



School Match Week/SOAP Guide

Match Week for the 2017 Main Residency Match will take place March 13-17. Below is important information about Match Week activities.

March 6-8: SOAP Verification of Graduation Credentials

At 8:00 AM Eastern Time on March 6, the verification process opens for medical school officials to re-verify their students' and graduates' graduation credentials for participation in the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program® (SOAP®). Verification must be completed by 5:00 PM ET on Wednesday, March 8. Applicants whose credentials were verified prior to the Rank Order List Deadline must be marked ineligible for SOAP if their eligibility has changed and it has been determined conclusively that they are ineligible to enter GME on July 1. Similarly, applicants whose credentials were not verified prior to the Rank Order List Deadline should be marked eligible for SOAP if their status has changed. [Verification directions](#)

Friday, March 10: SOAP Eligibility Notification

At 12:00 PM ET, **ALL** applicants receive notification of their SOAP eligibility. This notification is **NOT** an indication of whether the applicant matched but rather an indication of their ability to participate in SOAP if they learn on Monday of Match Week that they are unmatched or partially matched.

Monday, March 13: Match Status Notification

At 10:30 AM ET, school officials have access to their *Unmatched Applicants Report* (embargoed until 11:00 AM ET). At 11:00 AM ET, applicants learn if they matched, and schools can access the *List of Unfilled Programs* in the NRMP R3 system.

March 13-16: SOAP for Unmatched Applicants

Applicants who are SOAP-eligible and unmatched or partially matched can participate in SOAP to apply for unfilled positions. **School officials should advise applicants to familiarize themselves with the SOAP schedule and resources prior to Match Week.** Participating school staff should [subscribe to the NRMP/ERAS SOAP listserv](#).

- At 11:00 AM ET on Monday, March 13, SOAP-eligible unmatched and partially matched applicants can access the *List of Unfilled Programs* under the SOAP tab in the NRMP R3 system. SOAP applicants are encouraged to consult with their medical school advisors.
- At 2:00 PM ET on Monday, SOAP applicants can prepare and send up to 45 applications in the ERAS system. Programs can view SOAP applications in ERAS at 3:00 PM ET.
 - **SOAP applicants are prohibited from contacting programs outside of ERAS until programs initiate contact with them. School officials or other entities acting on the applicant's behalf also must refrain from contacting programs. Applicants who violate SOAP policies will be investigated and could be barred from participation in SOAP the following year.**
 - Programs contact applicants in whom they are interested. Programs vary in how they manage the SOAP process. Brief telephone or online interviews are common. Program directors cannot ask applicants to indicate whether they will accept an offer if one is extended through SOAP.
- Positions are offered to applicants through the NRMP R3 system in order of a program's preference list and according to the number of unfilled positions remaining in the program. *Applicants do not create preference lists during SOAP.*
 - SOAP includes three Offer Rounds: 12:00 PM ET and 3:00 PM ET on Wednesday, March 15, and 9:00 AM ET on Thursday, March 16.

- In each Offer Round, applicants have two hours to accept or reject offers in the R3 system. Offers not accepted or rejected expire automatically.
- Offers can be viewed and accepted using a mobile device.
- Offers rejected or expired will not be extended again to the same applicant in future SOAP Offer Rounds.
- **Positions offered and accepted during SOAP establish a binding commitment enforced by the Match Participation Agreement.**
- The *List of Unfilled Programs* is updated five minutes after the end of each SOAP Offer Round.
- SOAP concludes at 11:00 AM ET on Thursday, March 16.
- At 12:00 PM ET on Thursday, March 16, the *List of Unfilled Programs* will be updated in the NRMP R3 system to show **ALL** unfilled programs, including programs not participating in SOAP. All unmatched and partially matched applicants will have access to the List to contact unfilled programs. Programs will be able to delete positions as they are filled.

Thursday, March 16: Confidential Results Reports and Notification Letters

At 8:00 AM ET, schools can access confidential Match results reports, Match notification letters, and the embargoed *Advance Data Tables*.

Friday, March 17: Match Day!

At 12:00 PM ET, medical schools host Match Day ceremonies. At 1:00 PM ET, Match results are sent by email to applicants, and applicants can use a mobile device to access their results in the NRMP R3 system. **Schools are invited to join the joint NRMP, AMA, AAMC Match Week celebration by sharing their stories, photos, and videos using #Match2017, and by visiting [Tagboard](#) and [Storify](#). Join us in making #Match2017 a top trend on Twitter like #Match2016 was last year!**

Information to Share with Communications Staff at Your School

The NRMP has a Match Week email list for communications staff at participating schools and institutions. Subscribers will receive NRMP Match Week press releases, including the *Advance Data Tables* and *Match by the Numbers*, along with information on opportunities for the school to share Match Week activities with a national audience. Communications staff can subscribe by sending the following information to media@nrmp.org: full name, institution, email address, and title and/or communications role.

Support Resources

The NRMP has [SOAP resources](#) posted online, including video tutorials, frequently asked questions, a SOAP Round diagram, and a complete Match Week schedule. ERAS has informational materials about the [SOAP process](#) on its website.

Further assistance is available from the NRMP Help Desk Monday through Friday between the hours of 8:30 AM and 5:30 PM Eastern Time at 202-400-2233, toll-free at 1-866-653-NRMP (6767), or by email at support@nrmp.org.