

Dear Applicants,

We thank you for your application to the University Of Connecticut School Of Medicine Surgery Residency. We would like to notify you that we are participating in a pilot project run by Altus Assessments that is aimed at improving GME selection and improving our ability to learn about our applicants. The CASPER suite consists of three separate assessments that are described below. We are **NOT** requiring these assessments and will **NOT** be using them to select applicants for interviews or to determine our rank list. This is a pilot project and we will use the data retrospectively to see its use would change our selection process. Below you will find information on the pilot project and details on how to complete all three assessments. There are **no costs** to complete the Casper Suite for GME assessments.

### The Goal

The goal of this pilot project is to improve the selection process for applicants and residency programs by collecting critical stakeholder feedback this cycle. The intention of this work is to allow GME applicants to highlight their personal and professional attributes to residency training programs this admissions cycle, while at the same time provide to programs more objective information for use in decision making. Programs who have chosen to use the Casper Suite for GME will gain more information on applicants, especially on their personal and professional qualities, to ensure a more holistic representation of the individual applicant. In order to understand the incremental value of each tool to the admission process, it is critical that all applicants to participating programs complete the 3 assessments that make up the Casper Suite for GME. Altus will obtain IRB approval for quality assurance research that will be conducted alongside participating programs.

Visit [takecasper.com/casper-suite-for-gme](http://takecasper.com/casper-suite-for-gme) for everything you need to know, including details on how to prepare and complete the Casper Suite, and to watch a recorded information session for applicants.

### Key Dates

Complete the **Casper Test** on:

- October 25 at 1:00 PM EST or 4:00 PM EST
- October 29 at 8:00 PM EST

Complete **Snapshot** by November 1 at 11:59 PM EST

Complete **Duet** by November 1 at 11:59 PM EST

### What is Casper Suite for GME: Three Components

<b>Casper Test</b> - situational judgment test (SJT) aimed at assessing personal and professional characteristics	<b>Snapshot</b> - a one-way video response tool made up of three independent questions scored by programs to assess communication skills.	<b>Duet</b> - comparing program characteristics to determine the alignment between the ranking of priorities and values of applicants and those of the institution(s) they are applying to.
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~80 minutes to complete	10-15 minutes to complete	15-20 minutes to complete
Completed on a set time and date in late October	To be completed by November 1, 2020	To be completed by November 1, 2020

## How to prepare

### Casper Test:

- Complete the system requirements check available in your account
- Use the 12-section practice test to familiarize yourself with the format of the test and to practice typing out responses
- Ensure your computer system is ready on the day of the test by following our tech tips

### Snapshot:

- Use the 2 practice questions to not only test your system but to also practice recording yourself and to get comfortable responding in front of your webcam
- Consider dressing as if you would to an informal interview and avoid wearing bright colors or patterns, as they can be distracting for those reviewing your video responses
- Try to pick a neutral backdrop for your Snapshot setting, if possible

### Duet:

- There is no prior preparation needed for Duet
- Ensure you take your time on the reflection pages to fully read through and understand all 10 of the characteristics, and their definitions, listed out in each category
- **Use your gut or intuition** when choosing between characteristics, you are not meant to spend long considering each pairing

Remember to be yourself for all three components! We want to get to know you for who you are.

You can direct all questions about the components of the Suite to [support@takecasper.com](mailto:support@takecasper.com), where you will also receive technical support. If there are any additional questions please contact our office at [surgeryresidency@uchc.edu](mailto:surgeryresidency@uchc.edu).

Thank you for participating in this pilot project. We hope that these type of assessments will improve our selection process and allow us to take a look at the overall person applying to our program. We look forward to reviewing your application.

Brian Shames, MD, FACS  
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 Chief, Division of General Surgery  
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