# 2022 Georgia Medical School Graduate Survey Report



Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce

Summer 2022

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#### **Executive Summary**

The Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce (GBHCW) has conducted an annual survey of graduating medical students from each of Georgia's medical schools since 2008. The purpose of this survey is to inform policy makers, medical school administrators, graduate medical education administrators, and other government and non-government agencies about the medical school pipeline. Also, it serves to give insight on why medical students chose a specialty and residency site and how many intend to ultimately practice in Georgia when their training is complete. The data in this report are aggregated from responses collected from each of Georgia's five medical schools. The medical schools that contributed to this year's report are as follows:

Medical School	Total Graduates Entering GME	Survey Completions	Completion Rate
Emory University School of Medicine	149	116	77.9%
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University	221	117	52.9%
Mercer University School of Medicine	107	90	84.1%
Morehouse School of Medicine	84	53	63.1%
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia	121	124	100.0*
Total	682	500	73.3%

Table 1: Number of Responses by Medical School

This year's MSG survey had slightly fewer responses than in 2021. In 2021, the MSG survey had 503 completions, or 72.0% of medical school graduates.

\*Note: PCOM-Georgia had more survey completions than graduates, indicating that a few graduates may have submitted more than one response.

#### Methodology

Each year in April, the Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce (GBHCW) data team creates an electronic form of the Medical School Graduate survey and sends the link to four of the five medical schools' program directors via email. Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University collects and compiles their responses in their own manner. The GBHCW data team then sends periodic reminders and status update emails to each school until the completion deadline of May 31st. At this point, Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University sends their compiled dataset to GBHCW and the data team downloads the complete survey responses online. Analyses presented here were conducted using Microsoft Excel.

#### Key Findings from the 2022 Survey

Demographics

- Similar to last year, more people identifying as female than male completed the MSG survey; 51.3% of survey completers are female. The medical school with the highest percentage of female respondents is Emory (56.9%), while the school with the lowest percentage of female respondents is Mercer (47.8%).
- The average age of all respondents is 27.9 years old. The youngest respondent is 24 years old, while the oldest respondent is 43. Morehouse has the oldest average age of respondents at 28.8 years old, compared to MCG whose average age of respondents is 27.1 years old.
- A comparable percentage of respondents this year identified as native born or naturalized U.S. citizens (98.2% of respondents last year versus 98.4% this year). Six respondents identified as permanent residents and two have another citizenship status.
- In 2022, 54.5% of respondents identify as white. This is slightly lower than that percentage last year (57.4%). Overall, 45.5% of respondents identified as a non-white race/ethnicity (21.8% Black/African American; 21.8% Asian/Pacific Islander; 4.0% multi-race; and 4.4% "other"). Morehouse School of Medicine has the highest percentage of respondents identifying as non-white (88.7%) while the school with the lowest percentage of non-white respondents is Mercer University (24.4%).
- Overall, 10.8% of respondents identify as Hispanic. Mercer has the highest percentage of respondents (14.4%) who identify as Hispanic, while Morehouse has the lowest percentage of respondents (3.8%) who identify as Hispanic.

Intended Practice Location After Residency

- 56.9% of respondents (278) intend to locate their practice in an underserved area. The school with the highest rate of respondents planning to locate in an underserved area is Mercer (67.4%); the school with the lowest percentage is MCG (41.4%)
- Of those who plan to locate their practice in an underserved area, 61.5% (171) plan to practice in an inner-city community. The remaining 38.5% of respondents (107) plan to locate in a rural community.
- 44.6% of respondents (196) answered that Georgia is the likely state for their practice after residency. Of those, 41.8% (82) listed Atlanta as the likely city.
- Overall, 94 respondents (18.8%) plan to practice in a primary care core/specialty in an underserved location in Georgia.

Specialty

- 56.2% of respondents (260) intend to practice in a primary care/core specialty. Mercer University's respondents were most likely to say they would enter a primary care/core specialty for their PGY-1 year (76.7%), while Emory University respondents were least likely (60.3%).
- More than half of respondents (51.9%) made the decision about what specialty to pursue during their third year of medical school.

