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 commences at 12:00 PM ET on Monday of Match Week when programs find out if they have any unfilled positions. Two hours later, at 2:00 PM ET, programs can begin downloading applications through ERAS®. A series of "rounds" commences on Wednesday of Match Week. By 11:55 AM Eastern Time 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. Offers are sent again at 3:00 PM Wednesday and at 9:00 AM, 12:00 PM, and 3:00 PM on Thursday. SOAP concludes at 5:00 PM ET on Thursday of Match Week. A detailed Match Week schedule is available in January at www.nrmp.org.

What is an applicant preference list?

Programs electing to participate 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. You can make adjustments and add applicants to your 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 you wish to extend offers.

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®, and you must submit preference lists and extend offers only through the R3 system. Until 5:00
PM 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?**

Programs may elect not to participate in SOAP, but if they do so they 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 5:00 PM ET on Thursday of Match Week. SOAP participation status for your program must be approved by your designated institutional official.

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

Once a program receives ERAS® applications from SOAP-eligible applicants beginning at 2:00 PM ET on Monday of Match Week, the program may contact applicants 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. However, during your communication with applicants you must refrain from asking them to commit to an offer should you extend one to them during SOAP.

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

SOAP is designed to extend as many offers as there are unfilled positions in a program per round. If you participate in SOAP, you must certify your applicant preference list in the R3 system 5 minutes before the start of the offer round. SOAP offers are sent to the same number of 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.

**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 you to an investigation and possible sanctions.

**What if I still have unfilled positions when SOAP concludes?**

On Thursday of Match Week, after SOAP concludes, a dynamic version of the List of Unfilled Programs will be released in the R3 system to ALL unmatched applicants, regardless of their SOAP participation status. If you have unfilled positions remaining in your program and you do not wish to receive additional applicants, you must log in to the R3 system and reduce the number of unfilled positions to zero. You are free to fill those positions outside of the Match provided offers are extended and accepted prior to the opening of the next year’s Match.

More information can be accessed online at [http://www.nrmp.org/residency/soap/](http://www.nrmp.org/residency/soap/). If you have any further questions, contact the NRMP Help Desk between 8:30 AM and 5:30 PM ET at 202-400-2233, toll-free at 1-866-653-NRMP (6767), or support@nrmp.org.

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