

Introduction to the 2026 Main Residency Match

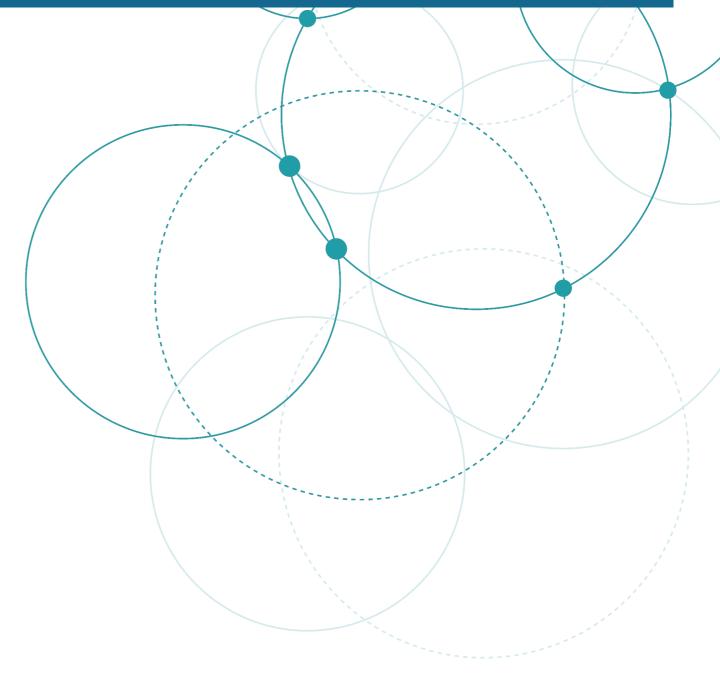
PRESENTED BY:

Jeanette L. Calli, MS, Chief of Match Operations Joy Gaabucayan, Director Policy & Compliance September 9, 2025



Agenda

- 1. About the NRMP
- 2. New for the 2026 Main Residency Match
- 3. Match Calendar
- 4. Managing Students & Graduates
- 5. Applicant Eligibility & Verification
- 6. New Match Fees
- 7. Match Policy
- 8. Applicant Match Process Overview
- 9. Resources and Support
- 10. Questions?



Who We Are

The National Resident Matching Program[®] (NRMP[®]), also known as The Match[®]

- First Match run in 1952, Incorporated in 1953
- Utilizes a proprietary matching algorithm to pair the preferences of applicants with the preferences of training programs
- Establishes and enforces policies that, above all, secure the equity of the matching process, promotes fairness and transparency, and holds participants accountable for professional behavior.



The Match was developed at the request of medical students to eliminate problems that plagued the residency recruitment process.

• Research on the NRMP algorithm was a basis for awarding the 2012 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences

About the NRMP: Board of Directors

Physician-led governance

Twenty members including:

- Medical school deans
- Program directors
- Designated institutional officials
- Public/Non-physician member(s)
- Residents/fellows
- Medical students
- President/CEO (non-voting)



Scan for information on the current call for nominations

At-large call for nominations each fall

Deadline for submissions is Friday, October 31, 2025

NRMP Matching Programs

2025 Main Residency Match®

- 47,208 active applicants
- 6,226 program tracks
- 43,237 PGY-1 and PGY-2 positions
- 94.3% overall position fill rate
- 99.4% position fill rate including the Supplemental Offer & Acceptance Program[®] (SOAP[®])

Programs must be ACGME-accredited Includes all specialties except Ophthalmology & Urology

Specialties Matching Service® (SMS®)

22 Fellowship Matches for the 2025 appointment year

- 6,334 programs in 77 subspecialties
- 14,620 positions
- 12,390 positions (84.7%) were filled
- 14,833 applicants participated in at least one fellowship Match and 83.5% obtained a position

New for the 2026 Main Residency Match

Charting Outcomes™: Medical School Report

Primary source USMLE and NBOME applicant score data

Pilot: Voluntary Locking Functionality for Program Rank Order Lists (ROL)

Medical School fees



2026 Main Residency Match Calendar

Monday, September 15 12:00 P.M. ET	Match Registration Opens for Applicants and Medical Schools in the NRMP's Registration, Ranking & Results® (R3®) system					
Wednesday, September 24	Applications available to programs using ERAS® Application Deadline for ResidencyCAS – programs in Emergency Medicine & Obstetrics-Gynecology					
Wednesday, October 1	Applications available to programs using ResidencyCAS					
Friday, January 30 11:59 P.M. ET	Standard Registration Deadline for Applicants					
Monday, February 2 12:00 P.M. ET	Applicant Verification begins for Medical Schools Ranking Opens for applicants and programs					
Wednesday, March 4 9:00 P.M. ET	 Rank Order List (ROL) Certification Deadline for Applicants & Programs Registration Deadline - Applicant late registration for the Match and SOAP and Match withdrawal deadline. Deadline to verify students and graduates as eligible for the Match 					

2026 Match Week & SOAP

Monday, March 16 10:00 A.M. ET **SOAP Begins**

Program and Applicant Match Status Released



Tuesday, March 17

Programs can review SOAP applications in their preferred application service, interview, and begin creating preference lists in NRMP

Thursday, March 19 9:00 A.M. – 9:00 P.M. ET

Four SOAP Offer Rounds

Friday, March 20

Match Day!

