



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

View the [detailed Match Week schedule](#).

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.

How does SOAP work?

SOAP begins on Monday of Match Week when applicants find out whether they matched to a position. Also on that Monday, applicants can access ERAS and begin applying to programs, and programs can begin downloading applications from ERAS. A series of SOAP offer "rounds" begins 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 issued through subsequent rounds until SOAP concludes.

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.

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 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 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.

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 on Monday of Match Week for applicants to begin applying to programs and will send applications to programs later that same day. Applicants who are not eligible for SOAP can use phone, fax, email, or other methods, but only after the official time at which programs can begin downloading applications from ERAS. Applicants not eligible for SOAP are prohibited from accepting a position before the first round of SOAP commences. Some Match-participating programs elect not to participate in SOAP, but you cannot contact those programs about a position until after SOAP concludes.

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 or video interviews. 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 support staff at 202-400-2233 or toll-free at 1-866-653-NRMP (6767) when SOAP begins 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 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 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 round closes, you will not be offered the same position again. If you receive multiple offers during a 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 five minutes after the conclusion of a SOAP round. A final version of the list will be posted to the R3 system one hour after the final SOAP round concludes, 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, 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 support staff 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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