

Author, year	Relevant Themes	Methodology	Data Sources	Outcome Variable Studied	Key Findings	Comments
Arnold, 1997	Applicant Characteristics	Single institution observational study of 327 graduates of University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC) School of Medicine; 1983 to 1987	Graduate survey, UMKC's longitudinal database (graduate characteristics on admission & performance during school), NBME scores	Factors prior to matriculation and during medical school affecting specialty choice in primary care	No demographic variables predicted choosing primary care	Pre-clinical medical school performance, but not clinical performance, was lower among those who entered primary care
Ballejos, 2019	Pre-matriculation Program	Single institution observational study of participants in a combined BA/MD program and peers in MD program; 2009-2014	Specialty interest survey at orientation, family medicine residency match results (NRMP data), demographic data	Influence of pre- matriculation program on choosing family medicine as specialty choice	Combined BA/MD students matched into family medicine at twice the rate of traditional medical degree students	Studied 172 BA/MD students at University of New Mexico School of Medicine and compared with 172 non-BA/MD similarly matched peers
Basco, 1998	Targeted premedical recruitment	Multiple institution cross-sectional study of 120 medical schools; 1993-1994	AAMC survey of Generalist Physician Initiatives in 1993 or 1994; AAMC's MSQ in 1994	Medical school admissions practices and proportions of matriculants interested in primary care	1/3 of schools report recruiting future generalists. Recruiting for primary care and public ownership were the only associated variables.	No description of the premedical recruiting processes was available

Bowman, 1996	Applicant Characteristics	Multiple institution cross-sectional survey of 30,780 students graduating from US medical schools; 1991 and 1992	Medical student surveys including Premedical Questionnaire, MSQ, and Graduation Questionnaire, as well as information for residency directors about residents in the GME tracking census	Student characteristics associated with career choice in family medicine	Over 1/3 of medical students originally interested in family medicine entered family medicine residencies compared to less than 10% of those not originally interested	6.4% of matriculants not originally interested in family medicine entered a family medicine residency
Blumenthal, 1997	Applicant Characteristics	Single institution observational study of 261 students who graduated a new medical school between 1982 and 1989 whose mission was to graduate minority physicians for primary care careers in medically underserved communities	Survey to all first-year students regarding preferences on specialty and again at time of graduation (using AAMC Graduation Questionnaire)	Outcomes of a medical school program designed to produce physicians who practice primary care in underserved communities	57% of the first 261 medical students entering Morehouse School of Medicine between 1978 and 1985 went into primary care; 45% of these students expressed an interest in practicing in an underserved community	100% response rate due to dedicated time given to complete survey
Campos- Outcalt, 2004	Applicant Characteristics	Multiple institution cross-sectional study of 1,428 family medicine residency graduates	Survey sent to all physician graduates of 24 medical schools in 1997-1999 who entered family medicine residency and an equal number to non-family	Factors related to declining interest in family medicine	Schools with increases in graduates entering family medicine enrolled a higher proportion of students with a	The surveys sent to participants were sent up to 7 years after medical school

			medicine primary care specialists		stated interest in family medicine	
Ferrier, 1987	Applicant Characteristics	Single institution cross-sectional study of 408 McMaster University graduates compared with 1620 graduates of other Canadian schools	Canadian Medical Association's Physician Resource Data Bank (PRDB) sent to all physicians with a current Canadian medical license	Influence of admission selection policies on career choice	McMaster University graduates are no more likely to enter primary care but are more likely to be involved in academic pursuits	The authors propose that their students may have a higher interest in academic medicine; the students differ demographically from other Canadian medical schools
Hull, 1996	Applicant Characteristics	Single institution observational study of 465 medical school graduates from 1983-1985	AMCAS application for essay, survey of graduates in 1994 to determine specialty	Relationship between medical school applicants' essays and primary care career choice	Applicants' stated interest in basic science research or career interest in primary care is predictive of career choice	Study conducted by a subcommittee of the Medical School Admissions Committee at a research- oriented medical school
Kallail, 2010	Pre-matriculation Program	Single institution observational study of 104 students enrolled in a pre- matriculation program at University of Kansas	Scholars in Primary Care/Rural Health program data (demographics, performance in medical school, residency match results, and post- residency practice)	Pre-matriculation program outcome on primary care specialty choice	72% of the University of Kansas' Scholars in Rural Health program had entered primary care, 50% had entered family medicine	A 2-year premedical curriculum for Kansas students with a rural background
Keith, 1988	Applicant Characteristics	Multiple institution cross-sectional study evaluating	AAMC databases to obtain demographic information of 12,065	Specialty choices of Howard and Meharry graduates	Black graduates from the 1975 classes entered	The findings may be a type II error given the relatively low numbers of minority

