

Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program® (SOAP®) 2018 GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

The Match Week Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program® (SOAP®) is the process for offering positions that are unfilled after the matching algorithm has been processed to eligible unmatched and partially matched applicants. The National Resident Matching Program® (NRMP®) manages SOAP in the Registration, Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system, and the Association of American Medical Colleges® (AAMC®) delivers SOAP applications through the Electronic Residency Application Service® (ERAS®).

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to participate in SOAP, applicants must be:

- 1) Registered for the Main Residency Match
- 2) [Eligible to enter graduate medical education](#) on July 1, 2018 as verified by the applicant's medical school or the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates® (ECFMG®)
- 3) Partially matched or fully unmatched on Monday of Match Week

There is no separate registration for SOAP, and applicants do not submit a rank order list.

On Friday, March 9, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time, NRMP will notify applicants by email whether they are SOAP-eligible. SOAP eligibility also will be posted to the applicant's home page in the R3 system.

Preparing for SOAP

Tasks in ERAS

Before Match Week, there are a few steps you should take now to be sure you are ready to participate in SOAP if you are unmatched or partially matched on Monday of Match Week:

- Login to MyERAS (www.aamc.org/myeras).
- Make sure your MyERAS application is complete. You must certify and submit your application before you can apply to programs.
- Keep your Personal Information (including your NRMP ID) updated in MyERAS.
- If you have updates or information you would like to add and are not able to do so in the application, you can provide this information by updating or adding a new personal statement(s).
- Upload any necessary documents like letters of recommendation before Match Week, as some documents require some time to process before they are available in MyERAS.

SOAP Resources

Prior to Match Week, applicants are encouraged to explore the following resources and schedule for a better SOAP experience:

- [SOAP Process for Applicants video](#)
- [Match Week and SOAP schedule](#)
- [ERAS Applicant Checklist for SOAP](#)
- On **March 7, 2018, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET**, please join the NRMP and ERAS for a Twitter Chat. Use the hashtag #SOAP2018 to participate and ask [@TheNRMP](#) and [@ERASinfo](#) questions related to SOAP.

During SOAP

SOAP Fees in ERAS

- If you applied through ERAS to at least one ACGME-accredited residency program before 11:00 a.m. ET Monday, March 12, 2018, you will not pay any SOAP application fees. (Only applies to ERAS 2018 season applications. Prior years' applications are not counted toward the current application season.) For information about non-SOAP fees, visit [Fees for ERAS Residency Applications](#).
- If you did not apply to at least one ACGME-accredited residency program before SOAP and you are SOAP-eligible, you will pay a \$99 fee for participation in SOAP. This fee covers the 45 total applications you are allocated during SOAP. If you have not sent your USMLE or COMLEX-USA, a fee of \$80 per transcript applies.

Rules

- SOAP applicants may apply only to programs on the NRMP *List of Unfilled Programs* and must use ERAS to apply. Fully unmatched applicants will be able to apply to all programs. Partially matched applicants will be able to apply only to the program types (categorical, advanced, preliminary, reserved) for which they are eligible.
- Applicants can apply to a total of 45 programs for the entire SOAP process. This includes both new programs and any programs that the applicant applied to during the regular 2018 season.
- Applicants can withdraw an application after it has been submitted, but it still will count toward the 45-application limit.
- **Applicants and individuals acting on their behalf CANNOT communicate with programs until programs initiate contact during SOAP.** Applicants who violate this rule will be investigated by the NRMP and may be barred from SOAP the following year.
- Applicants are prohibited from copying, posting, or in any way sharing or making publicly available the *List of Unfilled Programs* or any Match information contained in the R3 system to anyone who did not register for the Match or who is otherwise ineligible to view the *List*.

- Positions offered and accepted during SOAP establish a binding commitment enforced by the NRMP Match Participation Agreement.
- Offers rejected or expired will not be extended again to the same applicant in future SOAP Offer Rounds.