Choice of and Match to Georgia Residency Programs

- 51.7% of respondents listed a Georgia residency program among their top three choices during the Match. This is a comparable percentage to last year (51.8%).
- Respondents from Morehouse School of Medicine are those most likely to have a Georgia GME program among their top three choices during the Match (64.2%). Respondents from Emory are the least likely to have a Georgia GME program in their top three choices (37.4%).
- 53.2% of respondents who responded that they had a Georgia GME program among their top three choices in the Match listed two or three Georgia GME programs.
- The top four Georgia GME programs ranked by survey respondents are WellStar Kennestone (32 respondents); Emory University (26); Northeast Georgia Medical Center (19); and Medical College of Georgia (17).

Table 2: Gender Distribution by Medical School

Medical School	Ferr	nale	Ма	ale	Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Emory University School of Medicine	66	56.9%	50	43.1%	116	100.0%
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University	56	47.9%	61	52.1%	117	100.0%
Mercer University School of Medicine	43	47.8%	47	52.2%	90	100.0%
Morehouse School of Medicine	26	49.1%	27	50.9%	53	100.0%
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia	65	52.8%	58	47.2%	123	100.0%
Total	256	51.3%	243	48.7%	499	100.0%

Table 3: Average Age by Medical School

Medical School		Age Gr			
	24-29	30-34	35-39	≥ 40	Average Age*
Emory University School of Medicine	88	28	0	0	28.2
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University	99	10	3	0	27.1
Mercer University School of Medicine	78	9	1	1	27.4
Morehouse School of Medicine	39	7	0	4	28.8
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia	92	27	3	1	28.3
Total Respondents	396	81	7	6	27.9
Total (Percentage)	80.8%	16.5%	1.4%	1.2%	

Note: 10 respondents did not answer the age question.

\*Averages and total percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (490).

#### Figure 1: Aggregated Age Distribution



Table 4: Citizenship Status

Citizenship Status	Number	Percent
Citizen (Naturalized or Native-Born)	491	98.4%
Permanent Resident	6	1.2%
Other	2	0.4%
Total	499	100.0%

Note: 1 respondent did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (499).

Table 5: Race/Ethnicity by Medical School

Medical School	White		Asian		Black		Multi-Race		Other		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Emory University School of Medicine	75	64.7%	15	12.9%	13	11.2%	7	6.0%	6	5.2%	116	100.0%
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University	70	60.3%	29	25.0%	9	7.8%	5	4.3%	3	2.6%	116	100.0%
Mercer University School of Medicine	68	75.6%	10	11.1%	5	5.6%	4	4.4%	3	3.3%	90	100.0%
Morehouse School of Medicine	6	11.3%	6	11.3%	36	67.9%	1	1.9%	4	7.5%	53	100.0%
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia	53	42.7%	49	39.5%	13	10.5%	3	2.4%	6	4.8%	124	100.0%
Total	272	54.5%	109	21.8%	76	15.2%	20	4.0%	22	4.4%	499	100.0%

Note: 1 respondent did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (499).

Figure 2: Race/Ethnicity by Medical School



Table 6: Hispanic Ethnicity by Medical School

	Are you of Hispanic origin?								
Medical School	Ye	es	N	0	Total				
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent			
Emory University School of Medicine	11	9.6%	104	90.4%	115	100.0%			
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University	12	10.3%	104	89.7%	116	100.0%			
Mercer University School of Medicine	13	14.4%	77	85.6%	90	100.0%			
Morehouse School of Medicine	2	3.8%	51	96.2%	53	100.0%			
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia	16	12.9%	108	87.1%	124	100.0%			
Total	54	10.8%	444	89.2%	498	100.0%			

Note: 2 respondents did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (498).

Table 7: Specialty Matched to in Post Graduate Year 1

PGY-1 Specialty	Frequency	% of Total Respondents
Internal Medicine	122	25.3%
Pediatrics	52	10.8%
Family Medicine	43	8.9%
Psychiatry	35	7.2%
OB/GYN	31	6.4%
Emergency Medicine	30	6.2%
General Surgery	30	6.2%
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics	7	1.4%
Internal Medicine/Psychiatry	2	0.4%
PGY-1 Primary Care/Core Total	352	72.9%
Transitional/Intern/Preliminary Year	54	11.1%
Anesthesiology	9	1.9%
Neurology	9	1.9%
Orthopaedic Surgery	8	1.7%
Pathology	8	1.7%
Other Specialties	43	8.9%
Non-Primary Care/Core Total	131	27.1%

Note: 17 respondents did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (483). Table 8: Intended Career Specialty