		specialty choices of Black graduates from 2 schools which used affirmative action	physicians who graduated medical school in 1975 and the AMA Physician Masterfile to obtain specialty choice and location	were compared with graduates from other US medical schools	primary care at rates similar to Black students from other schools.	graduates (144) from these two schools in the timeframe studied
Kost, 2015	Applicant Characteristics	Single institution observational study of 2,047 graduates between 2000-2011	Career preference inventory administered to 1st year students, residency match lists (NRMP) indicating residency specialty of graduates	Sustained contact with family medicine and family physicians through extracurricular programs during medical school and career choice in family medicine	Older age, female gender, rural upbringing, high level of initial interest in family medicine, and participation in family medicine extracurricular programs were significantly associated with choosing family medicine	Study involved all University of Washington School of Medicine graduates from 2000-2011
Kost, 2018	Applicant Characteristics	Multiple institution observational study of 601 graduates of one school and 744 graduates in another allopathic medical school	Medical school survey (Biographical and Career Preferences Inventory) upon matriculation; 2015 AMA Masterfile to identify eventual practice specialty	Variables related to student characteristics that predict eventual practice in family medicine	Preferring family medicine as specialty choice at matriculation increased the likelihood of match to family medicine residency programs	This study validated a previous study at University of Washington School of Medicine's use of the Family Medicine Interest Survey (FMIS), which predicts eventual practice in family medicine
Lawson, 2004	Applicant Characteristics	Single institution observational study of 832 graduates from Virginia	Medical school database, AAMC GQ	Variables related to student characteristics and career choice	51% of respondents chose primary care residencies;	67% response rate (555)

		Commonwealth University School of Medicine; 1998- 2002			female gender was predictive of primary care residency choice	
Litzelman, 1996	Applicant Characteristics	Single institution observational study of 1,255 Indiana University graduates from 1991-1995	Match results from NRMP database and demographic information from school database	Student characteristics (sex/gender) affecting primary care specialty choice	The main driver of a trend towards matching into primary care was the percentage of male students matching into primary care	The rate of women matching into primary care increased in a nonstatistically significant way over the same time period
Lupton, 2012	Pre-matriculation Program	Single institutional observational study of 303 alumni from University of California Postbaccalaureate (UCPB) Program cohorts from 1986-1987 and 2001-2002 who matriculated into medical school compared with 586 randomly selected control physicians	2008 AMA Physician Masterfile for control group data and UCPB graduate specialty data; UCPB program files	Long-term career outcome (specialty choice) of underrepresented minority and disadvantaged students who completed a UCPB premedical postbaccalaureate program	Greater percentage of UCPB Program graduates entered primary care (53%) than control alumni from the same school during the same timeframe (40%)	UCPB graduates also had higher percentage of working in high-poverty communities (16% vs 8% in control group)
Martini, 1994	Applicant Characteristics	Multiple institution cross-sectional study of 121 four- year allopathic medical school and 15 osteopathic	Mailed survey to medical schools and graduates; AMA data, AOA data; AMA Annual Survey of Graduate Medical Education Programs	Medical school predictors that can be manipulated to affect the proportion of graduates entering primary care	"Personal social values" was the characteristic that most strongly influenced primary care career choice	Criteria used for admitting students (i.e., preferencing applicants with interest in primary care) influences primary care choice

