



Match Policy: What Institutional Officials Need to Know

Before participating in the Main Residency Match[®], each institutional official must agree to the terms and conditions of the Match Participation Agreement for Institutions. **The Match Agreement is binding; accordingly, each institutional official is responsible for reading the entire Agreement.** To promote compliance with the terms outlined in the Agreement, this document highlights certain sections that may require an institutional official's specific attention.

- Any program that participates in the Main Residency Match must register and attempt to fill all positions in the Match. (Section 2.1.3)
- All programs sponsored by an institution, regardless of the program's Match participation status, must offer positions to sponsored applicants (U.S. MD and DO senior students) only through the Main Residency Match or another national matching plan. (Section 2.1.6)
- The institutional official has the authority to modify and certify program rank order lists; however, such modifications and certifications should be done in concert with and approved by program directors. (Section 2.1.12)
- The NRMP is not an employment service and does not oversee the terms of any contract between applicants and training programs. In addition, training programs have sole responsibility for establishing and communicating all program and institutional eligibility requirements for any residency position. (Section 4.0)
- The institution's programs must disclose to applicants all eligibility requirements for training set forth by the sponsoring institution and the program during the recruitment period and before the applicable Rank Order List Certification Deadline. These requirements may include pre-employment testing (e.g., illicit drug screening), background checks (e.g., criminal, financial, etc.), visa sponsorship, and any other requirement(s). Programs must be able to demonstrate that eligibility requirements are made available to each applicant during recruitment and before the applicable Rank Order List Certification Deadline, either electronically or in writing. (Section 4.0)
- All institution and program Match fees must be paid within thirty (30) days of the invoice date. Institutions with unpaid fees at sixty (60) days from the invoice date will be assessed a 10 percent late fee. Failure to remit payment to the NRMP after ninety (90) days from the invoice date will result in the institution being barred from registering ANY of its programs for the Main Residency Match and any SMS Fellowship Matches until the outstanding balance has been remitted to the NRMP. (Section 5.0)
- All institutions and programs that participate in the Match are expected to
 - act in an ethical and professional manner from the time of application through the 45th day following the start date of training or through the conclusion of any NRMP-related waiver review, violation investigation, or appeal process;
 - provide to applicants and medical schools by the Rank Order List Certification Deadline complete, timely, and accurate information that would be pertinent to an applicant's decision to rank a program. Information includes but is not limited to a copy of the contract the applicant would sign

- and institutional policies regarding eligibility for appointment, including visa requirements, drug screening protocols, and background checks;
 - refrain from requesting that applicants reveal any information about the programs to which they have or may apply, interview intentions and practices, or ranking intentions. (Section 6.0)
- Between the Rank Order List Certification Deadline and the release of Match results, none of the programs sponsored by an institution, regardless of the program's Match participation status, may discuss, interview for, or offer a position to an applicant outside the matching and/or SOAP® process. (Sections 7.2)
- During SOAP
 - SOAP-participating programs can accept applications only from SOAP-eligible applicants and only through ERAS and may offer unfilled positions only through SOAP until SOAP concludes.
 - SOAP-participating programs can initiate contact with applicants only after receipt of the applicant's application. Applicants are prohibited from initiating contact with unfilled programs until programs contact them. (Section 8.0)
- Submission of a certified rank order list by a program confirms the program's intention to adhere to the binding commitment to offer an appointment and begin training in good faith on the specified in the appointment contract. (Section 9.0)
- Neither programs nor applicants may release each other from a matched position. Programs who cannot or will not honor their binding commitment must request a waiver or a one-year deferral from the NRMP, which has sole discretion to grant or deny a requested waiver or deferral. (Section 10.0)
- **UPDATED** With respect to the use of Match information
 - Institutions: Institutions must refrain from sharing any information from or maintained in the **R3** system. Institutions are also prohibited from copying, distributing, or posting or in any way making publicly available, any Match Week information to any website or non-NRMP-related matching service, including sharing URLs that link to information from the **R3** system or PDFs, even if the information already is in the public domain.
 - The NRMP: Programs authorize the NRMP to request, obtain, transmit or receive identifying information for reasons including but not limited to verifying data submitted by the program, conducting a Match, or performing research. NRMP is authorized to share identifiable ranking and match outcome information only with reputable organizations under strict, binding terms of a confidential data sharing agreement. NRMP is not authorized to release clearly and uniquely identifiable information in publications, presentations, and reports. (Section 14.0)

All In Policy for Fellowship Matches

- Specialties Matching Service Match sponsors may voluntarily implement a policy whereby all Match-participating programs are required to register and attempt to fill all positions in the Match. (Section 1.0)