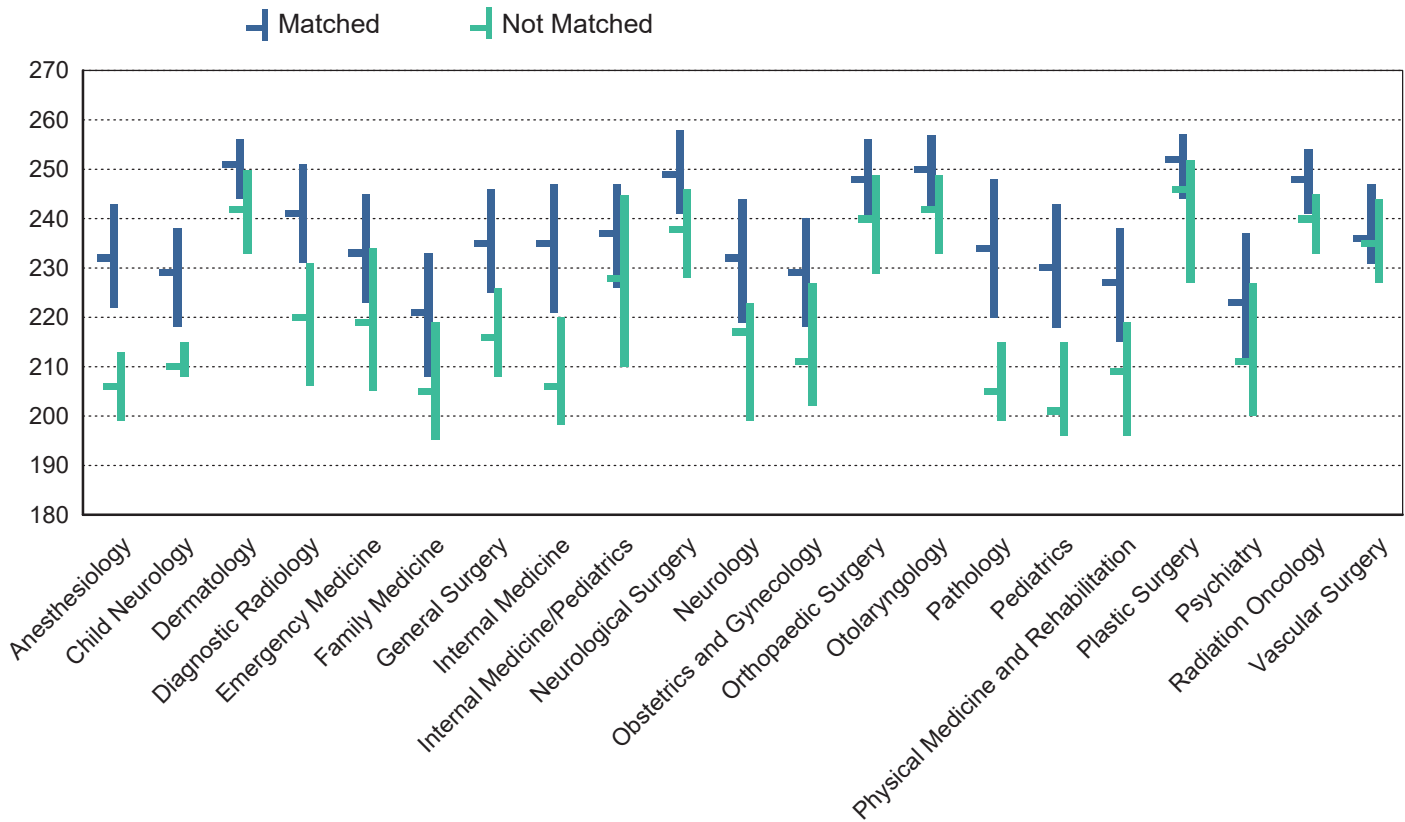


**Chart  
6**

**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 233.2 (s.d. = 17.4), well above the 2016 minimum passing score of 192. Step 1 scores were available for 98 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.