12:00 P.M. ET

≈ July 1

Training Begins

Managing Students and Graduates in the Match

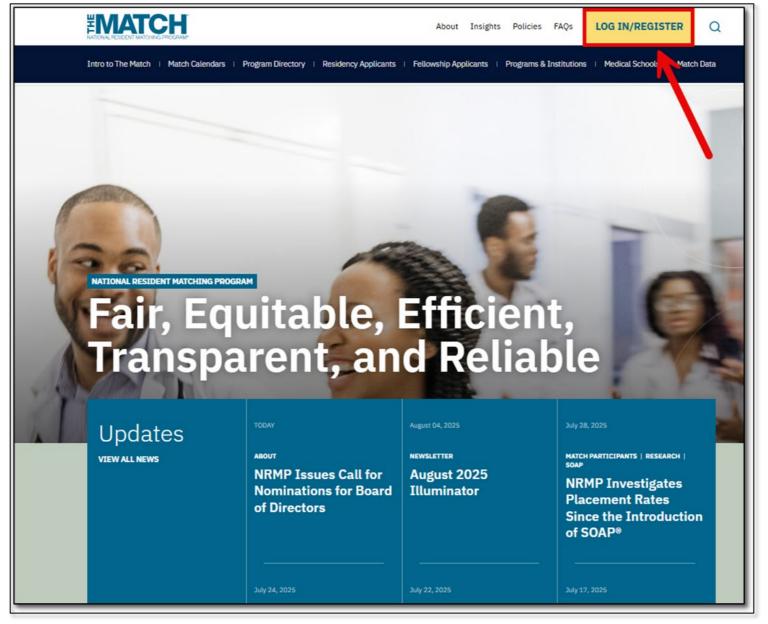


School Responsibilities

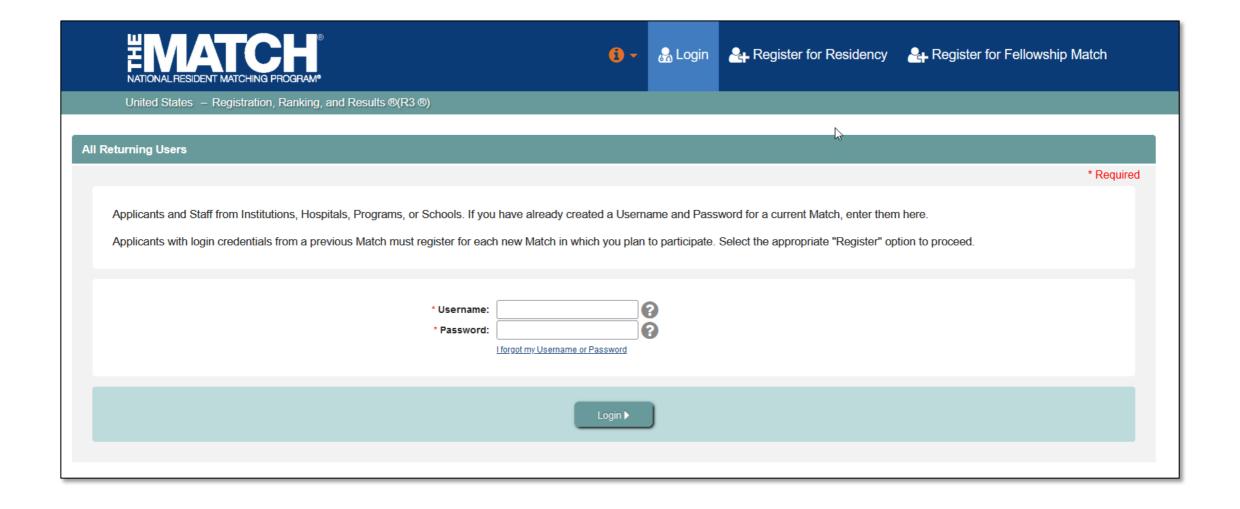
Each school or campus can have only two users in the R3 system: the School Official (SO) and the School Administrator (SA)

- Oversees the Match process and serves as the "official spokesperson" to the NRMP (SO)
- Ensures sponsored applicants complete the registration process and executes the Match Agreement (SO & SA)
 - Uploads in the R3 system a list of the school's sponsored applicants
 - Manages student and graduate participation in the Match
 - Verifies eligibility of sponsored applicants to enter GME on July 1
 - Verifies graduation for prior graduates

R3 System



R3 System



Token Link & Registration



Dear John Smith,

Welcome to the Main Residency Match. We are looking forward to another successful year! Below is information on registering for the Match and links to Match resources and reports.

Registration

All Match participants use the NRMP Registration, Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system to register for the Match, submit rank order lists of preferred programs and trainees, and obtain Match results and statistics. Click the token link below to create your individual user account in the R3 system. If you no longer are the program director, instructions are available to update the role.

Your token link: https://r3.nrmp.org/validateToken?tokenCode=FakeTokenValueForTesting&emailAddress=FakeEmail&tenantId=100

Save your username and password in a safe place, not through the password save feature in your browser. Note that the use of the program director's username and password by the program coordinator to access the R3 system is a breach of the Match Participation Agreement and could result in sanctions.

Match Resources

Once you have created your account and registered for the Match, review the Match <u>calendar of events</u> and resources contained in the Programs and Institutions section of <u>www.nrmp.org</u>, including the <u>Residency Program Checklist</u>.

Update Your Application Service Information

In light of the various application services being used by some specialties and programs, there is a requirement for programs to disclose to applicants, at the start of recruitment, the application service or process their program will require to receive applications during the Match season and the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program® (SOAP®).

Program directors will also be required to choose which application service their program(s) will be using when they register for the Main Residency Match. After program director registration, this information can be updated in the Program Directory Information tab and will be displayed to applicants in the R3 and public <u>Program Directory</u>.

Policy Updates

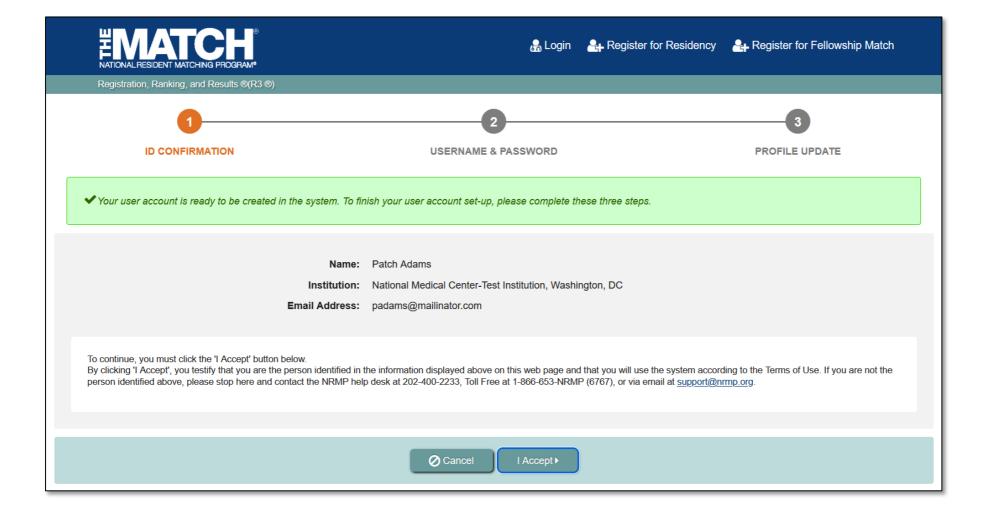
Match Agreement Updates are available on the NRMP website to learn about policy changes and clarifications for the 2025 Match cycle.

Program Reports Available

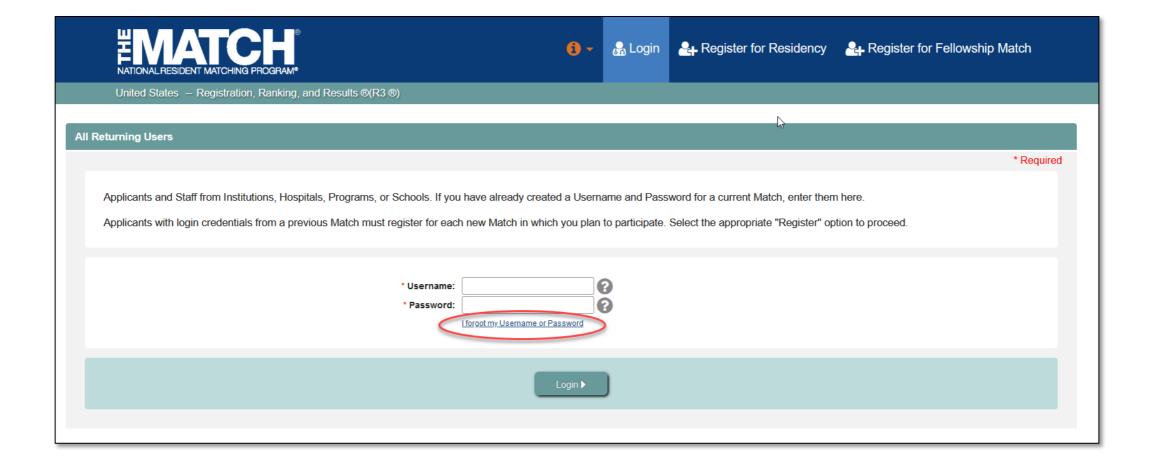
The Characteristics of Matched Residents reports will be available on September 17 in the R3 system (click "Reports" under "Options") for all programs that participated in the previous Main Residency Match

For additional data and insights into the Match, view the new Match Data section of the NRMP website

Token Link & Registration



Token Link & Registration

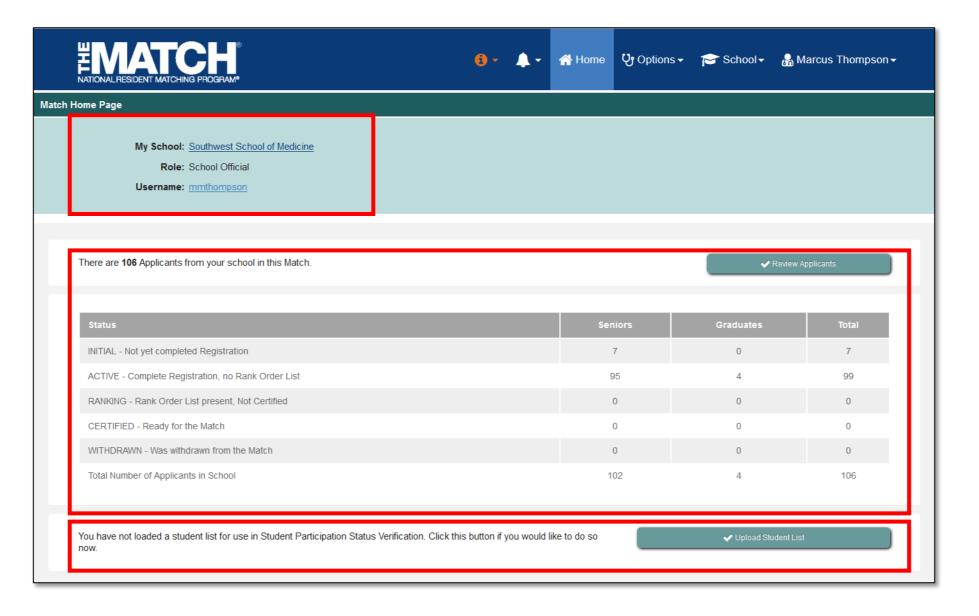


Match Participation Agreement

- Provides the rules governing the matching process
- Different versions for different users
- Important Notices provide highlights of the Match Participation Agreement (MPA)
- All Match participants must electronically sign the MPA as part of the registration process



R3 System



Uploading & Tracking Students

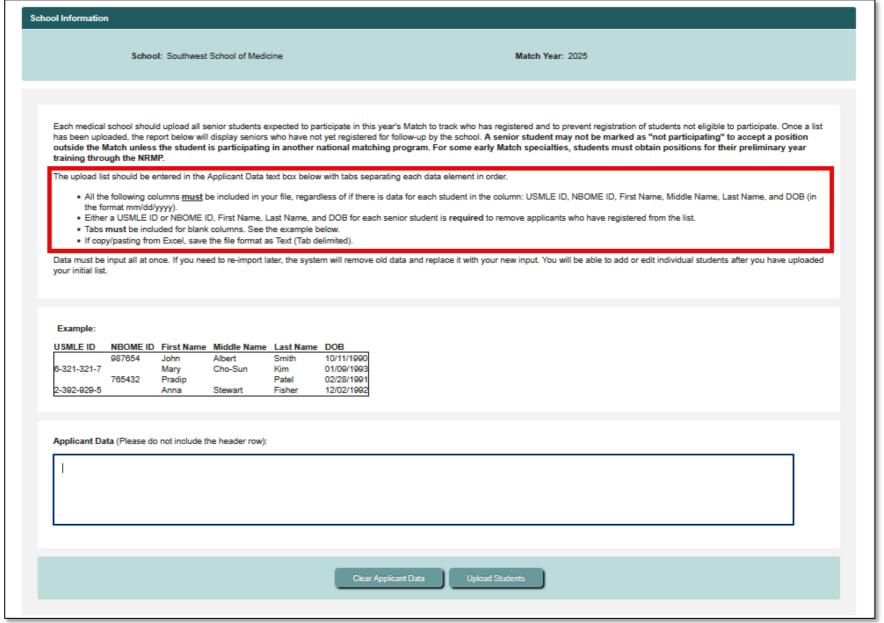
Upload a student list containing names and IDs of sponsored applicants



