



A Letter to Potential Applicants

Future Residents,

First, thank you for your interest in our program and in family medicine as a specialty. We are working to build the physician workforce that the Mississippi Delta needs while at the same time providing excellent care to the patients in our service area.

Second, I know there is a lot of information out there for what applicants should or shouldn't do when applying to programs to "catch their attention." I thought it would be helpful to give some insight into what our program finds important as we look at applicants.

Do:

- Make it clear in your application, interview, and any observerships that you are passionate about family medicine, especially rural and underserved areas
- Be humble and open to feedback as part of a desire to continuously improve.
- Try to visit the area, if possible, and see if it fits your needs as a place to live, work, and raise a family for 3 years.

Don't:

- Send letters of interest. Our program does not weigh them as part of an applicant's consideration for interviews or ranking.
- Send "intent to rank" letters. Our program does not consider them as part of the ranking process.
- Worry about "Program Signaling." We find that the current structure for program signaling is not very meaningful for family medicine residency programs, especially as it occurs before you get to interview and see what our program offers. We appreciate the interest, but it does not factor into consideration for interviews or ranking.

Lastly, I want to make clear our priorities as a program for our residents and for our program itself. We want our residents to be excellent physicians, great family doctors, and invested members of our program. Our goal is to train residents that take great care of the members of our community, have the training needed to practice anywhere, and understand that community engagement is an important part of a physician's life.

Thank you and good luck in this year's interview season.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Smith", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

P. Brent Smith, MD, MSc, MLS, FAAFP
Program Director/DIO