Metz, 2017	Pre-matriculation	medical schools from 1992-1993 Single institution	Pre-matriculation	Effect on	During the first 15	The University of Southern
Metz, 2017	Program	observational Study of 525 socioeconomically disadvantaged students who entered a 2 year pre-matriculation program between 1995 and 2009 (approximately 30-35 per year)	pre-matriculation program records (included medical school entry and completion, residency specialty choice and location, and post- residency specialty and location), medical school databases, internet searches, and personal communications with program graduates	increasing US physician diversity and primary care specialty choice in the setting of a 2 year pre- matriculation program for disadvantaged students	years of MEDPREP, 53% of students who completed the program entered primary care, compared to 34% of students nationally during that timeframe	Illinois School of Medicine hosts MEDPREP, a 2-year post-baccalaureate program designed to prepare socioeconomically disadvantaged students for medical school
Mitra, 2018	Applicant Characteristics	Multiple institution prospective cohort of 1,542 first-year Canadian medical students in 15 classes between 2002 and 2004	Student surveys distributed in the first 2 weeks of classes, Scott's Medical Database (information on Canadian physicians' area of practice and demographic distribution)	Attributes of medical students at matriculation who later practice rural family medicine	Interest in rural family medicine and older age at matriculation were associated with eventual rural family medicine practice	Students at 8 Canadian medical schools were included (n = 1542)

Nayyar, 2018	Applicant Characteristics	Single institution prospective cohort of 208 preclinical students from one osteopathic medical school	39-question survey tool (Five Facet Mindfulness Questionnaire) and a demographic question	The association of mindfulness during preclinical years in medical school and preference for primary care residency	Being female and beginning medical school immediately after undergraduate education were both associated with preference for primary care residency	A mindfulness score is not a predictor of interest in primary care
Owen, 2002	Admission subcommittee, Applicant Characteristics	Single instruction cross-sectional study of 509 graduates from University of Virginia School of Medicine from 1990-1993	Medical school applications, AMCAS data (MCAT scores, demographic data), graduate survey, AAMC's MSQ (for stated career preference)	Ability of admission committee members to accurately predict medical student applicants' specialty choice	Admissions committee members inaccurately predicted medical student generalist career choice	Study looked at 13 characteristics from University of Virginia School of Medicine applicants from 1990-1993
Pearson, 2002	Admissions Process	Multiple institution observational study of all 3747 graduates from 2 Australian medical schools between 1983 and 1998	Mailed survey to graduates of Newcastle and Sydney University medical schools	Practice outcomes of physicians graduating from University of Newcastle and Sydney University medical schools	More graduates from the University of Newcastle practice family medicine or psychiatry than graduates from the University of Sydney (58.2% versus 43.5%)	2469 (66%) respondents; the authors conclude admission criteria may account for the differences without specifying the admission criteria for each school
Penn, 1986	Admission subcommittee	Single institution observational study of graduates from program between 1973 and 1981	Mailed survey of 113 graduates of the University of California, San Diego admitted through the	Specialty choice and location of graduates	Graduates admitted through the SAS were more likely to be practicing primary	The SAS was specifically charged with admitting 30 percent of entering classes consisting of socioeconomically disadvantaged applicants

			Special Admissions Subcommittee (SAS)		care (81% versus 64%)	
Roman, 1994	Applicant Characteristics	Single institution observational Study of 1,402 students from Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education (SDSBE) from 1973 through 1988	Medical school records, AMA Masterfile	Effectiveness of increasing medical careers and primary care specialty choices for inner-city youth	SDSBE had an explicit mission to encourage graduates to enter primary care	SDSBE graduates who were women or under-represented minorities were more likely to enter primary care
Rosner, 1983	Applicant Characteristics	Single institution observational study of 258 American graduates of primarily Mexican medical schools who participated in a 10-month fifth pathway program prior to residency	Graduate survey, Medical school databases, NRMP databases	Specialty choice of graduates from primarily Mexican medical schools who participate in a 10-month fifth pathway program	54% of "Fifth Pathway" graduates from the State University of New York School of Medicine entered primary care	The "Fifth Pathway" allows supervised clinical clerkship training for students who were educated outside the US
Schieberl, 1996	Applicant Characteristics	Single institution observational study of 474 University of California, San Diego (UCSD) School of Medicine alumni from the classes of 1974, 1978, 1982, 1986, and 1990	Survey of school alumni on demographics, school and personal factors, and specialty choice	Characteristics of medical school applicants more likely to enter primary care	Rural background, older age, and being part of an under-represented minority group, and personal social values were all associated with choosing primary care	351 graduates of the UCSD responded (74%)

