



## Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program® (SOAP®) Frequently Asked Questions for Medical School Staff

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 use ERAS® to apply to unfilled programs electing to participate in SOAP, and programs must offer those positions to applicants using the NRMP Registration, Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system. Positions offered and accepted during SOAP 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 offer "rounds" begins on Wednesday of Match Week, when the first SOAP offers are extended through the R3 system to the unmatched applicant(s) listed at the top of each program's preference list. Each offer 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.

### **What are the SOAP eligibility requirements?**

To be eligible for SOAP, applicants must be 1) registered with the NRMP for the Main Residency Match®; 2) eligible to enter graduate medical education on July 1 in the year of the Match; and 3) partially matched or fully unmatched on Monday of Match Week. Unmatched applicants cannot participate in SOAP if they fail to meet **any** of the three criteria.

### **Will I know which positions are unfilled so that I can counsel my students and graduates?**

Yes. On Monday of Match Week, you will have access to download a PDF of the List of Unfilled Programs via the Options and then Reports menu in the R3 system.

### **How will my students and graduates know which programs are unfilled?**

If your students/graduates are SOAP-eligible, they will be able to view the List of Unfilled Programs via a link on their Match Home page in the R3 system beginning on Monday of Match Week. ***The List includes ONLY unfilled programs participating in SOAP, and applicants will be able to view ONLY the unfilled programs for which they are eligible.***

### **Can I contact programs about my unmatched students and graduates during SOAP?**

Medical school officials, administrators, and all other individuals or entities acting on behalf of an unmatched applicant are prohibited from initiating contact with programs prior to the staff of unfilled programs initiating contact. This prohibition applies to **ALL** applicants, regardless of whether the applicant is SOAP-eligible or SOAP-ineligible.

### **What options exist for my students and graduates who are not eligible for SOAP?**

Applicants who are not eligible for SOAP may apply only 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 those programs later that same day. Phone, fax, email, or other methods also can be used by applicants who are not eligible for SOAP, 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. Applicants who are not eligible for SOAP cannot contact any Match-participating programs until after SOAP concludes.

### **Will my unmatched students and graduates who participated in the Match as a couple be able to find out where a partner matched to help them prepare for SOAP?**

Yes, your unmatched students/graduates 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 learn the city of their partner's matched program to assist them in preparing for SOAP.

### **When will I know if my unmatched students and graduates have received offers?**

Once a SOAP round begins, the R3 system will display a [banner message](#) to the applicants 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. Your students and graduates can inform you about the offers they receive, and you can begin advising them at that time.

### **How long do my unmatched students and graduates applicants have to accept an offer during SOAP?**

Each SOAP round lasts two hours, during which your students/graduates can consider whether to accept or reject any offers. Once the round concludes, any offers rejected by your students/ graduates or any offers that expired will not be offered again. If an applicant receives 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 the applicant ineligible for all positions that are not PGY-1 only.

**How will I know if positions have been accepted by my students and graduates?**

Programs extend SOAP offers using the NRMP's R3 system, and the [SOAP Schools Report](#) tracks in real-time the offers your students/graduates accept. The report displays only the students/graduates who accept offers during SOAP.

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

The List of Unfilled Programs will be updated for the first time five minutes after the first-round SOAP offers expire. Then, it will be updated five minutes after the conclusion of each subsequent 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 remaining unfilled programs, including those that did not participate in SOAP. Once the final list of Unfilled Programs is updated and SOAP concludes, students and graduates can contact any remaining unfilled programs directly using the information listed in the R3 system.

*More information is available online [at http://www.nrmp.org/match-week-soap-schools](http://www.nrmp.org/match-week-soap-schools). 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](mailto:support@nrmp.org).*

Updated June 2020