Residency specialties that medical students are researching most

Each year as medical students prepare for Match, the sizable task of researching specialties and programs awaits. Any path to slimming the list of options can make the process less daunting. This exclusive user data reveals which medical specialties are getting the most attention when your peers weigh their residency program options. To get you started within a specialty, each link takes you to a list of the 10 most-viewed programs for that specialty.

Rankings are based on user activity on FREIDA™ from Jan.1–Dec.?31, 2021. To qualify for this analysis, users must have searched by specialty and applied a state or region filter. FREIDA™, the AMA Residency & Fellowship Database®, allows medical students to search for a residency or fellowship from more than 12,000 programs—all accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

In 2021, FREIDA users tallied more than 8.5 million views of residency programs. With this collection, we share the 20 specialties that rose to the top for user interest based on total views to specialty programs.

Most popular medical specialties of 2021

1. Internal medicine – 3.4 million total views of 592 residency programs
2. Family medicine – 1.3 million total views of 704 residency programs
3. Surgery-general – 559,000 total views of 345 residency programs
Pediatrics – 545,000 total views of 209 residency programs
Obstetrics and gynecology – 502,000 total views of 296 residency programs
Psychiatry – 370,000 total views of 285 residency programs
Anesthesiology – 330,000 total views of 162 residency programs
Emergency medicine – 269,000 total views of 276 residency programs
Neurology – 229,000 total views of 169 residency programs
Radiology-diagnostic – 204,000 total views of 197 residency programs
Pathology-anatomic and clinical – 157,000 total views of 144 residency programs
Orthopaedic surgery – 126,000 total views of 201 residency programs
Transitional year – 99,000 total views of 172 residency programs
Physical medicine and rehabilitation – 90,000 total views of 99 residency programs
Dermatology – 74,000 total views of 142 residency programs
16 Urology – 67,000 total views of 146 residency programs
17 Internal medicine/pediatrics – 56,000 total views of 78 residency programs
18 Otolaryngology-head and neck surgery – 48,000 total views of 125 residency programs
19 Neurological surgery – 45,000 total views of 115 residency programs
20 Ophthalmology – 45,000 total views of 124 residency programs