

## **Osteopathic School Official (SO) Webinar – Questions and Answers**

On Tuesday, June 11, 2019, NRMP Chief Policy Officer Laurie Curtin presented a webinar designed for osteopathic school officials to help them better understand NRMP policies related to DO senior students and how to perform school-based functions in the NRMPs' web-based Registration, Ranking, and Results (R3) system. Below are questions received during the webinar and answers prepared by staff.

### **Does a Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) need an addendum to include all 4<sup>th</sup>-year rotations for fellowship applications?**

NRMP school officials (SOs) are required under the Match Participation Agreement for Schools to provide complete, timely, and accurate information on the Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE), including information that would reasonably be considered pertinent to a program's decision to rank an applicant, to determine an applicant's ability to satisfy program requirements or standards, or to identify circumstances that may reasonably be expected to affect adversely the applicant's licensure status, visa status, or ability to start the program. Should there be pertinent information about an applicant that an SO learns about subsequent to writing and submitting an MSPE, including during 4<sup>th</sup>-year rotations or core residency training, the SO would be expected to submit an addendum that program directors could download and review; however, as a general rule, SOs would not be expected to amend an MSPE for all previous graduates simply because they apply for fellowship training.

### **Why are we required to verify credentials for US Grads? I'm not sure we know their status after they have graduated.**

Per the Match Participation Agreement, an NRMP SO is responsible for overseeing the Match process and for serving as their school's official spokesperson to the NRMP on all matters regarding applicants from the school. SOs or school administrators (SAs) are asked to verify credentials to confirm applicants have met the requirements for graduation from the medical school and that, as far as the school has any knowledge, the applicants are eligible to enter graduate medical education on July 1 in the year of the Match. Beyond that, it is up to programs to vet applicant qualifications to ensure program requirements can be met.

### **When uploading data in the R3 system, there appear to be fields for AAMC ID and USMLE ID. Is there an option to upload NBOME IDs for those that do not take the USMLE exam?**

Beginning with the 2020 Main Residency Match, U.S. DO senior students will be sponsored applicants in the Match; accordingly, DO-granting medical school officials will have the opportunity to upload a list of the school's seniors into the NRMP's web-based Registration, Ranking, and Results (R3) system. That upload functionality, currently available for MD-granting medical schools, will be revised to include a field for NBOME ID.

**If we have a student who has not passed their boards by the Rank Order List Certification Deadline, but will be taking the exam before Match Week, do we leave them as Match eligible or withdraw them?**

Under the terms of the Match Participation Agreement, school officials must withdraw from the Main Residency Match any student who is unable to meet graduation requirements and enter graduate medical education (GME) on July 1 in the year of the Match. Students should be withdrawn only if it has been determined conclusively by the Rank Order List (ROL) Certification Deadline that the student is ineligible for Match participation. If having passing board scores by the ROL Deadline is a requirement for graduation, students who do not have them should be withdrawn. Otherwise, not having passing scores is not, in and of itself, a reason to withdraw a student from the Match if the student remains on schedule to meet all requirements and graduate on time.

**If students match to Urology, would this qualify them to be withdrawn from the NRMP (if they registered) – similar to withdrawing those for matching military, although they would meet graduation eligibility requirements?**

Yes, students who match to Urology should be withdrawn from the Main Residency Match by the NRMP school official prior to the Rank Order List Certification Deadline. Urology now is an integrated specialty, meaning the preliminary PGY-1 year of training is included with the specialty training; accordingly, students who match to Urology no longer need to participate in the Main Residency Match to obtain the PGY-1 year of training.

**I would like to confirm that it is ok to allow applicants to participate in the Match Week Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP) without having passed boards (e.g., have not met graduation requirements yet).**

Yes. A student should be marked as ineligible for SOAP only if it has been determined conclusively that the student will not graduate on time to enter graduate medical education on July 1 in the year of the Match. If having passing board scores prior to Match Week is a requirement for graduation, students who do not have them should be marked ineligible for SOAP. Otherwise, not having passing scores is not, in and of itself, a reason to mark the student ineligible if the student remains on schedule to meet all requirements and graduate on time.

**When you say sponsored applicants can accept positions in NRMP or another national matching plan, what other plans do you consider? Can you provide examples?**

There are several other national matching plans that provide appointments prior to the conclusion of the NRMP Main Residency Match. The American Urological Association provides matching services for Urology programs, the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS) provides matching services for residency and fellowship training positions in Canada, and the Joint Service Graduate Medical Education Selection Board (JSGMESB) administers the residency selection process for the Air Force, Army, and Navy. Applicants who participate in these Matches should be withdrawn. The San Francisco Match is another national matching plan that provides matching services for Ophthalmology; however, students who match to Ophthalmology must use the Main Residency Match to secure the PGY-1 year of training.

**If a DO student takes both COMLEX and USMLE, are both scores required to be reported, or just the COMLEX?**

NRMP encourages all applicants to complete the Professional Profile section of Match registration, which includes entering scores from medical licensure exams. DO students and graduates who take both the USMLE and COMLEX exams are able to enter scores for both exams. For those that do, osteopathic medical school officials would be asked to verify both sets of scores so that NRMP has accurate data on which to base publications like *Charting Outcomes in the Match*.

**What is an example of a student who does not qualify for Match participation but does for SOAP?**

Although infrequent, there could be an instance where a senior student is deemed ineligible for graduation (e.g. dismissed from the school) and thus ineligible to enter graduate medical education on July 1 in the year of the Match prior to the Rank Order List Certification Deadline. If that student appealed such action, and the decision were overturned, the student could then be eligible for graduation in time to participate in SOAP.

**Would an Ophthalmology student need to register for the San Francisco Match and Main Residency Match in the same Match season?**

Yes. Because the preliminary PGY-1 year of training currently is not included in a match to an Ophthalmology position, DO senior students would need to register for and participate in both the San Francisco (SF) Match and the Main Residency Match to secure the full course of training. Prior graduates who have completed a PGY-1 year of training could register only for the SF Match to obtain a position in Ophthalmology.