



Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program® (SOAP®) Frequently Asked Questions for Applicants

What is the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program® (SOAP®)?

SOAP is the process during Match Week through which unfilled positions are offered by programs to **SOAP**-eligible unmatched and partially matched applicants. Applicants must apply through ERAS® to unfilled programs electing to participate in **SOAP**®, and programs must offer those positions to applicants through the **NRMP** Registration, Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system. Positions offered and accepted constitute a binding commitment under the Match Participation Agreement. [View the detailed Match Week schedule.](#)

How does **SOAP** work?

SOAP begins at 11:00 AM ET on Monday of Match Week when applicants find out whether they matched to a position. At 12:00 PM ET, applicants can access ERAS and begin applying to programs. At 3:00 PM ET, programs can begin downloading applications from ERAS. A series of "rounds" begins at 12:00 PM ET on Wednesday of Match Week, when the first **SOAP** offers are extended through the **R3** system to the unmatched applicants listed at the top of each program's preference list. Each **SOAP** "round" lasts two hours, during which applicants can accept or reject any offers they receive. New offers are sent at 3:00 PM Wednesday and at 9:00 AM Thursday. **SOAP** concludes at 11:00 AM ET on Thursday of Match Week. [View the detailed Match Week schedule.](#)

Am I eligible to participate in **SOAP**?

To be eligible for **SOAP**, you must be registered with the **NRMP** for the Main Residency Match®, be eligible to enter graduate medical education programs on July 1 in the year of the Match, and be partially matched or fully unmatched on Monday of Match Week. If you are a student/graduate of a U.S. medical school, your **SOAP** eligibility will be verified by your school. If you are a student/graduate of an international medical school, your **SOAP** eligibility will be verified by the ECFMG®.

Must I submit a rank order list to be **SOAP**-eligible?

No, you do not need to submit a rank order list to be eligible for **SOAP**. **SOAP** preference lists are created and submitted by programs, and offers are extended to applicants based on those lists.

How will I know which programs are unfilled?

If you are **SOAP**-eligible, you will be able to view the List of Unfilled Programs via a link on your Match Home page in the **R3** system beginning at 11:00 AM Eastern Time on Monday of Match Week. You will be able to view only those unfilled programs for which you are eligible.

I am SOAP-eligible. How do I apply to or contact programs about unfilled positions during SOAP?

If you are **SOAP**-eligible, you submit your applications through ERAS[®], and programs begin downloading those applications at 3:00 PM ET on Monday of Match Week. You will be able to apply only for the categorical, preliminary, and/or advanced unfilled positions for which you are eligible. You must use ERAS[®] to apply to programs, and you and other individuals or entities are prohibited from initiating contact with programs on your behalf prior to the directors of unfilled programs initiating contact.

I am SOAP-eligible. Can I apply to programs not participating in SOAP?

No. If you are **SOAP**-eligible, you are prohibited from contacting or applying to programs not participating in **SOAP** until **SOAP** concludes at 11:00 AM ET on Thursday of Match Week.

I am not eligible for SOAP. Can I apply to programs not participating in SOAP?

If you are not eligible for SOAP, you may apply to non-Match participating programs. ERAS will open at 12:00 p.m. ET on Monday of Match Week for applicants to begin applying to programs and will send applications to programs beginning at 3:00 p.m. ET. Applicants who are not eligible for SOAP can use phone, fax, email, or other methods, but only after 3:00 p.m. ET on Monday of Match Week. Also, applicants who are not eligible for SOAP are prohibited from accepting a position before 12:00 p.m. ET on Wednesday of Match Week. Some Match-participating programs elect not to participate in SOAP, but you cannot contact those programs about a position until after SOAP concludes at 11:00 AM ET on Thursday of Match Week.

Are programs allowed to contact me for an interview during SOAP?

Yes, programs may contact you for an interview after they receive your ERAS[®] application. Applicants and parties acting on their behalf are prohibited from initiating contact with programs during **SOAP** until the program contacts them.

Do programs usually conduct interviews during SOAP?

Most programs will contact applicants by telephone or email and conduct brief telephone interviews. Some programs will conduct video interviews using Skype or, for applicants who may be local, in-person interviews may be offered.

If I have not been contacted by any programs during a SOAP round, will I get any offers?

Programs vary in how they manage the **SOAP** process; however, most programs will extend offers only to applicants they have contacted to interview or to gauge the interest of the applicant.

I participated in the Match as part of a couple but did not match and I am SOAP-eligible. Will I be able to find out where my partner matched so I can apply in the same geographic location as my partner?

Yes, you can call the NRMP Help Desk at 202-400-2233 or toll-free at 1-866-653-NRMP (6767) beginning at 11:00 AM ET on Monday of Match Week to find out the geographic location of your partner's Match.

How will I know if a position is being offered to me during SOAP?

Programs extend **SOAP** offers through the NRMP's Registration Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system during a series of rounds. If you are extended an offer, you will receive an email notification advising you to log in to the **R3** system to view the offer. If you already are logged in to the **R3** system, you may see a [banner message](#) indicating that offers are being generated for the current round. Once all offers have been generated, the message in the **R3** system will change to display the deadline by which offers extended during the current round must be accepted or rejected.

How long do I have to accept an offer during SOAP?

Each **SOAP** round lasts two hours, during which you can consider whether to accept or reject any offers you might receive. Once the **SOAP** round closes, you will not be offered the same position again. If you receive multiple offers during a **SOAP** round, acceptance of one automatically means any others are rejected if they are for the same position type. As an example, acceptance of an advanced (PGY-2 position) makes you ineligible for all positions that are not PGY-1 only.

If I accept a position during SOAP, is it binding?

Yes. Positions offered and accepted during **SOAP** constitute a binding commitment subject to the terms in the Match Participation Agreement for Applicants and Programs. Failure to honor your commitment to a position accepted during **SOAP**, absent a waiver from the **NRMP**, is a violation and will subject you to an investigation and possible sanctions.

During SOAP, how often is the List of Unfilled Programs updated?

The List of Unfilled Programs will be updated for the first time at 2:05 PM ET on Wednesday of Match Week after the first-round **SOAP** offers expire. Then, it will be updated at 5:05 PM ET at the conclusion of the second **SOAP** round. A final version of the list will be posted to the **R3** system Thursday at 12:00 PM ET, and it will display all unfilled programs, including those that did not participate in **SOAP**.

If I still do not have a position after SOAP, how do I apply to unfilled programs?

Once **SOAP** concludes at 11:00 AM ET on Thursday of Match Week, you can contact unfilled programs directly using the information listed in the **R3** system.

More information can be accessed online at <http://www.nrmp.org/match-week-soap-applicants>. If you have any further questions, contact the NRMP Help Desk between 8:30 AM and 5:30 PM ET at 202-400-2233, toll-free at 1-866-653-NRMP (6767), or by email at support@nrmp.org.