

Based partially on data from the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP)

(Compiled and edited by HNM 3/14/2026 with the aid of ChatGPT)

What a successful applicant's research profile looks like:

- 0-2 peer-reviewed papers
- 1-3 abstracts or posters
- Possibly one case report

This is usually enough for primary care and many internal medicine programs.

What counts as “research output”

The NRMP may group several things together when it reports research productivity

- Peer-reviewed publications
- Abstracts
- Posters or conference presentations
- Book chapters.

The number of publications below does not necessarily mean just peer-reviewed papers

Approximate averages by specialty

Lower research emphasis

- Internal medicine
- Family medicine
- Pediatrics

Typical profile

- 0-3 publications
- Several presentations

Moderate research emphasis

- Emergency medicine
- Neurology
- Anesthesiology
- General surgery

Typical profile

- 2-5 publications

Very research-intensive specialties

- Dermatology
- Plastic surgery
- Orthopedic surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Radiation oncology

Typical profile

- 8-20 publication