



ECFMG Seminar

Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates

Strategies and Solutions to Enhance the ERAS Application Process and Beyond

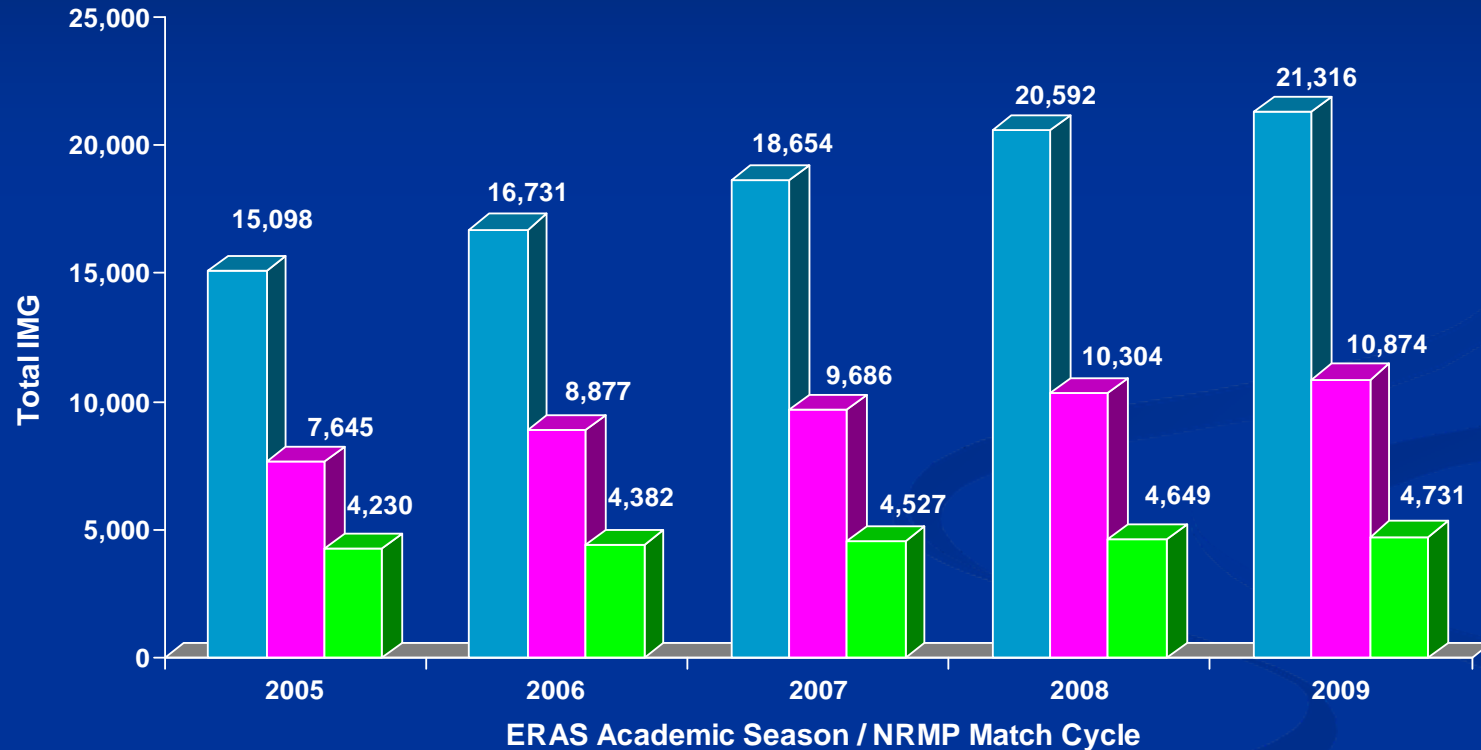
Tuesday, March 24, 2009
ERAS Support Services at ECFMG®

ECFMG Presenters:
Ms. Anna Iacone, Manager
Ms. Patricia Baldwin-Browns, Senior Advisor

Topics For Discussion

- Review of Survey Results
- Methods for Submission of Letters of Recommendation
- Future of ERAS
 - AAMC® ERAS Re-engineering Initiative
 - Regionalization
 - Expanded Services to Foreign National IMGs
- National Resident Matching Program / 2008 Program Director Survey

