



Policy Corner – March 2024 Participating in SOAP

The Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP) provides a uniform system for programs to offer unfilled positions to eligible unmatched or partially matched applicants through a series of offer rounds during Match Week. There are specific policies that govern SOAP and some of the important policy highlights include:

- SOAP-participating programs agree to only consider SOAP-eligible applicants for unfilled positions.
- SOAP-eligible applicants can only be offered unfilled positions by SOAP-participating programs until SOAP concludes on Thursday, March 14 at 9:00 p.m. ET, and those positions must be offered and accepted only through the NRMP's R3 system.
- Match-participating programs that elect not to participate in SOAP cannot solicit or consider applications from or extend offers to any applicants until SOAP concludes.
- Program staff may initiate contact with SOAP-eligible applicants only after receiving the applicant's application as part of SOAP.
- Neither applicants nor their representatives may contact or communicate with the program until the program has first initiated contact.
- Programs may not ask applicants to indicate whether they will accept an offer if one is extended during SOAP.
- Offers extended during SOAP constitute a binding commitment if the offer is accepted during a SOAP Offer Round.
- SOAP-eligible unmatched applicants who wish to pursue an alternate course during Match Week. Specifically, those applicants may pursue interests other than clinical residency training in lieu of participating in SOAP provided:
 - the position sought is not affiliated with a Match- or SOAP-participating residency program;
 - the position does not qualify for training credit in an ACGLE-accredited residency program; and
 - The applicant does not submit any applications to SOAP-participating programs during Match Week.

Please visit the [Match Policies](#) page on the NRMP website for access to Match Participation Agreements and best practices during recruitment and ranking as outlined in the Codes of Conduct. For questions regarding Match policies, please contact NRMP Policy at policy@nrmp.org. We are here to help and look forward to supporting you throughout the 2024 Main Residency Match cycle