SOAP Process and Offer Rounds

SOAP-eligible applicants view the *List of Unfilled Programs* in the NRMP’s R3 system and then apply for unfilled positions through ERAS. Programs contact applicants and create preference lists in the R3 system. Positions are offered to applicants through the R3 system during three SOAP Offer Rounds. For each Round, positions are offered based on the order of a program’s preference list and according to the number of unfilled positions remaining in the program, and applicants can receive multiple offers. Each Offer Round is two hours, during which applicants accept or reject offers they have received. Applicants are unable to apply to programs during Offer Rounds 1 and 2. Offers not accepted or rejected expire automatically. A majority of positions fill during the first SOAP Offer Round.

SOAP Events Timeline

| Day | Time | NRMP | ERAS |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---|---|
| Friday, March 9 | 12:00 p.m. ET | All Main Residency Match applicants are notified of their SOAP eligibility via the R3 system and email. | |
| Monday, March 12 | 11:00 a.m. ET | Applicants learn if they matched (but not where) via the R3 system and by email. SOAP-eligible unmatched and partially matched applicants have access to the <i>List of Unfilled Programs</i> (under the SOAP tab in R3). | MyERAS is <u>NOT</u> accessible. Applicants are encouraged to consult their medical schools for assistance. |
| | 12:00 p.m. ET | Reminder: Applicants and their representatives cannot initiate communication with a program until the program receives an ERAS application and contacts the applicant during SOAP. | MyERAS is accessible. SOAP applicants can start applying to SOAP programs in MyERAS. Make sure to assign any necessary documents including USMLE and/or COMLEX-USA scores. |

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| | 3:00 p.m. ET | | SOAP programs can begin reviewing SOAP applications and reaching out to applicants. |
| Tuesday, March 13 | 11:30 a.m. ET | Programs begin creating SOAP preference lists in the R3 system. <i>(Applicants do not submit a preference or rank order list for SOAP.)</i> | SOAP applicants can continue to apply to programs with their allotted 45 applications. |
| Wednesday, March 14 | 12:00 p.m. ET | SOAP Offer Round 1 Starts Applicants begin receiving offers. Applicants accept or reject offers via the R3 system. | Applicants are <u>unable</u> to apply during Offer Rounds in MyERAS. |
| | 2:00 p.m. ET | SOAP Offer Round 1 Ends Applicant deadline to accept or reject Round 1 offers. | |
| | 2:05 p.m. ET | <i>List of Unfilled Programs</i> is updated in the R3 system. | SOAP applicants can continue to apply to programs with their allotted 45 applications. |
| | 3:00 p.m. ET | SOAP Offer Round 2 Starts Applicants begin receiving offers. Applicants accept or reject offers via the R3 system. | Applicants are <u>unable</u> to apply during Offer Rounds in MyERAS. |
| | 5:00 p.m. ET | SOAP Offer Round 2 Ends Applicant deadline to accept or reject Round 2 offers. | |
| | 5:05 p.m. ET | <i>List of Unfilled Programs</i> is updated in the R3 system. | SOAP applicants can continue to apply to programs with their allotted 45 applications. |
| Thursday, March 15 | 9:00 a.m. ET | SOAP Offer Round 3 Starts Applicants begin receiving offers. Applicants accept or reject offers via the R3 system. | SOAP applicants can continue to apply to programs with their allotted 45 applications. |
| | 11:00 a.m. ET | SOAP Offer Round 3 Ends Applicant deadline to accept or reject Round 3 offers. SOAP Ends | SOAP applications end - MyERAS is accessible for <u>all</u> applicants to apply to non-SOAP programs. |

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| | | Unmatched applicants may contact programs directly about remaining unfilled positions. | |
| | 12:00 p.m. ET | Post-SOAP <i>List of Unfilled Programs</i> updated to include all remaining unfilled programs (including those not participating in SOAP) and available in the R3 system top menu to all unmatched and partially matched applicants, regardless of SOAP eligibility. | |

Additional Resources & Support

NRMP: [Resources](#) | Support: support@nrmp.org, 866-653-NRMP (6767), 202-400-2233

ERAS: [Resources](#) | Support: [Contact form](#), 202-862-6264