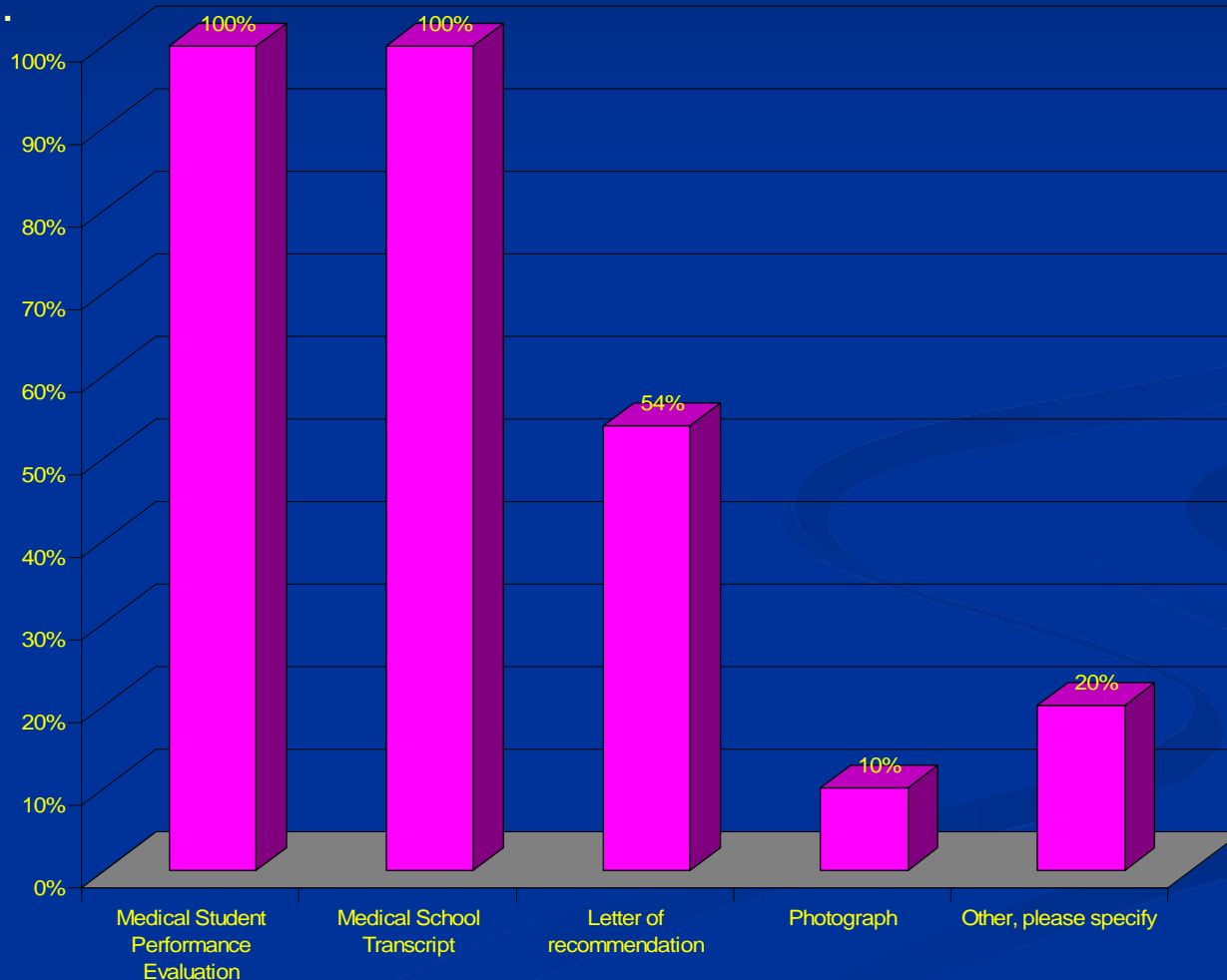
IMG ERAS Registrants / IMG NRMP Participants and Match Results



■ IMG ERAS Registered Applicants
 ■ IMG NRMP Active Participants
 ■ IMG NRMP Matched Applicants

