On Wednesday, March 4, NRMP Chief of Match Operations Jeanette Calli presented a webinar designed to provide program staff with information about preparing for Match Week, obtaining Match results, and navigating the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP).

To further assist programs as they plan for Match Week, below are the questions received during the webinar as well as the answers prepared by NRMP staff.

**How can I view the Match Week and SOAP Schedule?**

The schedule is available on the NRMP web site.

**How many rounds are there in the SOAP process?**

There are three rounds in the SOAP process:
- Wednesday, March 18 at 12:00 p.m. ET
- Wednesday, March 18 at 3:00 p.m. ET
- Thursday, March 19 at 9:00 a.m. ET

**Can applicants apply to a different specialty than they applied to during the regular Match season?**

Yes, applicants can apply to a different specialty or specialties during SOAP.

**Can you ask a student what specialty they had previously applied to in the Match during SOAP?**

No. Per section 6.2 Restrictions on Persuasion in the Match Participation Agreement, a program cannot request applicants to reveal the names, specialties, geographic locations, or other identifying information about programs to which they have or may apply.

**Program directors cannot ask applicants to indicate whether they will accept an offer if one is extended through SOAP. Can programs tell an applicant they are putting them first on their preference list and/or say they will choose them in next round?**

Yes, program directors can tell an applicant they intend to put them on their preference list. However, the program cannot request that an applicant tell them whether or not the applicant will accept an offer, if one is extended.

**During SOAP, can a student email their ERAS application directly to the program or must everything go through ERAS?**

SOAP applicants can only apply to programs on the NRMP’s List of Unfilled Programs and only through ERAS.
What if an unmatched applicant already sent an application in ERAS to our program during the regular season? Do they have to send another application and, if so, how does the program know another one was submitted?

Yes, applicants do have to reapply for the program during SOAP. NRMP and ERAS are separate organizations and systems. Please contact ERAS at for additional information on accessing and reviewing your SOAP applications in ERAS.

We are a categorical program. Since candidates can only apply to programs during SOAP for which they are eligible, does this mean only candidates who are fully unmatched can see our position?

That’s correct. Partially-matched applicants who have matched to a preliminary position can only view and apply to advanced programs, and applicants who have matched to an advanced position can only view and apply to preliminary programs.

What is a "partially-matched" applicant?

Partially-matched applicants have matched to a position that does not provide the full course of training in a specialty. An applicant who matches to a PGY-1, preliminary or transitional year position only or to an advanced, PGY-2 position only would be considered partially matched. Partially-matched applicants can only view and apply to programs for which they are eligible during SOAP. Please view Program Codes and Types in the Match for more information.

If an applicant was ranked by a program and did not match, is that applicant eligible to apply to the program during SOAP?

Yes.

Why would a candidate that a program ranked not match when the matching algorithm is processed?

Both the applicant and the program must have ranked each other for a match to occur.

Is the filled or unfilled status of the program available only to the program director or can the coordinator view this information as well?

Both the program director and coordinator can view the filled/unfilled status of the program and the SOAP functionality. Only the program director or the institutional administrator/official can certify a program’s preference list to be used during SOAP rounds.

Once a SOAP applicant has submitted an application in ERAS on Monday, the 16th, may the program contact the applicant to conduct phone interviews, etc. in order to create their preference lists?

Yes, program staff may initiate contact and conduct interviews with SOAP-eligible applicants after receiving their ERAS application. It is up to programs how they review applications and determine which applicants they would like to offer positions in SOAP. Most programs conduct interviews via phone or other electronic video or conferencing services.
When can programs start communicating with SOAP applicants?
Programs can begin viewing SOAP applications in ERAS on Monday, March 16 at 3:00 p.m. ET. Programs can begin communicating with SOAP applicants upon receipt of their application in ERAS.

When can programs communicate with their matched applicants?
Programs cannot contact their matched applicants until the final Match results have been released to applicants on Friday, March 20 at 1:00 p.m. ET.

What does the Available status mean on the SOAP preference list?
An applicant who is listed on the preference list as Available means the applicant is available to have an offer sent to them in the next offer round. Applicants may become unavailable during an offer round if they accept 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. Please see the SOAP: Monitoring a Preference List support guide for additional details.

