



2026 Main Residency Match® Program Checklist

[Resources and support guides](#) to assist you with the Match process are available at www.nrmp.org.

Registration

Main Residency Match Registration for Institutions and Programs opens:
May 1, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. ET

- **[Register for the Match](#)**. NRMP accounts are assigned to the user, not the institution or program. Users must not share their username and password.
 - **New Program Director/Coordinator:** Create your individual account in the Registration, Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system using the token link sent by email when Match Registration opens.
 - **Returning Program Director/Coordinator:** Log in to the R3 system when Match Registration opens by entering your username and password.
- **Set a program coordinator.** If desired, program directors can add or update a program coordinator in the R3 system to assist with the matching process. The coordinator must create an individual account. It is a Match violation if the coordinator uses the program director's log in credentials.
- **Institutional officials must activate the institution for participation in the Match. Once the institution is active, each program track also must be activated.** Activation may be done by the institutional official (IO), but they also have the option to direct the program director (PD) or institutional administrator (IA) to activate the program(s). This allows the IO the ability to ensure PDs confirm their participation in the Match at the program level and allows PDs to update their program directory information and the program quota in a more timely and efficient manner. During the Match, the IO must approve all quota changes, reversions, and other program changes.



Program tracks and quotas are rolled over from the previous year's Match. Confirm which program tracks will be available for this year's Match before activating and that tracks are named appropriately so applicants can distinguish individual tracks for ranking.

- **Update program application and public contact information.** This information is under the Program Directory Information tab in the R3 system. Information updated in the R3 system will be updated in the [Program Directory](#) for applicants to view. The public Program Directory is updated three times daily as program changes are made.

- **Check the [program quota](#) in the R3 system.** The quota is the number of residents NRMP will attempt to match to the program for the appointment year. The quota can be updated by the program director at any time prior to the Quota Change Deadline.

Quota Change/Withdrawal Deadline: January 30, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET

- Programs in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Vascular Surgery wishing to participate in the [Voluntary Program ROL Lock Pilot](#) can begin to sign up.
- [Watch the video](#) on the “**Institution and Program Match Process**” and [view program resources](#) and the [Match calendar](#).
- Ensure all staff involved in the interview and matching processes understand and adhere to the terms of the [Match Participation Agreement](#) and [Code of Conduct](#).
- **Consult the [Applicant Match History](#) in the R3 system to ensure all applicants who are invited for interviews are eligible for appointment.** Programs do not need to verify the eligibility of senior medical students because they have no prior Match history.
- **Remind all interviewees to register for the NRMP Main Residency Match.** Match Registration for applicants begins on September 15, 2025.
 - Provide all applicants with the correct NRMP program code(s) from the R3 system so they can rank the program. The NRMP is the authoritative source for NRMP program codes and program codes entered in the application service (ERAS, ResidencyCAS, etc.) should reflect those in the R3 system.
- **Create [Joint Advanced/Preliminary arrangements](#) in the R3 system**, if necessary. Joint A/P arrangements must be created by 11:59 p.m. ET on January 30, 2026.
- **Like and follow the NRMP** on Facebook, X, or LinkedIn for reminders and updates. Use #Match2026 in social media posts.
- **Finalize the program quota.** If the program will not participate in the Match, it must be withdrawn by the Quota Change Deadline. [Support guides and resources](#) are available to walk you through the quota and withdrawal process.

Quota Change/Withdrawal Deadline: January 30, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET

- [Set the program’s Match Week Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program® \(SOAP®\) participation status](#). NRMP encourages programs to participate in SOAP in the event some positions are not filled when the matching algorithm is processed. The SOAP participation status must be approved by the institutional official by the Quota Change Deadline.

SOAP Participation Status Deadline: January 30, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. ET

Ranking

Rank order list opens: February 2, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. ET

- **Begin [creating the program rank order list](#) (ROL) in the R3 system.** The ROL is the list of applicants, ranked in order of preference, whom the program has interviewed and wishes to train.
- **[Set up reversions in the R3 system](#)**, if necessary. Reversions must be entered and approved by the Rank Order List Certification Deadline.
- **Finalize and [certify the program rank order list](#) by the Rank Order List Certification Deadline.** To participate in the Match, the rank order list must be certified. Do not wait until the last minute to enter and certify the ROL. Program coordinators are prohibited from certifying rank order lists.

Rank Order List Certification Deadline: March 4, 2026, at 9:00 p.m. ET

- **[Learn about SOAP](#)** and join the Match Week and SOAP Listserv.

Results

Match Week: March 16-20, 2026

- **Learn if the program filled and participate in SOAP, if necessary**, on Monday, March 16, at 10:00 a.m. ET.
- **Celebrate Match Day!** Match Day is Friday, March 20. Results are available to applicants in the R3 system at 12:00 p.m. ET. Matched applicants can be contacted **after** that time. Please be mindful of Match Day ceremonies and celebrations before contacting matched applicants.