Survey Results: Medical School Submission of ERAS Documents

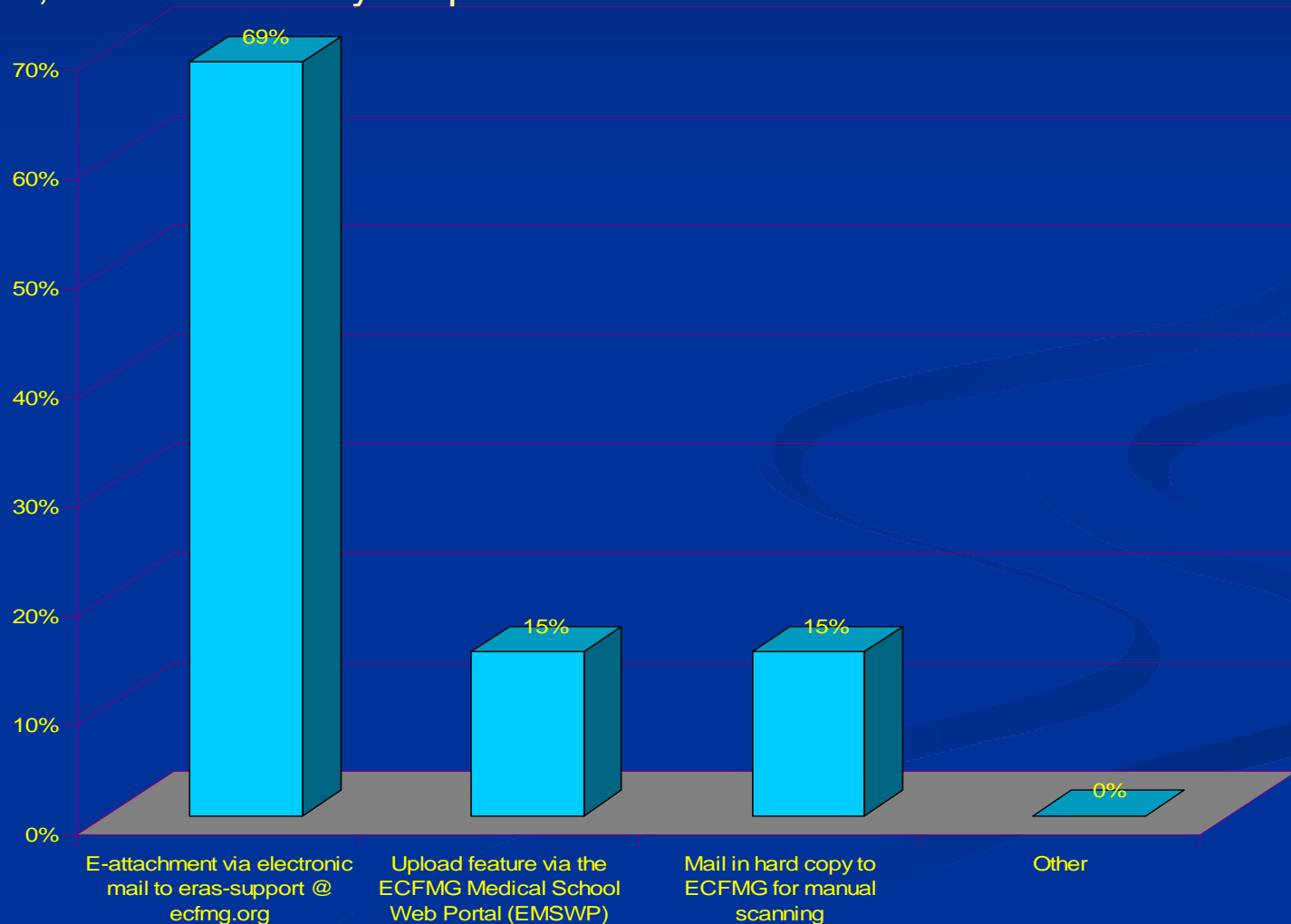
Please select which document types you submit on behalf of your students and graduates.



Survey Results:

Methods of Submission for Letters of Recommendation

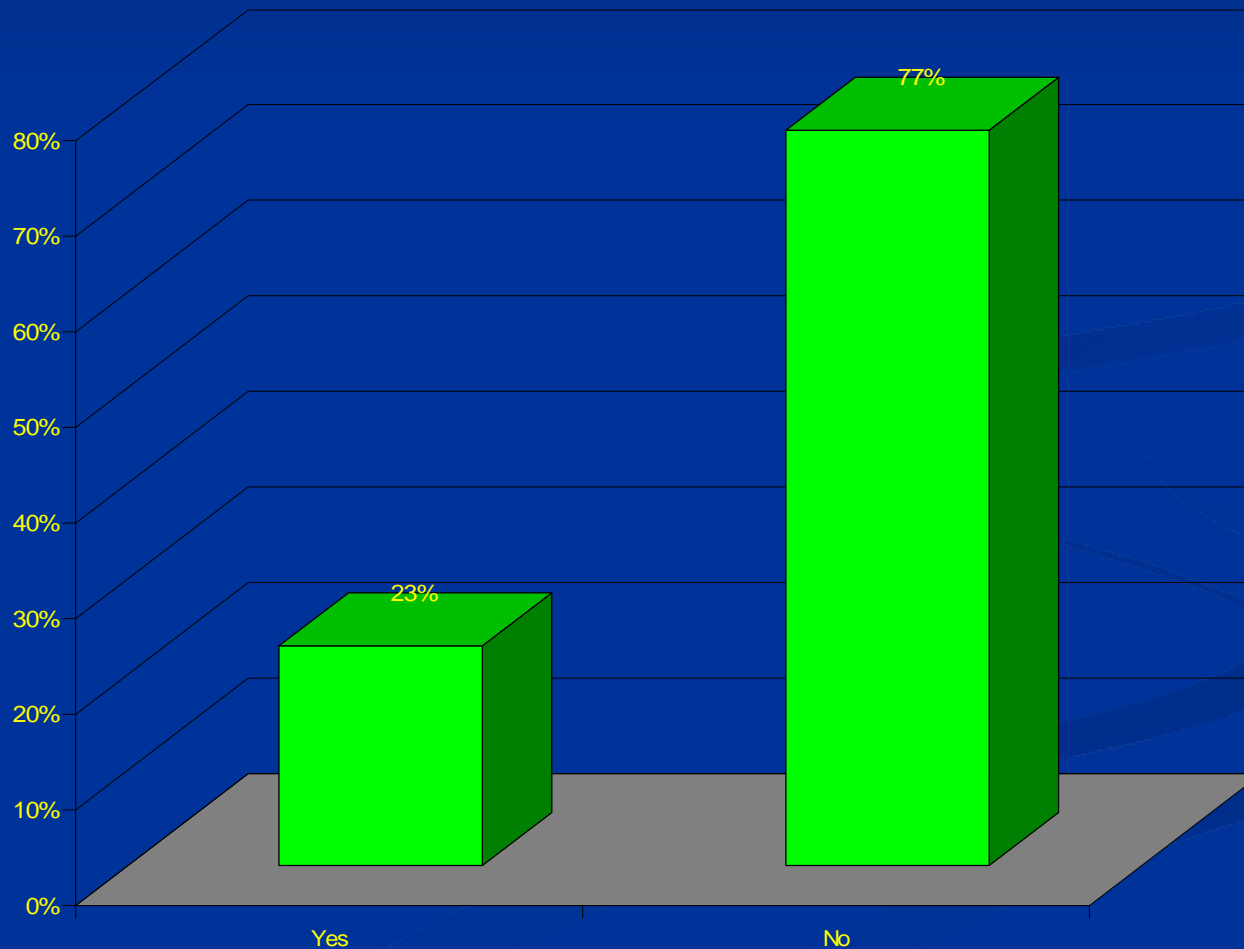
For those of you submitting letters of recommendation on behalf of students and graduates, what would be your preferred method of submission.



Survey Results:

Ease of On-Line Document Submission Form

Did the on-line Document Submission Form (DSF) make the ERAS application process more difficult? If yes, please explain.



Survey Comments

Medical School Responses

Describe challenges encountered while coordinating the submission of documents on behalf of your students/graduates.

- Too much paperwork
- Courier service costs
- Challenges in gathering ERAS documents for submission
- Document submission deadlines
- Difficult for graduates to acquire new letters of recommendation for each subsequent year they apply (Repeat Applicants)

