

Questions to Ask Residency Programs

Meeting with representatives from residency programs at National Conference isn't a job interview, but it is an opportunity to get the information you need to make an informed decision about your family medicine future.

Here are some questions to help you get the conversation started in the Expo Hall.

Questions to ask Faculty:

- Where are most of your graduates located, and what type of practices are they going to from residency?
 - How does your program compare with other programs?
 - What kind of feedback are you hearing from your graduates?
 - Are some rotations done at other hospitals?
 - Are any other residency programs in-house?
 - How (and how often) is feedback provided to residents?
 - How would you describe the patient demographics?
 - What community service programs does your residency participate in?
- How do you deal with the stress of residency?
 - If there are other residency programs in-house, how do you view their presence?
 - What do you/other residents do outside the hospital for community service and for fun?
 - Where does most of your learning come from?
 - What are the program's areas of strength?
 - In what program areas could improvements be made?

“While it's a great idea to have a game plan on which programs you'd like to visit, be open to surprises. I found some of my favorite conversations and people were at booths I never expected to visit.”

“If it's your first time at National Conference, take a casual first loop around the Expo Hall to just take in the energy and excitement of family medicine.”

“Find a few programs you like on the first day or two, and be sure to go back and say hi again before the weekend is over. Programs will be much more likely to remember you, and if you go for an interview, you may just find you'll be treated like an old friend!”

“Overestimate how much time you'll spend at each booth. It might seem like you could easily visit 30 in three hours, but I spent way more time in each booth than I was expecting.”

Questions to ask Residents:

- What was the most important factor that made you decide to come to this program?
- What are your plans after graduation?
- What's a typical week, month, and year like for a first-, second-, and third-year resident?
- What is call like? What kind of backup is provided?
- When leave of absence becomes necessary, what happens?



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