

Guidance Statement from the Association of Program Directors in Vascular Surgery
Regarding the 2022/2023 Application Cycle

While our vascular surgery training programs continue adapting to fluctuations and changes related to equity in the interview process, some institutions may still have pandemic era restrictions on students, faculty, and staff, which impact the 2022-2023 application cycle. In particular, medical student away rotations have been governed by local institutional and regional policies, as well as the ultimate process of residency interviews.

In response, the APDVS issues the following guidelines to vascular surgery program directors in the United States regarding the upcoming application cycle for Integrated Vascular Surgery Residencies.

Recommendations:

The priorities in offering these recommendations are to promote an equitable and transparent application, interview, and match process, as well as to safeguard the vascular surgical education of medical students. In light of these priorities, our recommendations are as follows.

- **We recommend virtual interviews with the option of a voluntary live site visit as part of an APDVS pilot trial.**
 - **We recommend that programs take part in an APDVS-organized pilot trial to submit and certify rank lists one month prior to students' deadline for rank list certification and then offer students in person visits if their institution will allow. Details for participating in this study and outcome metrics to be evaluated will be available by September 2022.**
- **Programs are encouraged to send out interview invitations between Monday, October 24th and Monday, October 31st and allow up to one week for the candidates to respond before extending an offer to a different applicant. As programs select interview dates this fall and winter, a publicly available calendar will be on the APDVS website to attempt to avoid conflicts as possible.**
- **Holistic review of applications is strongly recommended as part of the Vascular Surgery residency selection process. This includes:**
 - **USMLE Step 1 and COMLEX Level 1 numerical scores should be de-emphasized in the 2022-2023 Application Cycle.**
 - **Programs should disclose how Step 2 and COMLEX Level 2 will be considered.**
- **We strongly recommend programs offer only the number of interviews available and disclose expectations about interview response.**

The situation is constantly evolving. The APDVS will continue to monitor and may periodically issue further guidance to promote a safe and equitable match process.