Practice Specialty	Frequency	% of Total Respondents
Internal Medicine	54	11.7%
Family Medicine	39	8.4%
Pediatrics	39	8.4%
Psychiatry	36	7.8%
Emergency Medicine	30	6.5%
OB/GYN	30	6.5%
General Surgery	24	5.2%
Internal Medicine/Pediatrics	6	1.3%
Internal Medicine/Psychiatry	2	0.4%
Primary Care/Core Total	260	56.2%
Neurology	20	4.3%
Anesthesiology	17	3.7%
Orthopaedic Surgery	16	3.5%
Cardiology	14	27.6%
Ophthalmology	11	2.4%
Radiology	11	2.4%
Other Specialties	114	24.6%
Non-Primary Care/Core Total	203	43.8%

Note: 37 respondents expressed uncertainty about their intended specialty. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (463).

Figure 3: Year Specialty Decision Made



Note: 20 respondents did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (480).

Table 9: Factors Important in Determining Specialty

	Strength of Factor's Influence									
Factor	No Influence		Minor		Moderate		Strong		Total Responses	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Lifestyle	19	3.8%	91	18.2%	174	34.9%	215	43.1%	499	
Competitiveness of Specialty	148	29.7%	169	33.9%	153	30.7%	28	5.6%	498	
Mentor/Role Model Influence	67	13.4%	100	20.0%	152	30.5%	180	36.1%	499	
Options for Fellowship Training	86	17.2%	93	18.6%	156	31.3%	164	32.9%	499	
Future Earning Potential	88	17.6%	148	29.7%	191	38.3%	72	14.4%	499	
Length of Residency Training	109	21.8%	169	33.9%	170	34.1%	51	10.2%	499	
Family Expectations	270	54.3%	119	23.9%	72	14.5%	36	7.2%	497	
Medical Education Debt	236	47.3%	135	27.1%	89	17.8%	39	7.8%	499	

Note: Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (Total Responses column) for each factor.

Figure 4: Strength of Factors' Influence Upon Choice of Specialty



Other Factors Important in Determining Specialty

Seventy-two respondents answered the open-ended question citing other factors for choosing their specialty. Six factors emerged as important considerations when choosing their specialties and are described below.

- **Personal enjoyment and interest (33 respondents):** This is by far the most common theme. Respondents mentioned "passion," "interest," "enjoyment," and "fulfilment" when stating their interest and enjoyment in the content of their specialty. Respondents also mentioned interest in specific things about their specialty, like performing surgery.
- Colleagues, patients, and culture (12): Respondents mentioned enjoying the atmosphere or their specialty, team dynamics, and interest in the patient population.
- Other (10): These comments include other topics that influenced their specialty decision, such as the ability to Match in Georgia, the specialty fitting their personality, and what the day to day life would be like in the specialty.
- **Opportunities offered by the specialty (7):** These comments spoke to opportunities offered by the specialty, such as working in teaching, performing research, and medical innovation.
- **Prior Experiences (6):** These comments mentioned prior life experiences—such as interning, working in the military, and volunteering—that helped grow their interest in the specialty.
- Making a difference for patients (4): respondents mentioned practicing in low resource areas overseas, the need for mental health practitioners in Georgia, and serving underserved populations.

Table 10: Successfully Matched to GME Program

Medical School	Y	es	N	0	Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Emory University School of Medicine	113	97.4%	3	2.6%	116	100.0%
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University	113	97.4%	3	2.6%	116	100.0%
Mercer University School of Medicine	88	97.8%	2	2.2%	90	100.0%
Morehouse School of Medicine	51	96.2%	2	3.8%	53	100.0%
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia	118	95.2%	6	4.8%	124	100.0%
Total	483	96.8%	16	3.2%	499	100.0%

Note: 1 respondent did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses for each school.

Table 11: In-State (Georgia) or Out-of-State Match

	Lo	cation of Ma	Total			
Medical School	Geo	rgia	Out-of	-State	TOLAI	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Emory University School of Medicine	24	21.8%	86	78.2%	110	100.0%
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University	15	14.7%	87	85.3%	102	100.0%
Mercer University School of Medicine	28	35.4%	51	64.6%	79	100.0%
Morehouse School of Medicine	18	37.5%	30	62.5%	48	100.0%
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia	14	14.6%	82	85.4%	96	100.0%
Total	99	22.8%	336	77.2%	435	100.0%

Note: 65 respondents did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses for each school.