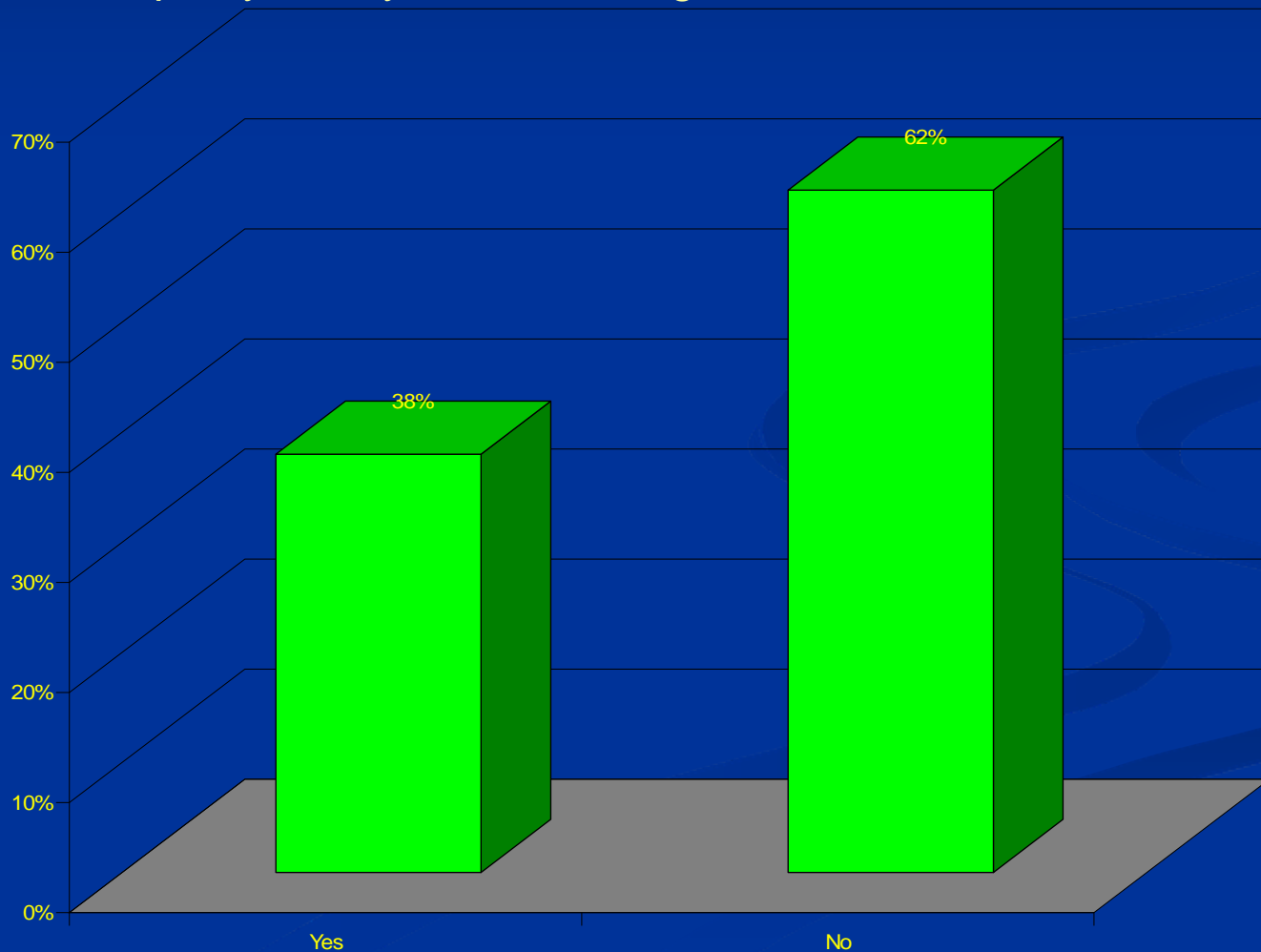
ECFMG Response to Medical School Challenges

- Utilization of Current E-Attachment Feature for MSPEs and Medical School Transcripts
- Future Implementation of LoR E-attachment Feature
- Future LoR Upload Feature via ECFMG Medical School Web Portal (EMSWP)
- Upload Digital Photograph
- Future Technical Consideration: Re-use of LoR for Repeat Applicants

Survey Results:

Mandating Student Submission of Digital Photographs

If ECFMG were to mandate the submission of digital photographs on-line via ECFMG OASIS (and not accept hard copies to be manually scanned), would this present a hardship to you or your students/graduates?



ECFMG Original Document Policy

Medical School Responses

- How successful is the ECFMG Original Document Policy in meeting its stated goals?
- This policy makes it difficult for students who have acquired letters of recommendation from earlier preceptors prior to the ERAS application season.
- Medical schools should be given access to submitted documents to verify their credibility on-line.
- ECFMG should mandate applicants to submit original documents.
- Uploading documents on-line would make it more meaningful and secure; ensure integrity.

ECFMG Original Document Policy

Medical School Responses (Continued)

- We have sent LoRs as PDFs and are aware of no rejections by residency programs. We wish to continue this practice.
- As a school we can only refer to the period of studies. Therefore once a letter of recommendation was issued concerning a graduate, there are no up-to-date letters.
- It is burdensome for the school to have to serve as a temporary repository for these letters.