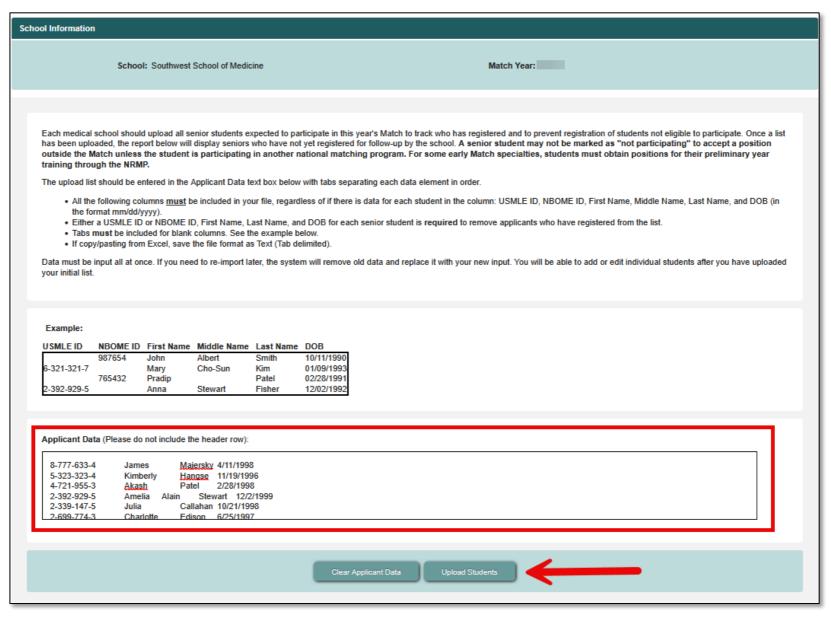
R3 system compares registered applicants to the uploaded list and removes applicants as they register

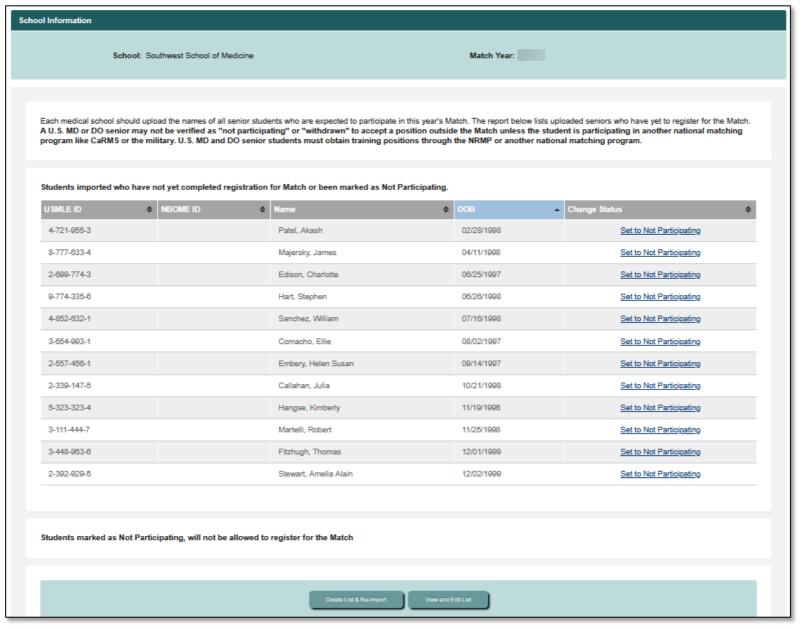


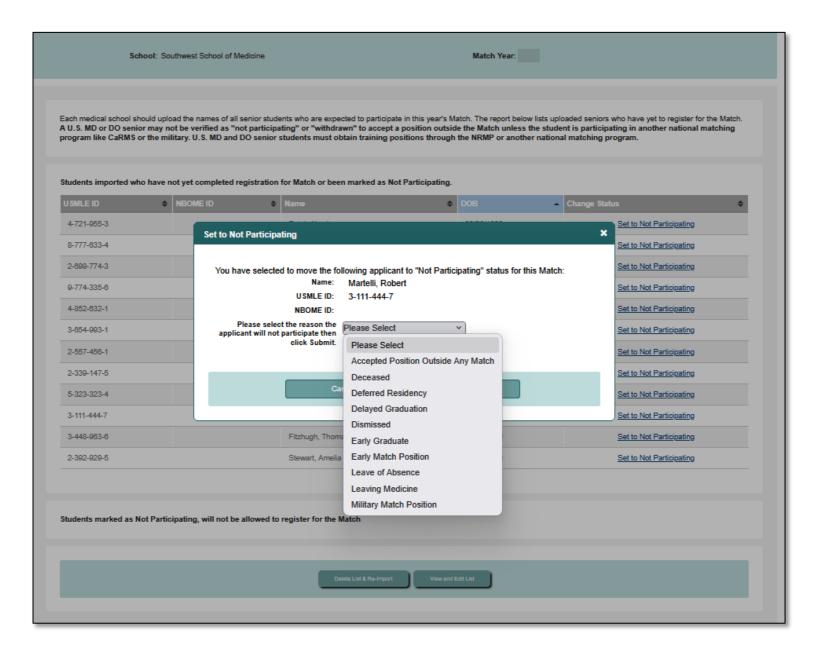
Helps SOs and SAs identify seniors who have not yet registered for the Match