Senf, 1997	Applicant Characteristics	Multiple institution cross-sectional study of 121 US medical schools to estimate percentages of 1994 graduates in primary care practice	Survey, AAMC databases, NIH databases, AAFP databases, AMA Masterfile, and a questionnaire mailed to each medical school	Medical school characteristics that influence graduates' choice of primary care specialties	The best predictor of eventual practice of family medicine was interest in the specialty at matriculation; rural background, female sex, and attending a public medical school were all associated with entering primary care	The authors conclude that selecting applicants interested in family medicine is the most effective way to increase primary care physicians
Senf, 2005	Applicant Characteristics	Multiple institution cross-sectional study of each allopathic medical school graduating class entering family medicine residency in 1997, 1998, & 1999 (118 schools)	AAFP databases (to determine proportion of class entering FM residency), survey of family medicine department heads, survey of faculty, and survey of a sample of graduates, AAMC data (MSQ and GQ)	Relationship between interest in research and interest in family medicine by US medical school graduates	Family medicine graduates were more likely to have an elective serving the underserved, nursing home experience, teaching experience, or community health experience	The authors found a negative relationship between medical students' interest in research and interest in family medicine
Talamantes, 2017	Applicant Characteristics	Multiple institution cross-sectional study of 19,517 allopathic medical school matriculants in 2012	AAMC's MSQ in 2012	Association between community college participation and initial specialty interest among US allopathic medical students	Medical students who attended a community college were more likely to report intentions to specialize in family medicine	9,885 students responded to the 2012 AAMC MSQ

Ward, 2004	Applicant Characteristics	Single institution longitudinal cohort of 229 first year students between 1984 and 1989	Surveys and personality questionnaire during first year of medical school and interview four years after graduation	Factors that best predict medical career choice	Students who chose primary care were more likely to be female, while students who were more "creative and abstract in their thinking" or "conscientious and rule-bound" were less likely to choose primary care	Study in Western Australia
Wimsatt, 2016	Targeted premedical recruitment	Multiple institution cross-sectional study of 123 departments of family medicine and family medicine match rates in 2011 and 2012	Surveys of departments of family medicine, AAFP databases for family medicine match rates	Factors associated with family medicine match rates and how they differ at various medical schools	8% of private US medical schools and 32% of public medical schools indicated that their admissions practices explicitly favored students with an interest in primary care (p = 0.03); this was not predictive of matching in family medicine	No details of admissions processes were described
Xu, 1996	Applicant Characteristics	Multiple institution observational study of 2,955 primary care physician graduates from 1983 and 1984 of 126 US allopathic	AMA and AOA Physician Masterfile (for demographic and practice location), survey to graduates sent in 1993	Relationship between race or ethnicity of primary care physicians and career choice	Students from under-represented minority groups were more likely than white students to report personal social	2,199 respondents (75%) of a nationally representative sample

		and 14 osteopathic medical schools			values and financial factors (among others) influenced their choice of specialty	
Xu, 1997-1	Applicant Characteristics	Multiple institution observational study of 2,600 primary care physicians who graduated from US allopathic schools in 1983 and 1984	Survey sent to primary care physicians in 1993, AMA Masterfile (for specialty information)	Age as a factor influencing decision to enter primary care	Older students (30+) were more likely to have decided to enter primary care before entering medical school	1596 respondents of a nationally representative sample
Xu, 1997-2	Applicant Characteristics	Multiple institution observational study of 1,831 allopathic and osteopathic primary care physicians	Survey sent to primary care allopathic and osteopathic physicians in 1993	Timing of specialty choice (before medical school, during the basic science years, or after clerkship years)	41% of primary care providers reported having made their specialty choice before entering medical school	Nationally representative sample
Yutrzenka, 2004	Pre-matriculation Program	Single institution observational study of 28 Alumni Student Scholars Program (ASSP) graduates	Medical school databases	Pre-matriculation program outcome of primary care specialty choice	25 of 28 alumni entered USDSM. Five of 11 (45%) ASSP alumni who had completed medical school entered family medicine residencies	University of South Dakota School of Medicine (USDSM) hosts a pipeline project called the Alumni Student Scholars Program (ASSP) that identifies high quality high school graduates interested in medical careers, especially family medicine

Appendix 1.

Abbreviations:

AAFP: American Academy of Family Physicians AAMC: American Association of Medical Colleges

MCAT: Medical College Admissions Test MSQ: Matriculating Student Questionnaire AMA: American Medical Association

AMCAS: American Medical College Application Service

AOA: American Osteopathic Association

GQ: Graduate Questionnaire

NBME: National Board of Medical Examiners

NIH: National Institute of Health

NRMP: National Resident Matching Program