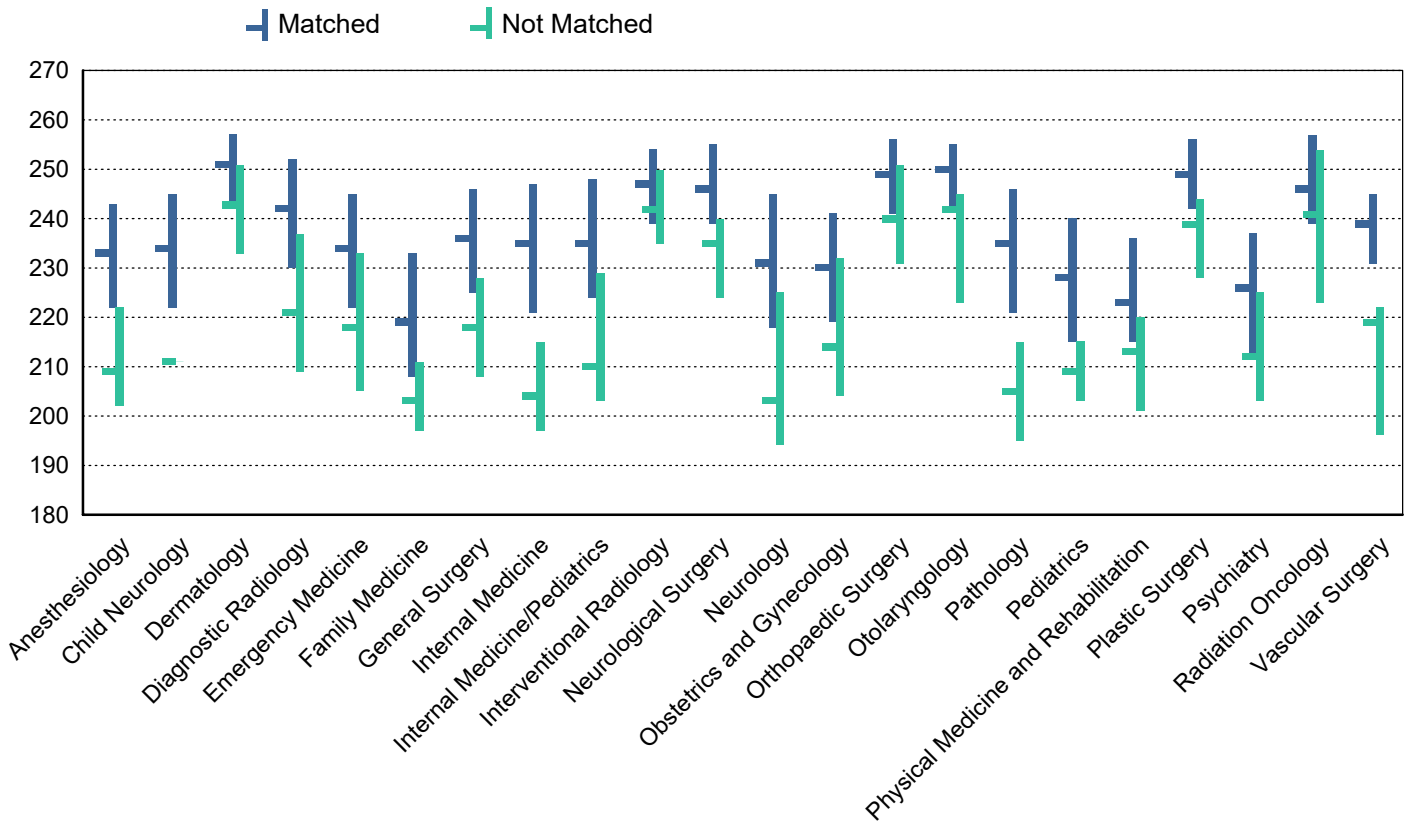


**Chart
6**

**USMLE Step 1 Scores of U.S. Allopathic Seniors
by Preferred Specialty and Match Status**



Source: NRMP Data Warehouse

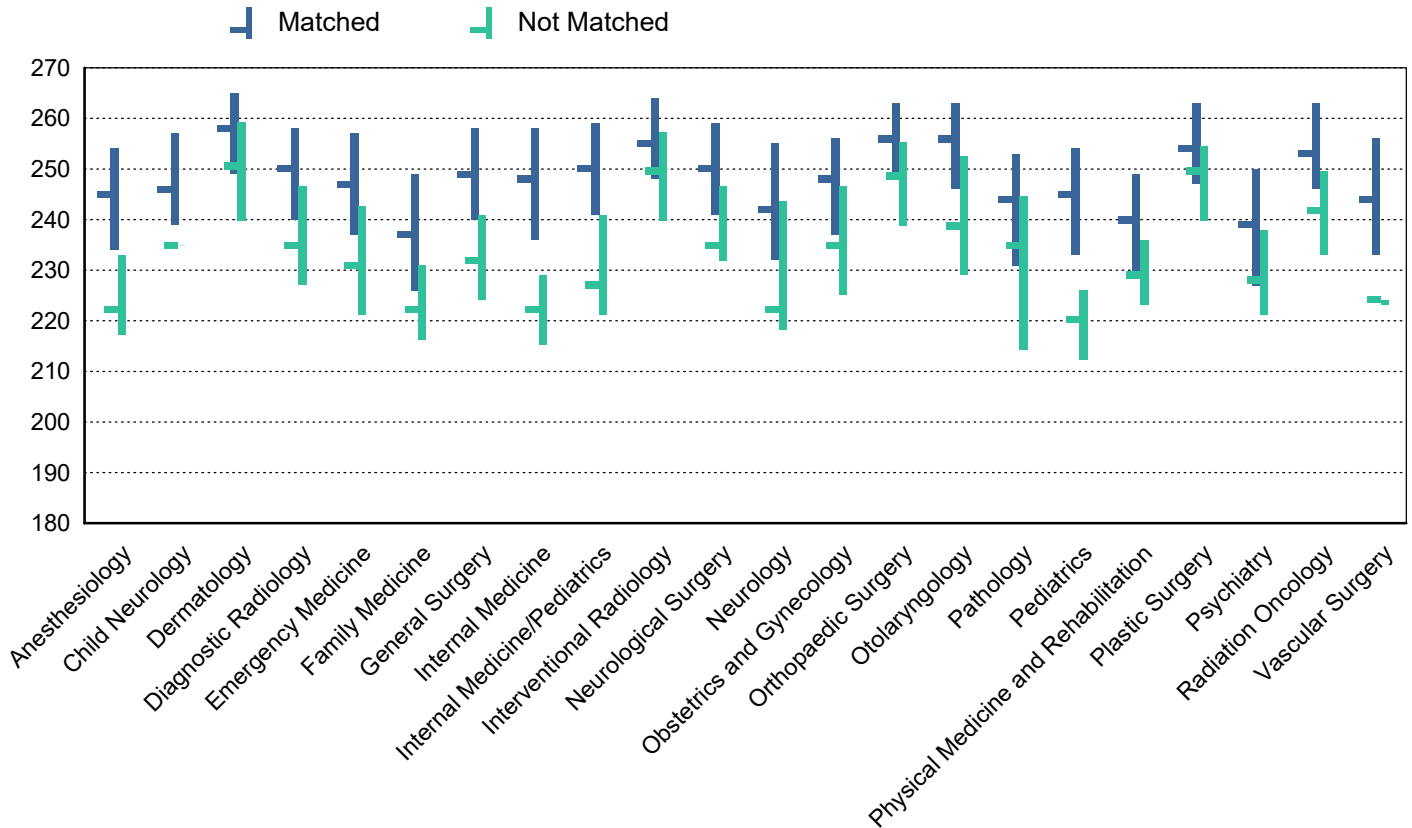
USMLE Step 1 scores are a measure of a student’s understanding of important basic science concepts and the ability to apply that knowledge to the practice of medicine. Although such knowledge is only one facet of applicant qualifications considered by program directors in their selection process, a Step 1 score is the only qualification that is universally available for all applicants during the interview season and prior to the NRMP’s ranking deadline. Overall, U.S. allopathic seniors who matched to their preferred specialty have *mean* USMLE Step 1 scores of 232.8 (s.d. = 17.5) well above the 2018 minimum passing score of 194. Step 1 scores were available for 99 percent of U.S. seniors who gave consent to research.

Chart 6 displays the Step 1 scores for U.S. allopathic seniors by specialty and match status. The horizontal bars are the *median* values for successful applicants and the vertical lines show the interquartile ranges (IQR, the range of scores for applicants excluding the top and bottom quarters of the distribution). Scores generally are higher for the more competitive specialties, but there is substantial overlap when specialties are compared.

Across all specialties, the IQR of U.S. seniors who matched to their preferred specialties was higher than those who did not match.

**Chart
7**

**USMLE Step 2 CK Scores of U.S. Allopathic Seniors
by Preferred Specialty and Match Status**



Source: NRMP Data Warehouse

USMLE Step 2 CK scores are a measure of an applicant's ability to apply the medical knowledge, skills, and understanding of clinical science essential for providing patient care. Overall, U.S. allopathic seniors who matched to their preferred specialty had *mean* USMLE Step 2 CK scores of 245.6 (s.d. = 15.0) well above the 2018 minimum passing score of 209. Step 2 CK scores were available for 97 percent of U.S. seniors who gave consent to research.

Chart 7 shows the Step 2 CK scores for U.S. seniors by preferred specialty and match status. The horizontal bars are the *median* values for successful applicants and the vertical lines show the interquartile ranges. As was the case for the Step 1 scores, the more competitive specialties have higher average Step 2 CK scores, but the overall variation is smaller.

Across all specialties, the IQR of U.S. seniors who matched to their preferred specialties was higher than those who did not match.