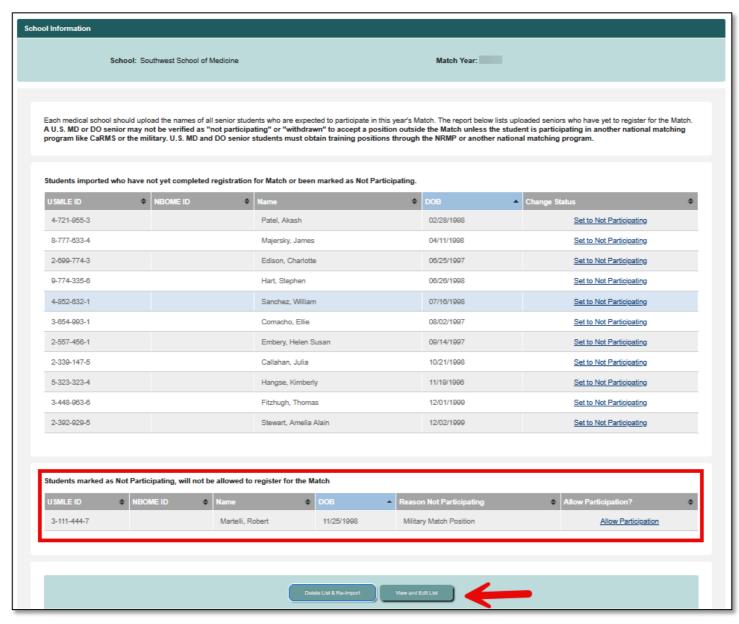


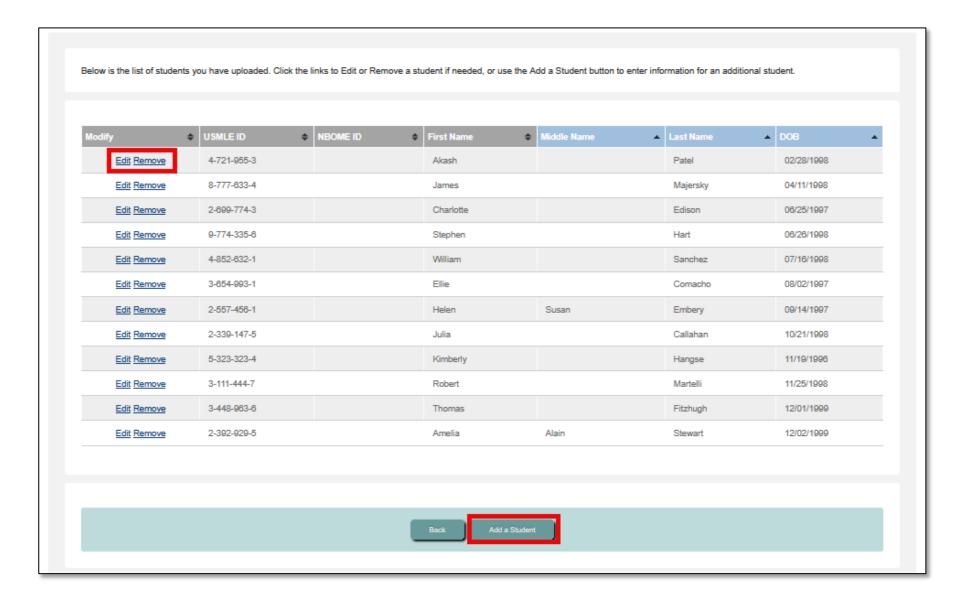
1	Α	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н
1	USMLE ID	NBOME ID	First Nam	Middle Na	Last Name	DOB		
2	8-777-633-4		James		Majersky	4/11/1998		
3	5-323-323-4		Kimberly		Hangse	11/19/1996		
4	4-721-955-3		Akash		Patel	2/28/1998		
5	2-392-929-5		Amelia	Alain	Stewart	12/2/1999		
6	2-339-147-5		Julia		Callahan	10/21/1998		
7	2-699-774-3		Charlotte		Edison	6/25/1997		
8	4-852-632-1		William		Sanchez	7/16/1998		
9	9-774-335-6		Stephen		Hart	6/26/1998		
10	2-557-456-1		Helen	Susan	Embery	9/14/1997		
11	3-654-993-1		Ellie		Comacho	8/2/1997		
12	3-111-444-7		Robert		Martelli	11/25/1998		
13	3-448-963-6		Thomas		Fitzhugh	12/1/1999		
14								
15								