Figure 5: Percentage of Total In-State Matches by Medical School



Figure 6: Matched to GME Program & Match to First-Choice Program



Table 12: Any Georgia GME Programs in Top Three Choices

Medical School	N	0	Ye	es	Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Emory University School of Medicine	72	62.6%	43	37.4%	115	100.0%
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University	69	59.0%	48	41.0%	117	100.0%
Mercer University School of Medicine	37	41.1%	53	58.9%	90	100.0%
Morehouse School of Medicine	19	35.8%	34	64.2%	53	100.0%
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia	61	49.2%	63	50.8%	124	100.0%
Total	258	51.7%	241	48.3%	499	100.0%

Note: 1 respondent did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (499).

Table 13: Number of Georgia GME Programs in Top Three Choices by Medical School

	Number of Georgia GME Programs in Top Three Choices								
Medical School		One		Тwo		Three		Total	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Emory University School of Medicine	38	77.6%	8	16.3%	3	6.1%	49	100.0%	
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University	39	67.2%	10	17.2%	9	15.5%	58	100.0%	
Mercer University School of Medicine	30	38.0%	28	35.4%	21	26.6%	79	100.0%	
Morehouse School of Medicine	20	37.7%	12	22.6%	21	39.6%	53	100.0%	
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia	33	32.0%	22	21.4%	48	46.6%	103	100.0%	
Total	160	46.8%	80	23.4%	102	29.8%	342	100.0%	

Figure 7: Georgia GME Programs in Respondents' Top Three Choices in Match



Note: 7 respondents who answered they did have a Georgia GME program in their top three choices did not specify the number of programs.

Table 14: Georgia GME Programs in Top Three Choices

Georgia GME Program	Number of Respondents	Percentage of Total Survey Respondents (500) Having this Program in their Top Three Choices
WellStar Kennestone Regional Medical Center (Marietta)	32	6.4%
Emory University School of Medicine (Atlanta)	26	5.2%
Northeast Georgia Medical Center (Gainesville)	19	3.8%
Medical College of Georgia (Augusta)	17	3.4%
Morehouse School of Medicine (Atlanta)	12	2.4%
Northside Hospital Gwinnett (Lawrenceville)	11	2.2%
WellStar Atlanta Medical Center (Atlanta)	8	1.6%
Gateway Behavioral Health (Savannah)	2	0.4%
Piedmont Athens Regional Medical Center (Athens)	2	0.4%
Piedmont Columbus Regional Midtown (Columbus)	2	0.4%
Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital (Albany)	2	0.4%
Piedmont Macon Medical Center (Macon)	2	0.4%
Memorial Health University Medical Center (Savannah)	1	0.2%
AU/UGA Medical Partnership-St. Mary's Healthcare (Athens)	1	0.2%

Figure 7: Primary Reason for Leaving Georgia



Note: 12 respondents did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (488).

Other Factors Important to Leaving Georgia for Residency

Fifty-four respondents gave an open-ended answer on other factors that influenced their choice to leave Georgia for residency. Note: some responses to this question included indicators of multiple categories.

- Match (12 respondents): These comments indicated a practical concern related to the matching and interview process that prohibited respondents' ability to stay in Georgia for residency training. These include not being accepted into a Georgia program, not being offered an interview in Georgia, or not liking any of the programs in Georgia.
- Leave Georgia (12): Many of these comments indicated a desire to return to Georgia after training. Some of the respondents want to have new experiences outside of Georgia since they have lived in the state for their entire lives.
- Lifestyle (10): Respondents wrote factors relating to lifestyle that influenced their decision, such as desire to live near a beach, desire to live in a certain city, and traffic.
- **Program Factors (10):** These comments express positive aspects of an out of state program. Examples include having inhouse fellowships, a good balance of academic and community medicine culture, and feeling comfortable with the staff who interviewed them.
- **Political and identity issues (6):** These comments alluded to negative views of Georgia's political and social climate and laws influencing medical practice.
- Other (4): Four respondents wrote factors such as religious beliefs, proximity to family, and income tax.

Table 15: Overall Perception of Georgia's Residency Training Programs in Respondent's Specialty

Response	Number	Percent
Very Negative	5	1.0%
2	2	0.4%
3	10	2.0%
4	20	4.0%
5	45	9.1%
6	62	12.5%
7	121	24.4%
8	108	21.8%
9	53	10.7%
Very Positive	69	13.9%
Total	495	100.0%

Note: 5 respondents did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (495). 70.8% of respondents rated their overall perception of Georgia's residency training programs in their specialty as a 7 or above.

