



Joint Advanced/Preliminary (A/P) Programs: Creating Opportunity for Continuous Courses of Training

The NRMP's Registration, Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system offers institutions and programs the option to link an advanced PGY-2 program with a preliminary PGY-1 program to create a full course of training for applicants interested in specialties that begin in the PGY-2 year. In "joining" an advanced (A) PGY-2 program to a preliminary (P) PGY-1 program – Joint A/P – an applicant can only rank the preliminary program on a supplemental rank order list attached to the joint advanced program on the primary rank order list. This ensures that only applicants who match to the advanced program can match to that preliminary program.

Who can create a Joint A/P program?

Creating a Joint A/P program in the R3 system is a two-step process:

1. Institutional officials or program directors of preliminary PGY-1 programs create a new preliminary program track that identifies how many positions they are willing to train for the advanced PGY-2 program.
2. Institutional officials or program directors of advanced PGY-2 programs link the new preliminary PGY-1 program to their advanced program.

How does it work?

The matching process attempts to match an applicant to the advanced program. If a match occurs, an attempt also is made to match the applicant to a position on their supplemental list. The joint preliminary program must be listed by the applicant on that supplemental rank order list to create a continuous course of training at the institution. Also, the joint preliminary program must list the applicant on its rank order list.

How do I create a Joint A/P program?

Once the new preliminary PGY-1 program has been created, the **Program Director** of the advanced PGY-2 program can:

1. Log into the R3 system with their username and password
2. Click **My Programs** from the left menu bar on the **Match Home Page**. Click the hyperlink on the program code of the advanced program to go to the **Program Details page**.
3. Click the **Joint A/P** tab from the **Program Details page**.
 - Click **Find & Add Programs** to search for appropriate preliminary program track
 - Select the appropriate program and click **Add Program**
4. Click **Save** to retain the link

Repeat steps as necessary to join the advanced program to multiple preliminary programs. To remove a Joint A/P program, return to the **Program Details page** and click **Remove** next to the appropriate preliminary program. Click **Save** every time a change is made.

Remember...

- ✓ Changes to Joint A/P arrangements **MUST** be finalized **prior** to the January 15 opening of the ranking function for the Match.
- ✓ Directors of preliminary programs **MUST** adjust/reduce their program's quotas as needed to accommodate positions designated for the new preliminary program track.
- ✓ Directors of advanced PGY-2 programs should remind applicants to rank the designated preliminary PGY-1 program on the supplemental rank order list that corresponds to the advanced program to maximize the applicant's ability to obtain the full course of training.
- ✓ For an applicant to match to both programs, preferred applicants **MUST** be ranked on both the advanced and the preliminary programs' rank order lists. Typically the rank lists of both programs will be the same except for applicants the preliminary program does not wish to train.
- ✓ There is no guarantee that positions in the Joint A/P program will fill because applicants may not list the designated preliminary PGY-1 position on a supplemental rank order list. Accordingly, directors of the new preliminary PGY-1 program track are encouraged to revert, or donate, the positions designated in the Joint A/P to the traditional preliminary PGY-1 program to minimize their chance of having unfilled positions. Review the information on [creating reversions](#).