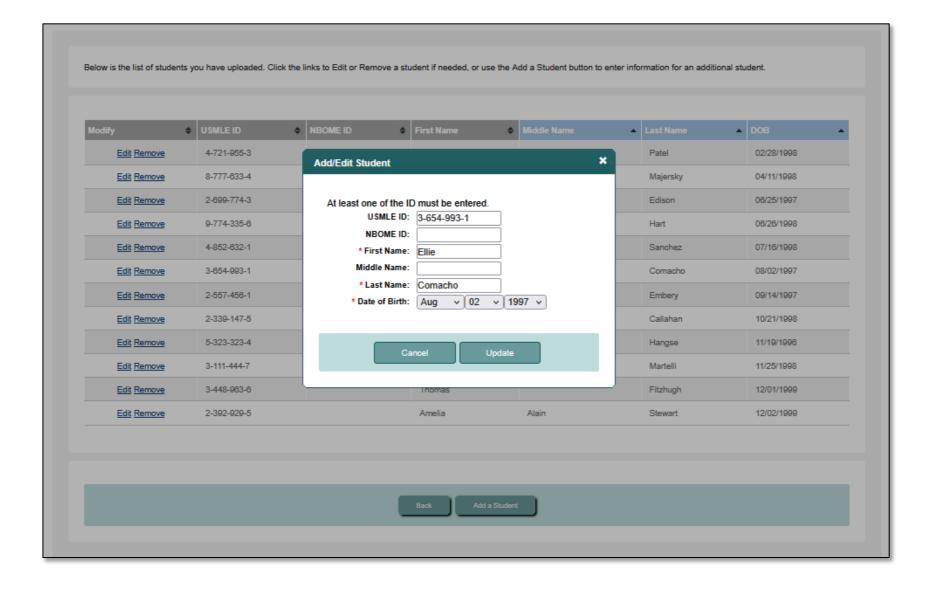


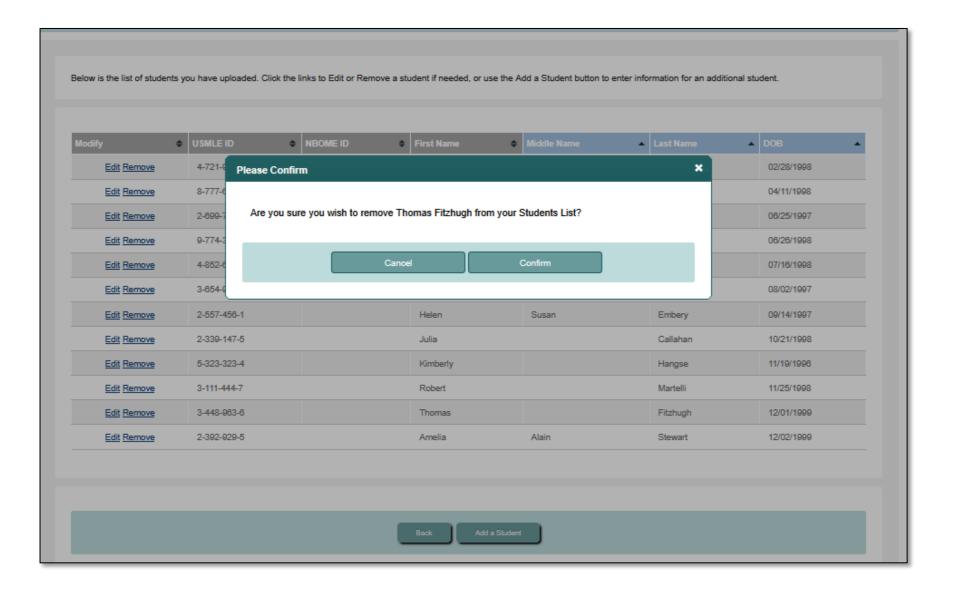


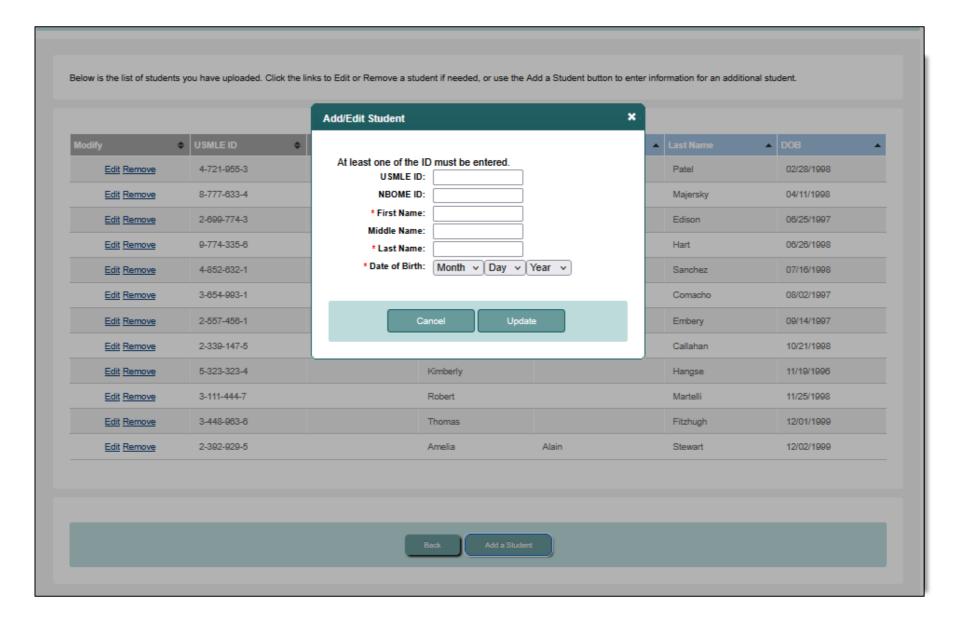






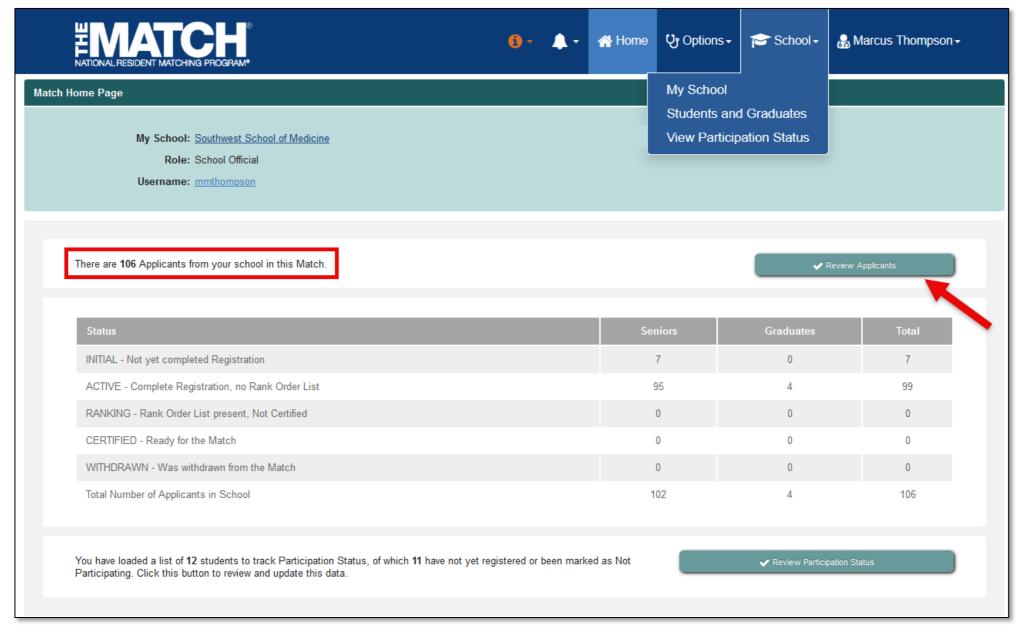


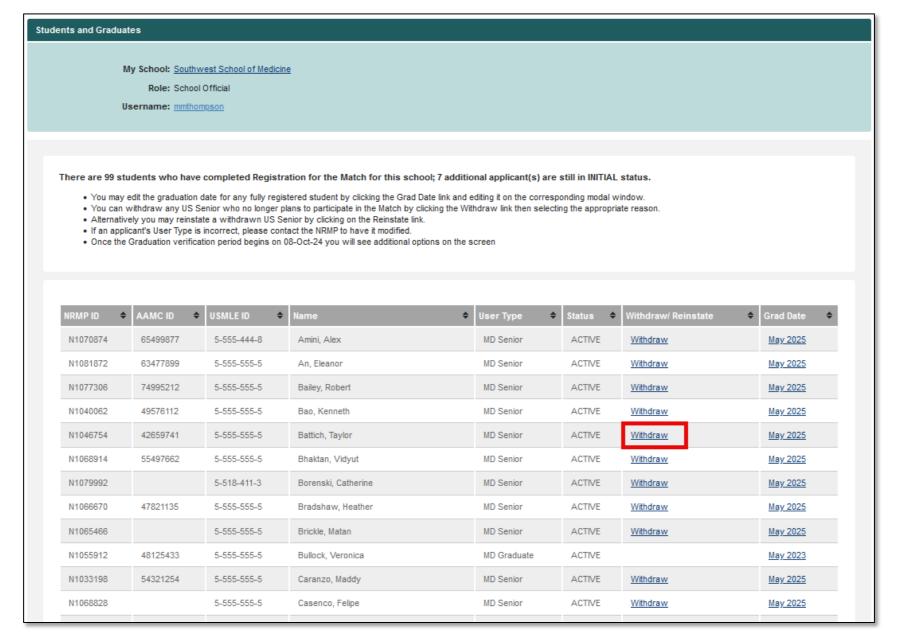


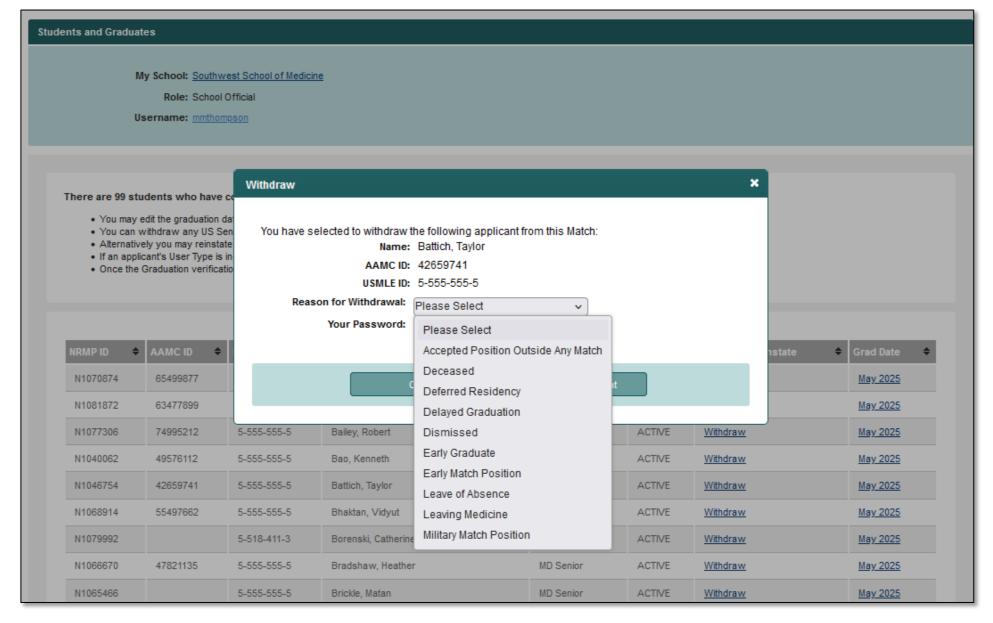


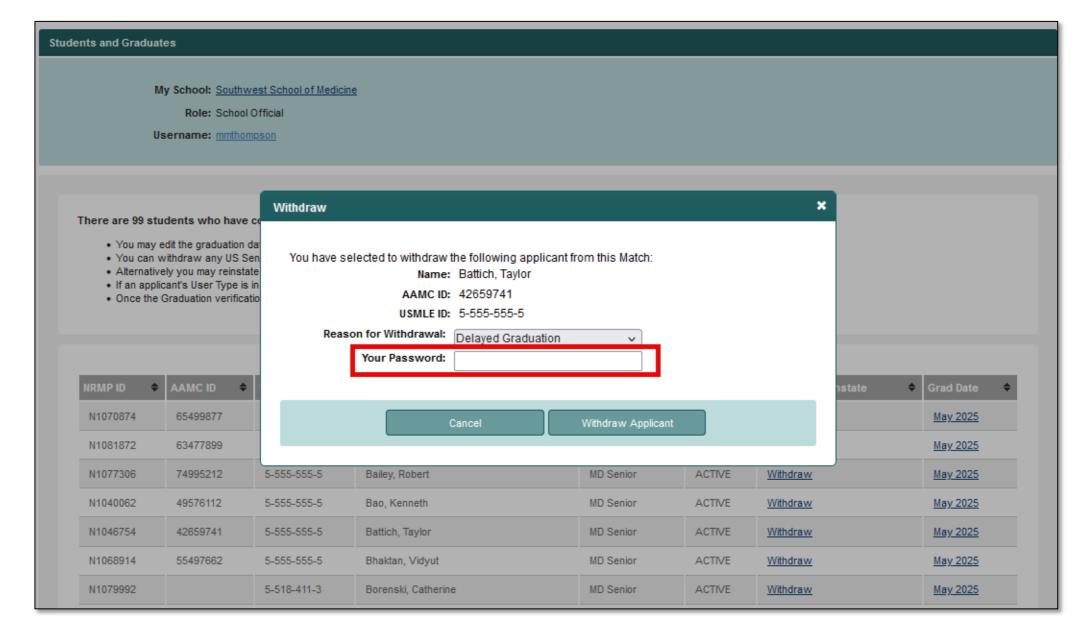