Figure 8: Overall Perception of Georgia's Residency Training Programs in Respondent's Specialty



Table 16: Perception of Quality of Georgia's Residency Training Programs in Respondent's Specialty

Responses	Number	Percent
Low Quality	1	0.2%
2	3	0.6%
3	5	1.0%
4	13	2.6%
5	49	9.9%
6	58	11.7%
7	115	23.2%
8	108	21.8%
9	66	13.3%
High Quality	78	15.7%
Total	496	100.0%

Note: 4 respondents did not answer this question. Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (496). 74.0% of respondents rated their perception of the quality of Georgia's residency training programs in their specialty as a 7 or above.

Figure 9: Perception of Quality of Georgia's Residency Training Programs in Respondent's Specialty



Table 17: Factors Important in Choosing Residency Program

	Strength of Factor's Influence								
Factor	No Influence		Minor		Moderate		Strong		Total Responses
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Family	86	17.3%	115	23.2%	126	25.4%	169	34.1%	496
Location	18	3.6%	42	8.5%	144	29.0%	292	58.9%	496
Reputation of Residency Program	31	6.2%	51	10.3%	188	37.8%	227	45.7%	497
Fellowship Opportunities	64	12.9%	83	16.8%	159	32.1%	189	38.2%	495
Availability of Residency Positions in Desired Specialty	92	18.7%	114	23.2%	151	30.7%	135	27.4%	492
Resident Salary	160	32.5%	191	38.7%	103	20.9%	39	7.9%	493

Note: Percentages are calculated from the total valid responses (Total Responses column) for each factor.

Figure 10: Strength of Factors' Influence Upon Choice of Residency Program



Table 18: Other Factors Cited as Important in Choosing a Georgia Residency Program

Respondents entered open-answered text to further explain the factors that contributed to their choice of a Georgia residency program. The responses are broken down into those offer positive and negative feedback about programs.

Positive Feedback	Negative Feedback
<ul> <li>Had good experiences in away rotations</li> <li>Desire to train and practice in Georgia</li> <li>Programs have a focus on resident education, good resources, high acuity patient population, many fellowships, and an academic focus</li> <li>Great program reputation</li> <li>Desire to be at an HBCU</li> <li>Love living in Atlanta and the culture</li> <li>Have a mission to practice in Georgia</li> <li>Desire to work at specific Georgia hospitals</li> <li>Desire to take care of low-income patients in Georgia</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Faculty and residents not diverse enough</li> <li>Georgia programs are not competitive with others in the South</li> <li>Lack of D.Ofriendly residencies in psychiatry</li> <li>Lack of medicine/pediatrics residencies</li> <li>Less preferable culture among residents and work/life balance</li> <li>Poor mentorship during rotations</li> <li>Programs are too new</li> <li>Lack of specific training opportunities (such as women's health and rural practice)</li> </ul>

Table 19: Intent to Practice in an Underserved Area and Type of Underserved Area by Medical School

		Intend to Practice in Underserved Area & Type of Underserved Area				
Medical School	Yes				Total	
	No	Inner City	Rural	Percent Intending Underserved Practice	Responses	
Emory University School of Medicine	57	49	7	49.6%	113	
Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University	65	32	14	41.4%	111	
Mercer University School of Medicine	29	21	39	67.4%	89	
Morehouse School of Medicine	3	39	9	60.0%	51	
Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia	55	30	38	54.8%	124	
Total	209	9 171 107 -		488		
Total (Percentage)	42.8%	35.0%	21.9%	57.0%	100.0%	

Figure 11: Plan to Practice in Underserved Area & Type of Underserved Area



Map: Other States Where Georgia Medical School Graduates Plan to Practice Following Residency



Note: percentages are calculated based on the total number of valid responses for this question (300).

#### Acknowledgements

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- Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University
- Mercer University School of Medicine
- Morehouse University School of Medicine
- Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine-Georgia

The 2022 Georgia Medical School Graduate Survey report can be viewed and downloaded on the internet at <u>healthcareworkforce.georgia.gov</u>. The Georgia Board of Health Care Workforce welcomes comments and suggestions for future editions of this report. Please send comments to leanna.greenwood@dch.ga.gov.