What is the NRMP and ERAS joint Match Week and SOAP Listserv?
The listserv is an opportunity for program and medical school staff to get their Match Week and SOAP questions answered by experts in NRMP and ERAS during the process. More information and a link to subscribe can be found on our web site.

When SOAP participants apply via ERAS, will all of the prior applications within ERAS be deleted/archived?
NRMP and ERAS are separate organizations and systems. Please contact ERAS for information on accessing and reviewing your SOAP and any regular season applications in ERAS.

Our program status in ERAS is “no longer accepting applications.” Do I need to change my program status for SOAP?
NRMP and ERAS are separate organizations and systems. Please contact ERAS for information on your program’s status for SOAP.

What do you mean by "Creating a position for partially matched applicants"?
Programs may wish to create a position for a partially-matched applicant who does not obtain a preliminary year position during SOAP. The created position allows the applicant to secure a full course of training and be eligible to fulfill their advanced Match commitment. Programs can create positions ONLY for partially-matched applicants beginning at 11:00 a.m. ET on Thursday, March 19.

Are programs permitted to fill unfilled positions before the final List of Unfilled Programs is accessible by applicants at 12:00 p.m. ET, on Thursday March 19th after SOAP concludes?
SOAP officially concludes at 11:00 a.m. ET on Thursday, March 19. At that point, remaining unfilled programs are able to fill their positions however they choose.
Are programs allowed to answer questions from applicants about whether we can accept additional applicants after SOAP?
   All unfilled positions placed in SOAP must attempt to be filled in SOAP. Programs will not know if they have any positions remaining until the conclusion of SOAP.

During round 1 of SOAP, if the program director uncertifies the preference list to add more applicants for subsequent rounds, does that impact pending offers?
   No. The preference list can be modified during a round and the current offer(s) will not be impacted.

Is it possible to remain unfilled even after SOAP?
   Yes. It is likely not all positions will fill during the SOAP process.

If the program does not fill during SOAP, can applicants send their ERAS application to the program after SOAP is concluded?
   Yes, at the conclusion of SOAP, MyERAS is accessible to all applicants to apply to programs. Please contact ERAS at for information on accessing and reviewing your SOAP and any regular season applications in ERAS.

Does the program director have to recertify the preference list before each SOAP round?
   No. If the SOAP preference list has enough available applicants for the number of positions remaining in the next SOAP round, the list does not need to be edited or recertified.

Can programs contact letter of recommendation writers when evaluating applicants during SOAP?
   Yes.

In previous SOAP experiences, applicants have called and even come in person to program offices. Is the rule that applicants are not allowed to contact programs new or is this a common occurrence?
   The rule is not new. It has been in place since SOAP began. There are usually many thousands more applicants in SOAP than there are positions. Some applicants do attempt to contact programs in violation of the rules, if they do not get any response from programs to their application. Please see information on reporting and investigations of violations.

We have applications in ERAS for applicants who didn't get an interview. If any of those applicants didn't Match, can we just reach out to them, or do they need to apply again during SOAP?
   Programs will not know whether an applicant has matched except through receipt of an ERAS application during SOAP. Programs can only contact eligible SOAP applicants who have applied to their program during SOAP.
Where is the SOAP applicant list in ERAS?
NRMP and ERAS are separate organizations and systems. Please contact ERAS at for additional information on accessing and reviewing your SOAP applications in ERAS.

Will we know if a SOAP applicant on our preference list has accepted an offer at another program, if we have not yet extended an offer? Or will we only know if they reject our offer?
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. Please see the SOAP: Monitoring a Preference List support guide for additional details.

How can we access our program’s Confidential Roster of Matched Applicants?
The Confidential Roster of Matched Applicants will be available on Thursday, March 19th at 2:00 p.m. ET in the NRMP’s R3 system as a View Report link under the Results column on your Match Home Page or under Options and Reports. The roster also will be sent via email to both program directors and coordinators.

Can I still access my program’s Match Results by Ranked Applicant report for previous years?
No, not through the R3 system. The Match closes on June 30 each year so all reports should be saved and/or printed for future use prior to the Match closing. To request reports from previous years please view the Match data request information on our web site.

Is there a way to download the Match Results by Ranked Applicant report and keep the rank number confidential or a way to reorder the list?
No, there is not.