For the Main Residency Match, SOs and SAs access the Students and Graduates page in the R3 system to:

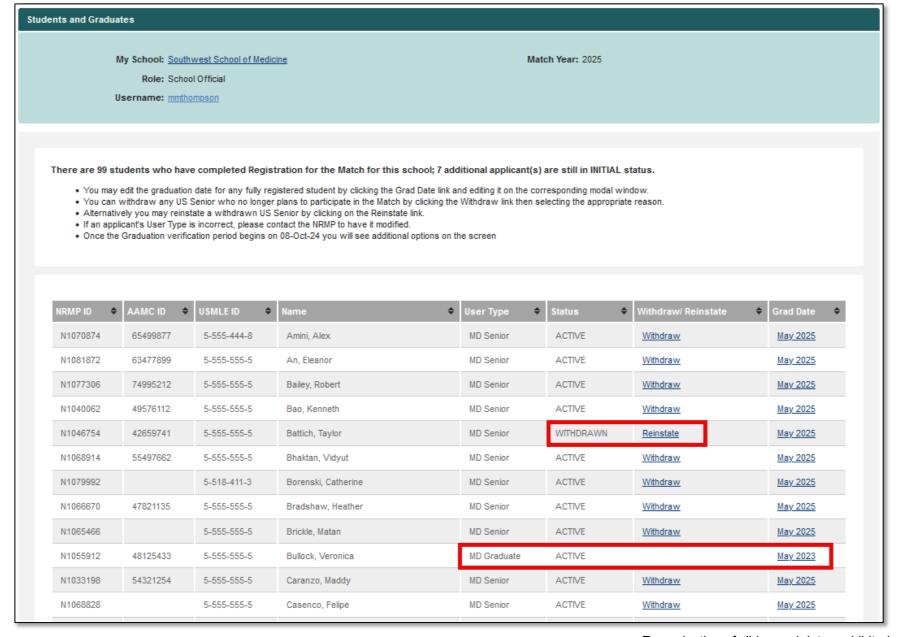
- Monitor applicants (both seniors and graduates) who have registered for the Match
- Withdraw sponsored applicants (MD and DO seniors) who are ineligible to enter GME on July 1 in the year of the Match
- Edit and update applicant graduation dates

