

# Perspectives and Attitudes of Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Sub-Internship Rotation Participants at a Single Academic Site: A Survey Study

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**Introduction.** Since COVID-19, limited research has examined the residency application and sub-internship process from the perspective of medical students. Understanding these perspectives may benefit both residency programs and applicants. This study aimed to assess attitudes and perceptions related to clinical sub-internship experiences in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

**Methods.** This cross-sectional, web-based survey was administered to fourth-year medical students completing an Obstetrics and Gynecology sub-internship at a single teaching institution during one academic year. Survey themes included demographics, career goals, perspectives on sub-internships, and views on the residency application process.

**Results.** We received 11 completed surveys (64.7% response rate). All participants were 25-30 years old. Most participants were female (81.8%, n = 9), White (81.8%, n = 9), and allopathic applicants (72.7%, n = 8). The most commonly identified priority in selecting a residency program was program culture (45.5%, n = 5). Respondents reported that the most important goals of a sub-internship were exposure to residency culture to assess fit (36.4%, n = 4) and functioning as an acting intern for audition purposes (36.4%, n = 4). Situational awareness (90.9%, n = 10) and integrating well with residents and hospital staff (90.9%, n = 10) were considered the most important traits of a successful sub-intern. Participants identified the personal statement as the most important element of their residency application (72.7%, n = 8). Many also expressed a preference for in-person interview activities (54.5%, n = 6).

**Conclusions.** Medical student sub-interns highly valued program culture and used sub-internships to assess program fit. This study is limited by its small sample size.