

SOAP Highlights for Applicants

SOAP Principles

- SOAP-eligible applicants **MUST** submit applications only through ERAS and **MUST** accept unfilled positions only through SOAP until SOAP concludes at 11:00 a.m. ET on Thursday of Match Week.
 - Applicants **CANNOT** use any means other than ERAS to apply to and contact programs. Applicants may apply **ONLY** to Match-participating programs participating in SOAP.

Note: Applicants and individuals/entities acting on behalf of applicants CANNOT contact programs until the program initiates contact. Such conduct is a Match violation and will be investigated.
- SOAP-ineligible applicants **CANNOT** apply to **ANY** Match-participating programs, even those not participating in SOAP, until after SOAP concludes at 11:00 a.m. ET on Thursday of Match Week.
- At the conclusion of SOAP, the List of Unfilled Programs posted in the Registration, Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system is updated to include **ALL** Match-participating programs with unfilled positions, regardless of the program's SOAP participation status. **ALL** applicants who remain unmatched or partially matched at the conclusion of SOAP will be able to access the List to view positions for which they are eligible.
- **Positions offered/accepted during SOAP establish a binding commitment enforced by the Match Participation Agreement.**

How SOAP Works

- The Friday before Match Week, the NRMP notifies **ALL** applicants about their SOAP eligibility status, **regardless of whether they obtained a position when the matching algorithm was processed.**
- Applicants learn whether they are matched, unmatched, or partially unmatched at 11:00 a.m. ET on Monday of Match Week. Applicants who are fully matched or who are not SOAP-eligible will **NOT** be able to participate in SOAP or have access to the List of Unfilled Programs.

Note: Partially matched applicants can view ONLY the position types for which they are eligible.
- Applicants review the List of Unfilled Programs and express preferences by applying to programs using ERAS. Programs review ERAS applications and express preferences with lists of applicants created in the R3 system.
 - Program directors cannot ask applicants to indicate whether they will accept an offer if one is extended through SOAP.
- Positions are offered through the R3 system to applicants in order of a program's preference list and according to the number of unfilled positions remaining in the program.
 - Applicants receive an email if an offer is extended.
 - Applicants can receive multiple offers in any SOAP round.
 - Applicants should **NOT** accept an offer until all offers have been generated in that round. **A banner** will display in the R3 system.
 - Applicants have 2 hours in which to accept, reject, or let offers expire.
 - Offers accepted automatically make applicants ineligible for the same type of position in another program. Offers rejected/expired will **NOT** be extended again.

Applicant Eligibility for SOAP:

To participate in SOAP, applicants **MUST** be registered for the Main Residency Match, unmatched or partially matched, **AND** able to enter graduate medical education (GME) on July 1 in the year of the Match.

- Eligibility of U.S. medical school seniors and prior-year graduates is determined by their medical school.
 - Eligibility is based on each school's graduation requirements.
- Eligibility of IMGs is determined by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates.

[VIEW MATCH WEEK/SOAP CALENDAR](#)