Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program® (SOAP®)  
2020 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 participate in SOAP, applicants must be:

1) Registered for the Main Residency Match.
2) Eligible to enter graduate medical education on July 1, 2020, as verified by the applicant’s medical school or the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG®).
3) Unmatched or partially unmatched on Monday of Match Week.

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

NRMP will notify all applicants by email whether they are SOAP-eligible on Friday, March 13 at 12 p.m. E.T. This notification is not an indication of whether applicants are matched, but rather an indication of their ability to participate in SOAP if they learn that they are unmatched or partially matched on Monday, March 16. Applicant’s SOAP eligibility also will be posted on the applicant’s home page in the NRMP's R3 system.

Prepare for SOAP

To prepare for SOAP, ERAS recommends applicants:

- Certify and submit their MyERAS application.
- Keep Personal Information (e.g., NRMP ID) updated in MyERAS.
- Upload letters of recommendation.
- Update or add a new personal statement(s).

SOAP Resources

- SOAP Process for Applicants video
- Match Week and SOAP Schedule
- ERAS Applicant Checklist for SOAP
During SOAP

ERAS Fees During SOAP

- If you applied to at least one residency program (for ERAS 2020 season) by Monday, March 16 at 11 a.m. ET you will **not** pay any application fees during SOAP. 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 residency program by Monday, March 16, and you’re SOAP-eligible, you will be charged a fee of $99. If you have not sent your USMLE or COMLEX-USA transcripts, a fee of $80 per transcript will apply.

SOAP Rules

- SOAP applicants can only apply to programs on the NRMP’s *List of Unfilled Programs* and only through ERAS. Fully unmatched applicants will be able to apply to all program types. Partially matched applicants can only apply to the program types (advanced, preliminary, transitional) for which they are eligible.

- Applicants can apply to a total of 45 programs for the **entire** SOAP process.
  - The 45-application limit includes new and previous programs that the applicant applied to during the ERAS 2020 season.

- Applicants cannot withdraw an application after it has been submitted. All applications 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 in the R3 system to anyone who did not register for the Match or 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 can view the *List of Unfilled Programs* in the NRMP’s R3 system and then apply for unfilled positions through ERAS.

- Programs will initiate contact with applicants.

- Programs will create preference lists of applicants 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 the applicants on a program’s preference list and according to the number of unfilled positions remaining in the program.

Available applicants can receive multiple offers in any Offer Round.

Each Offer Round is two hours, during which applicants can 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.

The majority of positions are filled during the first SOAP Offer Round.

### SOAP Events Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>NRMP</th>
<th>ERAS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, March 13</td>
<td>12:00 p.m. ET</td>
<td>All Main Residency Match applicants are notified of their SOAP eligibility via the R3 system and email.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, March 16</td>
<td>11:00 a.m. ET</td>
<td>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 List of Unfilled Programs (under the SOAP tab in the R3 system).</td>
<td>MyERAS is NOT accessible. Applicants are encouraged to consult their medical schools for assistance.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:00 p.m. ET</td>
<td>Reminder: Applicants and their representatives cannot initiate communication with a program until the program receives an ERAS application and contacts the applicant during SOAP.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3:00 p.m. ET</td>
<td>SOAP programs can begin reviewing SOAP applications and reaching out to applicants.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, March 17</td>
<td>11:30 a.m. ET</td>
<td>Programs begin creating preference lists in the R3 system.</td>
<td>SOAP applicants can continue to apply to programs with their allotted 45 applications.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Event Description</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>SOAP Offer Round 1 Starts&lt;br&gt;Applicants begin receiving offers.&lt;br&gt;Applicants accept or reject offers via the R3 system.</td>
<td>Applicants are unable to apply during Offer Rounds in MyERAS.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>SOAP Offer Round 1 Ends&lt;br&gt;Applicant deadline to accept or reject Round 1 offers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>~2:05 p.m.</td>
<td>List of Unfilled Programs is updated in the R3 system.</td>
<td>SOAP applicants can continue to apply to programs with their allotted 45 applications.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>SOAP Offer Round 2 Starts&lt;br&gt;Applicants begin receiving offers.&lt;br&gt;Applicants accept or reject offers via the R3 system.</td>
<td>Applicants are unable to apply during Offer Rounds in MyERAS.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>SOAP Offer Round 2 Ends&lt;br&gt;Applicant deadline to accept or reject Round 2 offers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>~5:05 p.m.</td>
<td>List of Unfilled Programs is updated in the R3 system.</td>
<td>SOAP applicants can continue to apply to programs with their allotted 45 applications.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>SOAP Offer Round 3 Starts&lt;br&gt;Applicants begin receiving offers.&lt;br&gt;Applicants accept or reject offers via the R3 system.</td>
<td>SOAP applicants can continue to apply to programs with their allotted 45 applications.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>SOAP Offer Round 3 Ends&lt;br&gt;Applicant deadline to accept or reject Round 3 offers.</td>
<td>ERAS resumes normal operations.&lt;br&gt;SOAP applications end.&lt;br&gt;MyERAS is accessible to all applicants to apply to programs.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>SOAP Ends</strong></td>
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All unmatched applicants can contact programs directly about remaining unfilled positions.

12:00 p.m. ET

Post-SOAP *List of Unfilled Programs* will include all remaining unfilled programs (including those not participating in SOAP). This *List* is available in the R3 system on the top menu for all unmatched and partially matched applicants, regardless of SOAP eligibility.

### Additional Resources & Support

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

**ERAS:** [Resources](#) | Support: [Contact ERAS Client Technical Support](#), 202-862-6264 | [@ERASInfo](#)