Methods for Submission Letters of Recommendation (LoRs)

- LoR submission via electronic mail (pdf file)
 - A Potential Optional Service for ERAS 2010
- Re-use of LoRs for “Repeat Applicants”
 - A Potential Optional Service for ERAS 2010
- ECFMG Medical School Web Portal (EMSWP)
 - Future LoR Upload Feature for Medical Schools
- Built in On-line LoR feature for letter writers
 - Possible feature rollout / AAMC ERAS Re-engineering
 - Applicants sends e-mail to letter writer; letter writer completes letter of recommendation on-line

Future of ERAS

Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)

ERAS Re-Engineering Project

- AAMC ERAS Initiative
- ERAS re-design of current system
 - Web-based system
 - Flexible, robust system
- Expected Roll-out / ERAS 2011 Season (subject to change)
- ECFMG soliciting feedback from international medical schools

Medical School Regionalization

A Future Initiative by the ERAS Support Services at ECFMG

Purpose of Regionalization

- To assign an ECFMG Regional Advisor to international medical schools. Regional Advisor will work directly with medical school representatives in providing assistance with student ERAS applications.
- To conduct a “needs assessment” of individual medical schools and define strategies and solutions for future ERAS enhancements.
- To provide resources to foreign national IMGs requiring visas for training.

National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) Program Director Survey Results

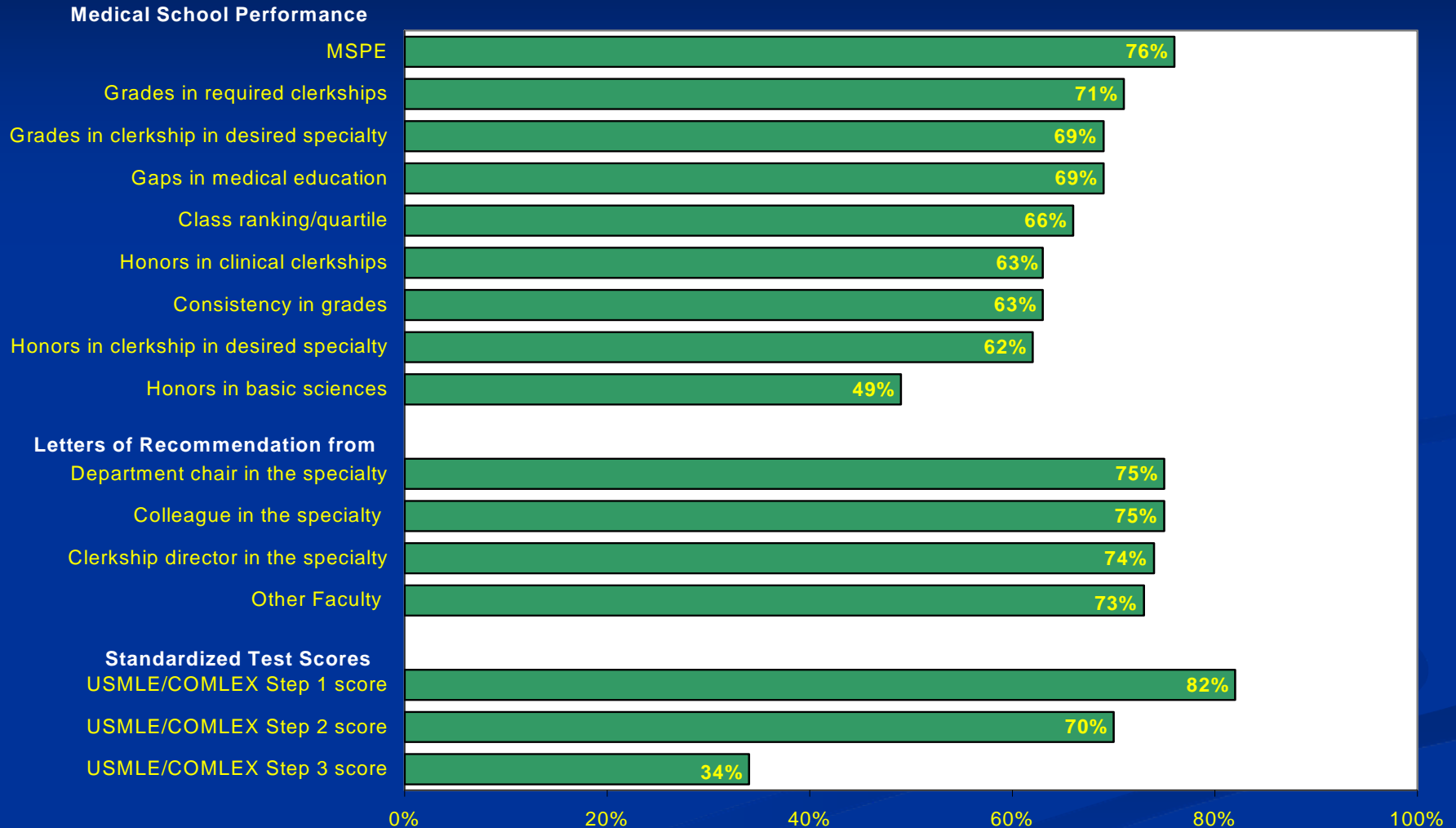
Results of the 2008 / NRMP Program Director Survey

- Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE)
- Letters of Recommendation (LoRs)
- Standardized Test Scores
- Personal Statement
- Commitment
- Research

NRMP Publication:

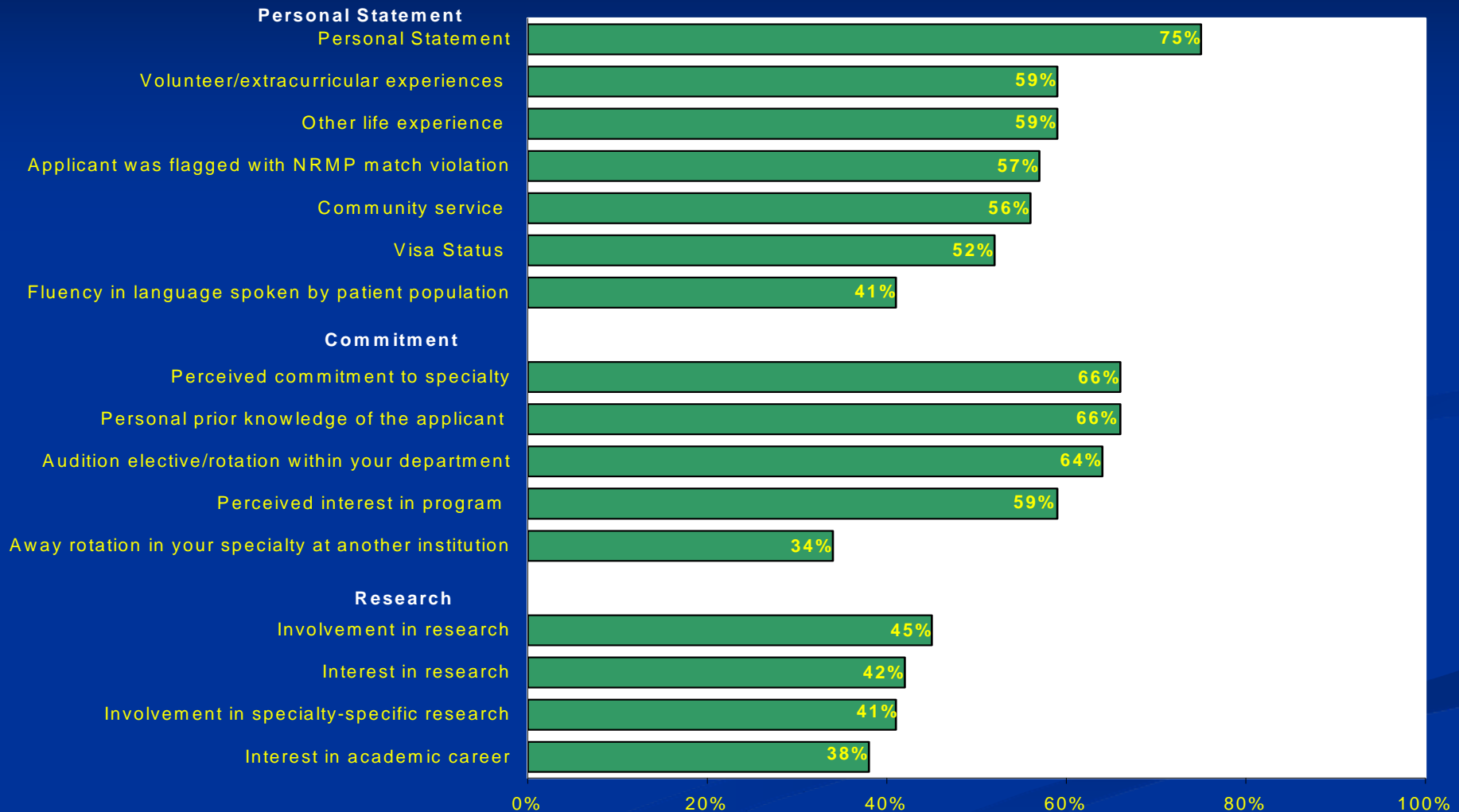
<http://www.nrmp.org/data/programresultsbyspecialty.pdf>

