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**WHAT IS GOOD?**

**Sample email** concerning MSPE summary word, “good”.

Dear Student,

I am writing to you to give you some advance information about your MSPE summary word which is “**good.**”

**Tell me more about “the word?”**

* 15% of the class completing their third year clerkships in 2016-17 is designated to receive the word “good” on his/her MSPE, based on the grades they received. Other possible summary words are “outstanding,” “excellent,” and “very good.”
* Residency programs in general care **MORE** about your third year required clerkship grades and comments, and Step 1 scores, than they do about your word; however, if you are trying to match into a highly competitive specialty or have a specific geographic location in mind we want to give you the opportunity to consider your strategy for the match carefully.

**I'm surprised I received the word "Good" as I got Honors in a clerkship! How can that be?**

* **The word is assigned based on the competitiveness of each of your clerkships. Some clerkships gave a majority of students "Honors" in this past academic year, and when that occurs, the "Honors" grade does not carry the same weight as an "Honors" grade in a clerkship in which a smaller percentage of students receive this grade of distinction. Basically, due to changes in grading rubrics in some clerkships there was an unintended consequence of "grade inflation" in some clerkships this past academic year.**

**Who are you telling and why?**

* We are letting you, and your college mentor, know about your word designation, along with our career advisor, Felicia Tripp, so we can all help you plan how to approach the residency application in your program of choice. You may already have a well thought-out match strategy, but we want to make sure everyone is well-informed.
* Students designated with the word “good” may need to apply more broadly geographically to residency programs, or apply to more community-based programs, or may need to consider additional options.
* We have every confidence that with the right preparation you will match to a residency program that fits with your skills, abilities, and interests. Please recognize that UWSOM students match to very excellent residency programs, regardless of the word designation, because this is an outstanding medical school, and you have received great training.
* Our recommendation is that you review your application strategy with Felicia Tripp, and/or the appropriate departmental career advisor, and your mentor. I am also available to help you strategize if needed, so feel free to send me an email. We are here to support you – let us know how we can help!