



ERAS[®] 2001 Applicant Information Sheet
ERAS[®] —the Electronic Residency Application Service
from the Association of American Medical Colleges

What is ERAS?

The Association of American address Medical Colleges (AAMC) developed ERAS[®] —the Electronic Residency Application Service, to transmit residency applications, letters of recommendation, Dean's Letters, transcripts, and other supporting credentials from applicants and medical schools to residency program directors using the Internet.

How does ERAS work?

The ERAS solution is made up of three components: the web-based Applicant Webstation (AWS), the Dean's Office Workstation (DWS), and the Program Director's Workstation (PDWS). Using any web browser, applicants complete an application, select programs, and create and assign supporting documents using a secure site. Applicants submit these files to ERAS for processing. School staff uses the Dean's Office Workstation to scan and store the applicant's transcripts, Dean's Letter and letters of recommendation and to transmit these files to the ERAS PostOffice. Residency programs connect to the ERAS PostOffice and download applications using their Program Director's Workstation (PDWS). They can review, sort, and print applications using criteria established by the program.

When was ERAS first used?

ERAS[®] was introduced during the 1995-96 residency application process in Ob/Gyn. Over the past five years, more than 75,000 applicants have sent millions of documents to residency programs over the Internet.

Which programs will use ERAS in 2000-2001?

ERAS[®] 2001 will be used by most residency programs in anesthesiology, dermatology, diagnostic radiology, emergency medicine, family practice, general surgery, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, orthopaedic surgery, pathology, pediatrics, physical medicine and rehabilitation, psychiatry, transitional year programs, all Army and Navy GME-1 positions, and combined family practice-psychiatry, internal medicine-emergency medicine, internal medicine-family practice, internal medicine-pediatrics, internal medicine-psychiatry and internal medicine physical medicine and rehabilitation programs.

The list of ERAS participating programs will be available in the AWS software and on the WWW in late-June at www.aamc.org/eras. Applicants should contact programs directly for their application requirements.

How much does ERAS cost?

ERAS processing fees are based on the number of programs selected. ERAS[®] 2001 fees, per specialty, are: application fee (includes up to 10 programs) \$60; 11-20 programs \$6 each; 21-30 programs \$12 each; above 30 programs \$25 each.

Graduates of foreign medical schools pay an additional fee to the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), for services as their designated Dean's Office. Applicants who request USMLE transcripts via ERAS pay a \$45 fee to the NBME or ECFMG for

an unlimited number of electronic transcripts. Additional information is available in the Applicant Manual.

I am applying to an ERAS 2001 program. What do I have to do?

Contact your student affairs or other designated dean's office. They will provide you with manuals and instructions for accessing the Applicant Webstation.

When can I get started?

ERAS instructions and your token or key to the ERAS WWW will be distributed from your dean's office after June 30, 2000.

What will my school do?

Your school will establish processing procedures for ERAS, the schedule for distributing AWS information and processing application documents. Schools scan transcripts, attach documents, process letters of recommendation, send files to selected programs via the ERAS PostOffice, etc. Student affairs staff can also help you with career planning and targeting appropriate programs to apply to with ERAS.

What is the deadline?

Individual programs set deadlines. Contact the programs directly for more information about their requirements, facilities, and deadlines. Some programs send brochures and fact sheets to prospective applicants. Many can be found on the WWW. See the *AMA Green Book* or *AMA-FREIDA* www.ama-assn.org/freida for more information.

I don't know anything about computers. How can I apply?

ERAS is designed to be very user-friendly. It has been used by thousands of medical students, many of whom were unfamiliar with computers, Windows[®] or the World Wide Web. One student wrote, "I'm generally scared of computers. I like the old-fashioned typewriter, pen & paper format. But, if we must go computer, this format is pretty easy to use."

I don't have a computer at home. How can I apply?

You can use any computer with access to the World Wide Web. The computer will require Netscape or Internet Explorer version 4.0 or compatible (AOL version 4.0 and greater will work). That computer can be a friend's or it can be at a public library, in the media center, computer center, commercial copy center, or, at some schools, at the dean's office.

I have a Mac. Can I still use ERAS?

The ERAS[®] 2001 AWS is designed and programmed to run on any computer with access to the World Wide Web and the appropriate browser (Netscape 4.0 or higher, AOL 4.0, or compatible).

Do I need my own Internet (or ISP) account?

You can access ERAS from **ANY** computer with an Internet connection and a browser such as *Netscape, Internet Explorer, version 4.0 or higher* at the library or an Internet cafe. Your application, personal statement, and program selections are transmitted directly from the ERAS Applicant Webstation to the ERAS PostOffice. Your designated dean's office transmits your other application materials.

We strongly recommend that you obtain an e-mail address, so that program directors can communicate with you. If you don't have e-mail or an ISP, you can get Web-based e-mail from many web services.

How do I apply to programs not participating in ERAS?

Applicants applying to programs not participating in ERAS should follow the application procedures that are established by the programs. Contact the program office (information available in the *Green Book* and FREIDA) directly for their application requirements. You **CANNOT** use ERAS to apply to a program that is not available on the ERAS website.

Where can I get more information?

First, contact your Dean's office. The ERAS Applicant Manual and Web site contain a wealth of information about the ERAS process including FAQs (frequently asked questions). See www.aamc.org/eras.

SPECIAL CASES:

I have already graduated from a U.S. medical school and wish to apply to programs using ERAS 2001. How do I use ERAS?

You will apply through your medical school of graduation, since they will be sending transcripts and dean's letters to your chosen programs. You will need to instruct people writing your letters of recommendation (LORs) to send them to your Dean's office. Contact your school for further information.

I am an applicant to ARMY and/or NAVY residencies. How do I use ERAS?

Contact your military counselor for special instructions with regard to creating military rank lists, etc. Both Army and Navy Central

Command Offices will automatically receive a copy of your ERAS application materials.

I am a graduate of a foreign medical school interested in applying to programs using ERAS. How do I apply?

International medical graduates can contact the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) for their application materials and eligibility requirements. Application materials will be sent only to those candidates who meet ECFMG requirements. Please write to: ECFMG-ERAS Program, P.O. Box 13467, Philadelphia, PA 19104-3467, U.S.A., or point your Web browser to: www.ecfm.org to begin the process.

I am an osteopathic student. Can I use ERAS to apply to allopathic programs with ERAS?

Please contact your school for information about how ERAS will be processed at your institution.

I am a Canadian medical student interested in U.S. programs. Can I use ERAS?

Please contact the Canadian Resident Matching Service, 151 Slater St, Suite 802, Ottawa, Ontario K1P-5H3 Canada, or e-mail carmsmail@carms.ca for ERAS processing information.