Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program® (SOAP®)
Frequently Asked Questions for Applicants

What is the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program® (SOAP®)?

SOAP is the process during Match Week through which unfilled positions are offered by programs to *SOAP*-eligible unmatched and partially matched applicants. Applicants must apply through ERAS® to unfilled programs electing to participate in *SOAP* ®, and programs must offer those positions to applicants through the *NRMP* Registration, Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system. Positions offered and accepted constitute a binding commitment under the Match Participation Agreement. View the detailed Match Week schedule.

How does *SOAP* work?

SOAP begins at 11:00 AM ET on Monday of Match Week when applicants find out whether they matched to a position. At 12:00 PM ET, applicants can access ERAS and begin applying to programs. At 3:00 PM ET, programs can begin downloading applications from ERAS. A series of "rounds" begins at 12:00 PM ET on Wednesday of Match Week, when the first *SOAP* offers are extended through the *R3* system to the unmatched applicants listed at the top of each program's preference list. Each *SOAP* "round" lasts two hours, during which applicants can accept or reject any offers they receive. New offers are sent at 3:00 PM Wednesday and at 9:00 AM Thursday. SOAP concludes at 11:00 AM ET on Thursday of Match Week. View the detailed Match Week schedule.

Am I eligible to participate in *SOAP*?

To be eligible for *SOAP*, you must be registered with the *NRMP* for the Main Residency Match®, be eligible to enter graduate medical education programs on July 1 in the year of the Match, and be partially matched or fully unmatched on Monday of Match Week. If you are a student/graduate of a U.S. medical school, your SOAP eligibility will be verified by your school. If you are a student/graduate of an international medical school, your SOAP eligibility will be verified by the ECFMG®.

Must I submit a rank order list to be *SOAP*-eligible?

No, you do not need to submit a rank order list to be eligible for *SOAP*.   SOAP preference lists are created and submitted by programs, and offers are extended to applicants based on those lists.

How will I know which programs are unfilled?

If you are *SOAP*-eligible, you will be able to view the List of Unfilled Programs via a link on your Match Home page in the *R3* system beginning at 11:00 AM Eastern Time on Monday of Match Week. You will be able to view only those unfilled programs for which you are eligible.

I am *SOAP*-eligible. How do I apply to or contact programs about unfilled positions during *SOAP*?

If you are *SOAP*-eligible, you submit your applications through ERAS®, and programs begin downloading those applications at 3:00 PM ET on Monday of Match Week. You will be able to apply only for the categorical, preliminary, and/or advanced unfilled positions for which you are eligible. You must use ERAS® to apply to programs, and you and other individuals or entities are prohibited from initiating contact with programs on your behalf prior to the directors of unfilled programs initiating contact.

I am *SOAP*-eligible. Can I apply to programs not participating in *SOAP*?

No. If you are *SOAP*-eligible, you are prohibited from contacting or applying to programs not participating in *SOAP* until *SOAP* concludes at 11:00 AM ET on Thursday of Match Week.

I am not eligible for *SOAP*. Can I apply to programs not participating in *SOAP*?

If you are not eligible for SOAP, you may apply to non-Match participating programs. ERAS will open at 12:00 p.m. ET on Monday of Match Week for applicants to begin applying to programs and will send applications to programs beginning at 3:00 p.m. ET. Applicants who are not eligible for SOAP can use phone, fax, email, or other methods, but only after 3:00 p.m. ET on Monday of Match Week. Also, applicants who are not eligible for SOAP are prohibited from accepting a position before 12:00 p.m. ET on Wednesday of Match Week. Some Match-participating programs elect not to participate in SOAP, but you cannot contact those programs about a position until after SOAP concludes at 11:00 AM ET on Thursday of Match Week.

Are programs allowed to contact me for an interview during *SOAP*?

Yes, programs may contact you for an interview after they receive your ERAS® application. Applicants and parties acting on their behalf are prohibited from initiating contact with programs during *SOAP* until the program contacts them.

Do programs usually conduct interviews during *SOAP*?

Most programs will contact applicants by telephone or email and conduct brief telephone interviews. Some programs will conduct video interviews using Skype or, for applicants who may be local, in-person interviews may be offered.

If I have not been contacted by any programs during a *SOAP* round, will I get any offers?

Programs vary in how they manage the *SOAP* process; however, most programs will extend offers only to applicants they have contacted to interview or to gauge the interest of the applicant.

I participated in the Match as part of a couple but did not match and I am *SOAP*-eligible. Will I be able to find out where my partner matched so I can apply in the same geographic location as my partner?

Yes, you can call the NRMP Help Desk at 202-400-2233 or toll-free at 1-866-653-NRMP (6767) beginning at 11:00 AM ET on Monday of Match Week to find out the geographic location of your partner's Match.

How will I know if a position is being offered to me during *SOAP*?

Programs extend *SOAP* offers through the NRMP's Registration Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system during a series of rounds. If you are extended an offer, you will receive an email notification advising you to log in to the *R3* system to view the offer. If you already are logged in to the *R3* system, you may see a banner message indicating that offers are being generated for the current round. Once all offers have been generated, the message in the *R3* system will change to display the deadline by which offers extended during the current round must be accepted or rejected.

How long do I have to accept an offer during *SOAP*?

Each *SOAP* round lasts two hours, during which you can consider whether to accept or reject any offers you might receive. Once the *SOAP* round closes, you will not be offered the same position again. If you receive multiple offers during a *SOAP* round, acceptance of one automatically means any others are rejected if they are for the same position type. As an example, acceptance of an advanced (PGY-2 position) makes you ineligible for all positions that are not PGY-1 only.

If I accept a position during *SOAP*, 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 your commitment to a position accepted during *SOAP,* absent a waiver from the *NRMP*, is a violation and will subject you to an investigation and possible sanctions.

During *SOAP*, how often is the List of Unfilled Programs updated?

The List of Unfilled Programs will be updated for the first time at 2:05 PM ET on Wednesday of Match Week after the first-round *SOAP* offers expire. Then, it will be updated at 5:05 PM ET at the conclusion of the second *SOAP* round. A final version of the list will be posted to the *R3* system Thursday at 12:00 PM ET, and it will display all unfilled programs, including those that did not participate in *SOAP*.

If I still do not have a position after *SOAP*, how do I apply to unfilled programs?

Once *SOAP* concludes at 11:00 AM ET on Thursday of Match Week, you can contact unfilled programs directly using the information listed in the *R3* system.

More information can be accessed online at http://www.nrmp.org/match-week-soap-applicants. 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 by email at support@nrmp.org.

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