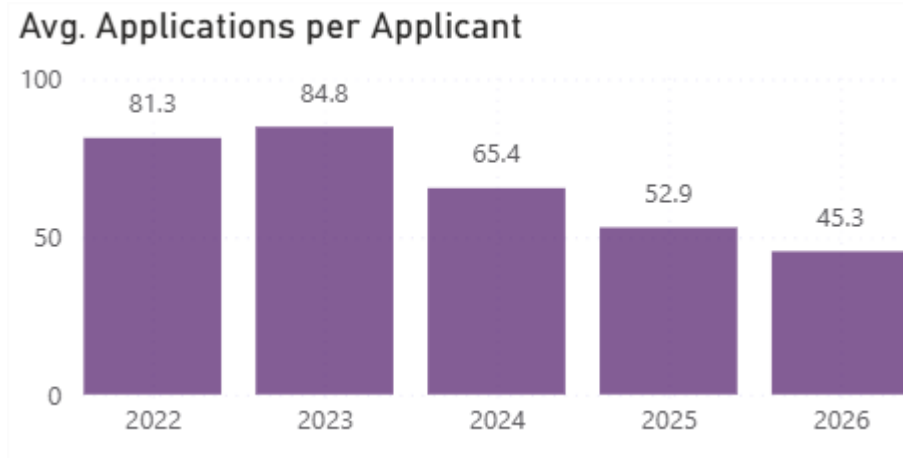
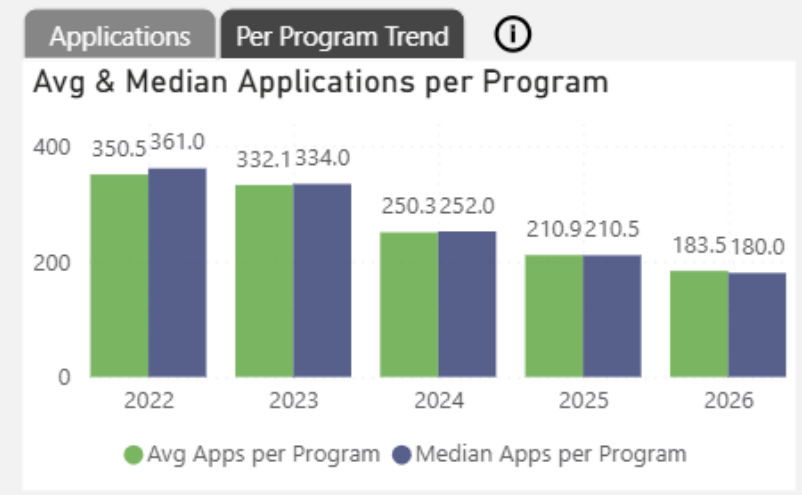
ERAS 2026  ⓘ

27,523
Total Applications

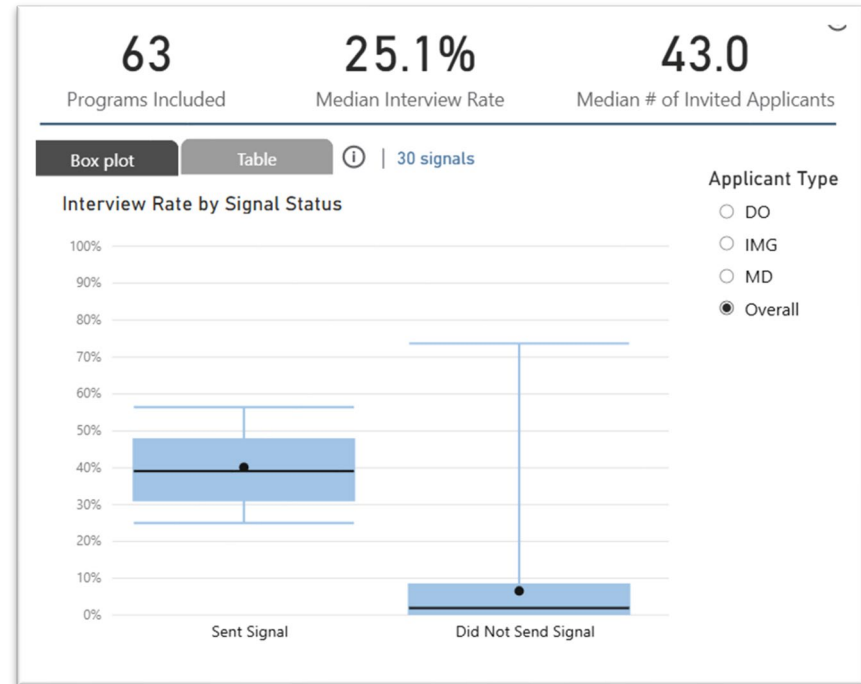
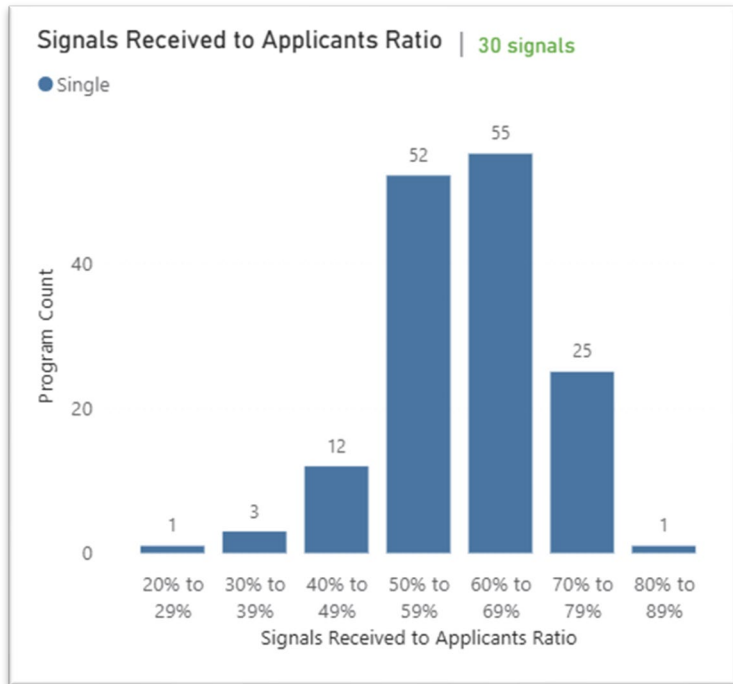
9,433
Cross-Applications [View](#)

183.5
Avg Apps per Program

180.0
Median Apps per Program



Urology Program Signal Data



Distribution of Program Signals Received By Applicant Type

Signal Type	Program Count	Mean	Median	Min	Max	SD
Single						
DO	141	13.7	9.0	1	51	12.0
IMG	149	13.3	12.0	1	47	7.7
MD	149	87.2	86.0	5	197	41.1
Overall	149	113.5	110.0	14	213	40.5
Overall						
DO	141	13.7	9.0	1	51	12.0
IMG	149	13.3	12.0	1	47	7.7
MD	149	87.2	86.0	5	197	41.1
Overall	149	113.5	110.0	14	213	40.5

Program Counts for this Specialty