Percentage of Programs Citing Each Factor in Selecting Applicants to Interview (19 Largest Specialties Combined)



Source: National Resident Matching Program, Data Release and Research Committee: Results of the 2008 NRMP Program Director Survey. National Resident Matching Program, Washington, DC 2008

Percentage of Programs Citing Each Factor in Selecting Applicants to Interview (Continued) (19 Largest Specialties Combined)

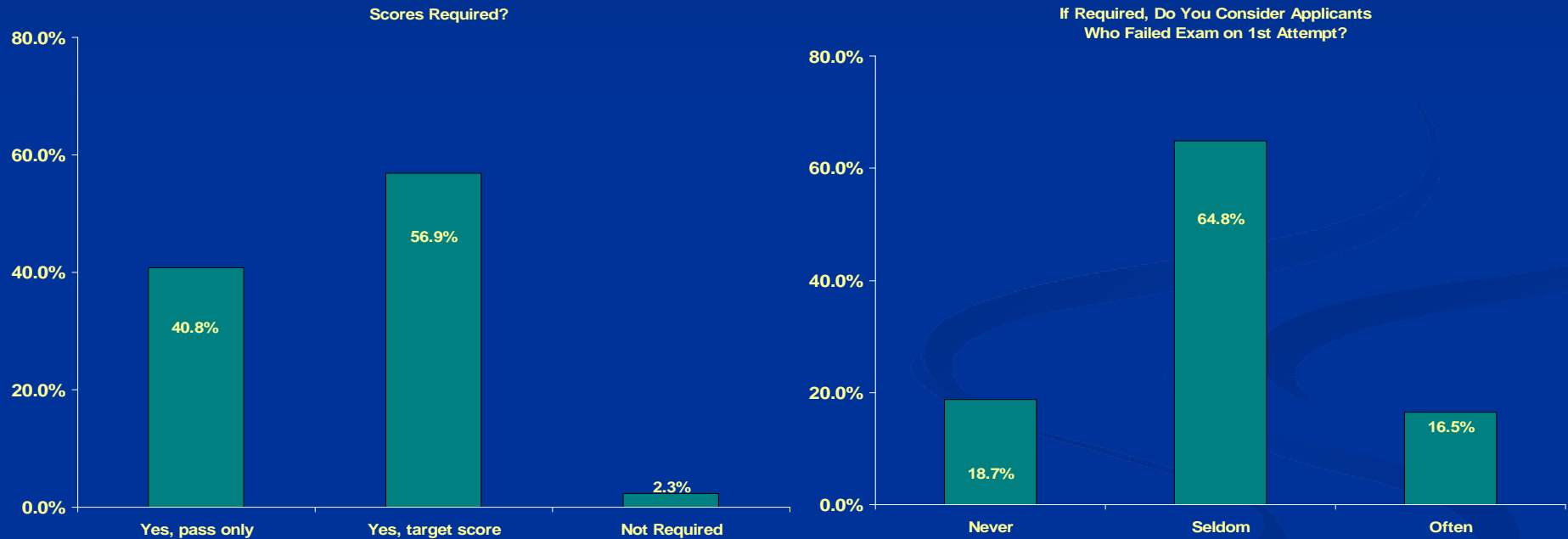


Source: National Resident Matching Program, Data Release and Research Committee: Results of the 2008 NRMP Program Director Survey. National Resident Matching Program, Washington, DC 2008

19 Largest Specialties

Percentage of Programs That Use USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 Scores When Considering Which Applicants to Interview

USMLE Step 1



19 Largest Specialties

Percentage of Programs That Use USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 Scores When Considering Which Applicants to Interview (Continued)

USMLE Step 2

Scores Required?

If Required, Do You Consider Applicants Who Failed Exam on 1st Attempt?

