



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

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

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 begins on Monday of Match Week when you find out if your program has any unfilled positions. Also on that Monday, applicants can use ERAS® to select the unfilled programs that will receive their applications, and programs can begin downloading applications through the ERAS Program Director Work Station. A series of "rounds" begins on Wednesday of Match Week. Five minutes prior to the start of the first round, programs must finalize and certify in the NRMP R3 system the applicant preference lists they want used during the first round of SOAP. For each SOAP round, offers are extended through the R3 system to the unmatched applicant(s) listed at the top of a program's preference list. Offers are only 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. If an offer is rejected, it will not be extended to another applicant until the start of the next SOAP round.

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 the Quota Change Deadline. 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. You ALSO must extend offers only through the R3 system. Until SOAP concludes, all Match-participating programs can offer unfilled positions only through SOAP.

What if I don't want to participate in SOAP?

You may elect not to participate in SOAP, but if you do so you are prohibited from extending offers to any applicant, regardless of whether the applicant participated in the Match or is SOAP-eligible, until SOAP concludes.

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

After you download ERAS applications from SOAP-eligible applicants, you may contact them 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.

What is a program preference list?

Programs participating in SOAP submit a list of applicants who have applied to the program and to whom the program wishes to offer a position. Program directors can modify their 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 the program wishes to extend offers. [More about SOAP preference lists.](#)

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

Yes, but in each round, offers are sent only to as many applicants as there are unfilled positions in your program. In each round, applicants can receive multiple offers and have two hours to accept or reject any offers they receive. Offers that are not accepted or rejected will expire automatically.

What does it mean if an applicant on my preference list is shown as “available” or “unavailable”?

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 round if the applicant accepts an offer from another program. Review your preference list on a regular basis to ensure you have enough “available” applicants based on the number of remaining unfilled positions.

If I extend an offer to an unmatched applicant and it is rejected, will the position be offered to the next applicant on my preference list during the round?

No. Offers are extended **ONLY** at the start of each SOAP round, and applicants have two hours to accept or reject any offers they receive. If an offer is rejected, it will not be extended to another applicant until the start of the next SOAP round.

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 your program to an investigation and possible sanctions.

More information can be accessed online at <http://www.nrmp.org/match-week-soap-programs>. If you have any further questions, contact the NRMP support staff between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. ET at 202-400-2233, toll-free at 1-866-653-NRMP (6767), or support@nrmp.org.

Updated June 2020