

## SOAP Highlights for Applicants

### SOAP Principles

- SOAP-eligible applicants **MUST** submit applications only through ERAS® and **MUST** accept unfilled positions only through SOAP until SOAP concludes.
  - Applicants **CANNOT** use any means other than ERAS to apply to and contact programs. Applicants may apply **ONLY** to Match-participating programs participating in SOAP.

**Applicants and individuals/entities acting on behalf of applicants CANNOT contact programs until the program initiates contact. Such conduct is a Match violation and will be investigated.**
- SOAP-ineligible applicants **CANNOT** apply to **ANY** Match-participating programs, even those not participating in SOAP, until after SOAP concludes.
- Positions offered/accepted during SOAP establish a binding commitment enforced by the Match Participation Agreement.

### How SOAP Works

- Applicants learn whether they are matched, unmatched, or partially unmatched on Monday of Match Week. Applicants who are fully matched or who are not SOAP-eligible will **NOT** be able to participate in SOAP or have access to the List of Unfilled Programs.

**Partially matched applicants can view ONLY the position types for which they are eligible.**
- Applicants review the List of Unfilled Programs and express preferences by applying to programs using ERAS. Applicants do not enter rank order or preference lists during SOAP. Programs review ERAS applications and express preferences with lists of applicants to whom they would like to offer a position.
  - Program directors cannot ask applicants to indicate whether they will accept an offer if one is extended through SOAP.
- Positions are offered through the NRMP's Registration, Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system to applicants in order of a program's preference list and according to the number of unfilled positions remaining in the program during each round.
  - Applicants receive an email if an offer is extended.
  - Applicants can receive multiple offers in any SOAP round.
  - Applicants should **NOT** accept an offer until all offers have been generated in that round. A banner will display in the R3 system.
  - Applicants have 2 hours in which to accept, reject, or let offers expire.
    - Offers accepted automatically make applicants ineligible for the same type of position in another program. Offers rejected/expired will **NOT** be extended again.
- At the conclusion of SOAP, the List of Unfilled Programs posted in the R3 system is updated to include **ALL** Match-participating programs with unfilled positions, regardless of the program's SOAP participation status. **ALL** applicants who remain unmatched or partially matched at the conclusion of SOAP will be able to access the List to view positions for which they are eligible.

### Applicant Eligibility for SOAP:

To participate in SOAP, applicants **MUST** be registered for the Main Residency Match, unmatched or partially matched, **AND** able to enter graduate medical education (GME) on July 1 in the year of the Match.

- Eligibility of U.S. medical school seniors and prior-year graduates is determined by their medical school.
  - Eligibility is based on each school's graduation requirements.
- Eligibility of IMGs is determined by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates.