

Navigating the Diagnostic Radiology Residency Match: The Impact of Home Institution Affiliation on Matching



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Methods

A 5-year retrospective study from 2019 to 2023 was conducted analyzing 155 U.S. M.D. programs and their Diagnostic Radiology (DR) matched students. Data was obtained through publicly published residency match lists on official medical school websites. For each school, we analyzed: presence of a home program, the number of students per year matching into a DR residency program, and the residency program name. Residency program affiliation was collected from the FREDIA™ residency tool from the American Medical Association (academic, community, university-affiliated community based, or military). A t-test and chi squared test were performed comparing match types (home vs no home) and residency program affiliations, respectively.

Results

- From 2019 to 2023, 87 medical schools had an affiliated residency program while 30 medical schools did not.
- A matched student is 5.3 times more likely to be from an institution with a home program. (Fig. 1)
- There was a statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) difference in the mean number of matched students between the groups (332 students per year). (Fig 1)
- Institutions with home programs showed a significantly greater proportion of matched applicants join academic centers (78.1% vs. 72.6%), while matched applicants without home programs more frequently joined university-affiliated programs (12.9% vs. 15.9%), general community programs (7.1% vs. 9.4%), and military programs (1.0% vs. 2.2%). (Fig. 2)

Discussion

- Overall, applicants from institutions with a home program represented 83.6% of all DR matches from 2019 to 2023.
- The number of applicants matching from institutions from home programs has increased by 21.7% from 365 in 2019 to 466 in 2023.
- The number of applicants matching from institutions without home programs stayed the same at 83 students in both 2019 and 2023.
- Access to radiologists at a home institution can provide students with various important resources such as shadowing and research opportunities.

Conclusion

Understanding the implications of attending a medical school without an affiliated home program is vital for aspiring diagnostic radiologists. Since over five times as many applicants matched from institutions with a home program compared to those without a home program, applicants should consider starting early on networking, research, clinical opportunities, and finding mentors for match success.

Figures

Fig. 1: Number of Medical Students Matching Per Year With and Without a Home Program

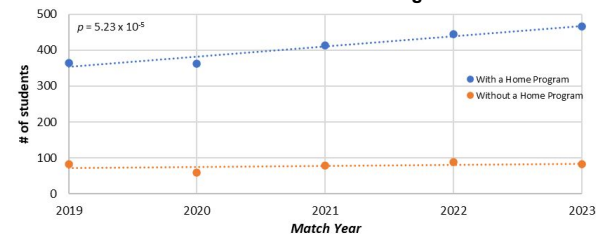
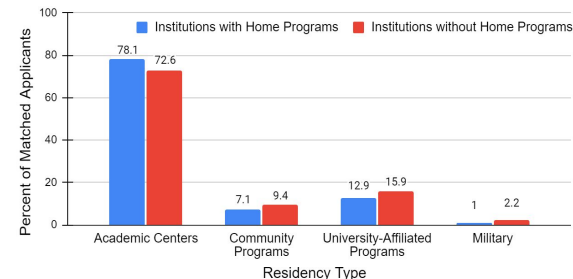


Fig. 2: Percentage of Matched Applicants by Residency Type and Home Program



Acknowledgements

Thank you to Dr. Wong, Dr. Dang, and everyone who helped support this project.

References

