Is There a Relationship Between Having Residency Application Personal Statements Reviewed by the Library's Editing Service and Medical Students' MATCH into Their Preferred Residency Specialty?

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Is There a Relationship Between Having Residency Application Personal Statements Reviewed by the Library’s Editing Service and Medical Students’ MATCH into Their Preferred Residency Specialty?

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Objective:
- Investigates whether Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine’s fourth-year students’ acceptance into their preferred residency specialty correlates with choosing to use Library’s editing service to review/edit the Personal Statement portion of the application
- We hope results will aid other institutions considering whether to provide a similar service

Methods:
- Reviewed Match data for graduation years 2018 and 2019
- Comparison made between used service vs did not use
- 98 of 298 students chose to use
- Anonymized data analysis
  - Pearson correlation analysis
  - logit model: preferred specialty, graduation year, a binary variable indicating service used/not used, dependent variable representing whether matched into preferred specialty
  - Although not of statistical significance, interesting to note that 86 of the 98 (87.8%) who used the service matched into preferred specialty

Conclusions:
- Little apparent direct correlation between use of editing service and match into preferred specialty.
- Numerous confounding factors, such as
  - Possible editing assistance from alternate or additional sources
  - Prerogative to reject editorial suggestions
  - Preference changes after recording in MSPE
  - Statements bear different weight between specialties and even among a specialty’s programs
- Represents only one part of a complex process
- 2018 NRMP Program Director Survey
  - 78% include Personal Statement among top five considerations for interview decisions
  - Rarely used in final ranking
- Positive effects of editing service (e.g., likelihood of interview) might be mitigated by other factors in final Match results

References:
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Cardello, Lisa. “RE: please define term.” Received by Lisa M. Price. 9 July 2020.