



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

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

SOAP replaces the "Scramble" and provides a uniform process for obtaining appointments during Match Week. Unfilled programs that have elected to participate in **SOAP** offer positions to **SOAP**-eligible unmatched applicants through the Registration, Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system, and positions offered and accepted constitute a binding commitment under the Match Participation Agreement. Detailed information about **SOAP** can be found in Section 7.0 of the [Match Participation Agreement for Applicants and Programs](#).

How does **SOAP** work?

SOAP begins at 11:00 AM ET on Monday of Match Week when you find out if your program has any unfilled positions. Beginning at 12:00 PM ET, applicants can use ERAS to select the programs that will receive their applications, and programs can begin downloading applications through ERAS® Program Director Work Station at 3:00 PM ET. A series of "rounds" begins on Wednesday of Match Week. By 11:55 AM ET on Wednesday, programs must finalize and certify in the **NRMP R3** system the applicant preference lists they want used during the first round of **SOAP**. At 12:00 PM, the first **SOAP** offers are extended through the **R3** system to the unmatched applicants listed at the top of a program's preference list. Offers are extended to as many applicants as there are unfilled positions in that program. 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.](#)

Is my program eligible to participate in **SOAP**?

All Match-participating programs with unfilled positions are eligible to participate in **SOAP**, but programs must [set their **SOAP** participation status](#) in the **R3** system by January 31. If you elect to participate in **SOAP** and you have unfilled positions, you may accept applications only from **SOAP**-eligible unmatched applicants and only through ERAS®. You ALSO must submit a preference list and extend offers only through the **R3** system. Until 11:00 AM ET on Thursday of Match Week, all Match-participating programs can offer unfilled positions only through **SOAP**.

What if I don't want to participate in SOAP?

You may elect not to participate in **SOAP**, but if you do so you are prohibited from extending offers to any applicant, regardless of whether the applicant participated in the Match or is **SOAP**-eligible, until **SOAP** concludes at 11:00 AM ET on Thursday of Match Week.

How do I contact an applicant about unfilled positions during SOAP?

After you download ERAS® applications from **SOAP**-eligible applicants beginning at 3:00 PM ET on Monday of Match Week, you may contact them to discuss a position and/or schedule an interview. Neither applicants nor other individuals or entities acting on their behalf are permitted to contact you until you initiate contact.

What is a program preference list?

Programs participating in **SOAP** submit a list of applicants who have applied to the program and to whom the program wishes to offer a position. The lists are similar to the rank order lists used when the matching algorithm is processed. Program directors can modify their preference lists prior to the start of each round of **SOAP**, but the list must be certified 5 minutes before the start of each round in which the program wishes to extend offers. [More about SOAP preference lists.](#)

Can I extend more than one offer at a time during SOAP?

Yes, but in each round you can extend only as many offers as there are unfilled positions in your program. If you participate in **SOAP**, you must certify your applicant preference list in the **R3** system 5 minutes before the start of each offer round. **SOAP** offers are sent to as many applicants at the top of your preference list as there are unfilled positions in your program. Each round, applicants have two hours to accept or reject any offers they receive. Offers that are not accepted or rejected will expire automatically.

What does it mean if an applicant on my preference list is shown as “available” or “unavailable”?

When you place an applicant on your preference list, the applicant is “available” to accept a position if an offer is extended during a SOAP round. That designation can change to “unavailable” during a SOAP round if the applicant accepts an offer from another program. Review your preference list on a regular basis throughout SOAP to ensure you have enough “available” applicants based on the number of remaining unfilled positions.

If I extend an offer to an unmatched applicant and it is rejected, will the position be offered to the next applicant on my preference list?

No. Offers are extended **ONLY** at the start of each SOAP round, and applicants have two hours to accept or reject any offers they receive. If an offer is rejected, it will not be extended to another applicant until the start of the next SOAP round.

If I extend an offer to an unmatched applicant during *SOAP* and the offer is accepted, 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 any offer made during **SOAP** absent a waiver from the NRMP is a violation and will subject your program to an investigation and possible sanctions.

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

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