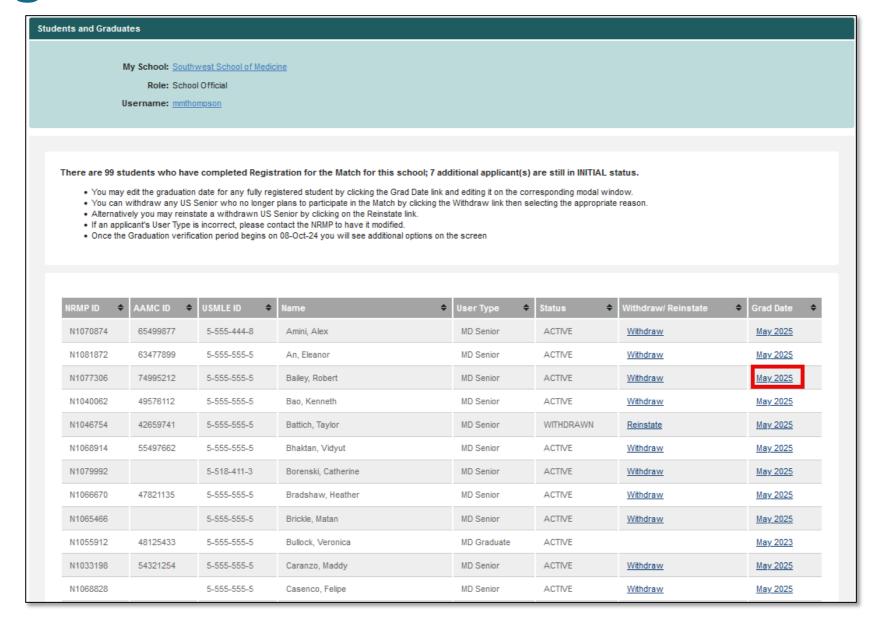


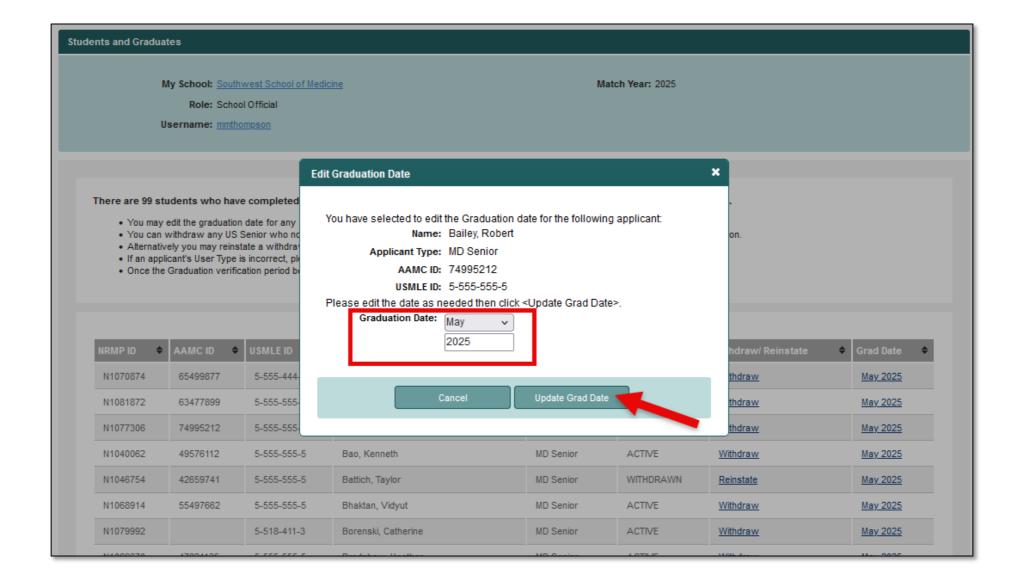












Applicant Eligibility and Verification



Applicant EligibilityVerification Begins February 2, 2026



Applicants must be registered in the NRMP and verified by March 4th to participate in the Match and SOAP.

There is no separate SOAP registration.

To participate in the Match and SOAP, applicants must register with NRMP, and be verified as eligible to enter GME on July 1, 2026

- How an applicant is verified depends on applicant type:
 - Medical Schools verify eligibility for US MD and DO Seniors and Graduates
 - ✓ The ECFMG® verifies credentials of International Medical Graduates (IMGs)
- Either the school or the NRMP withdraws applicants whose credentials are not verified by the Rank Order List (ROL) Certification Deadline of March 4, 2026
- Each sponsoring institution (e.g., a teaching hospital) may have additional eligibility requirements

Verifying Graduation Credentials

- Begins when ranking opens on February 2 at 12:00 p.m. ET
- Applicants must meet all requirements for entry into GME as required by ACGME®
- Schools may have additional graduation requirements; eligibility status must be based on school- specific criteria
- Ineligible sponsored applicants must be withdrawn
- Do not withdraw applicants unless it is known CONCLUSIVELY they will not graduate on time to enter training on July 1
- Verification must be complete by the ranking deadline on March 4 at 9:00 p.m. ET

More in the Ranking and Verification webinar scheduled for January 22, 2026 at 1:00 pm ET

New! Medical School Match Fees

Ensures continued, comprehensive support placing students into residency

- Based on the number of senior students from each school or campus who register to participate
- Tiered, flat fee
- Invoiced at the conclusion of the Match
- Enter a billing contact when you register for the Match

Seniors Registered in the 2026 Main Residency Match	Total Fee
1 – 50	\$1,750
51 – 75	\$2,000
76 – 100	\$2,250
➤ 100	\$2,500

Match Policy for Medical Schools



New Policies for the 2026 Match Cycle

For all Participant Groups:

 NRMP data, in any form, cannot be used as input to or in connect with any machine learning or AI models, algorithms or other tools without permission from NRMP. (Section 1.0)

For Medical Schools:

- Creation of the Registered Applicants Fee (Section 4.2)
- Elimination of the USMLE/COMLEX score verification process. NRMP now has data usage agreements in place with NBME and NBOME to receive primary sourced score data, so school officials no longer have to verify applicant scores for purposes of NRMP research and reporting.

Completeness, Timeliness and Accuracy of Information

School Officials are responsible under the MPA (Section 5.0) for ensuring the accuracy of information exchanged between medical schools and programs.

- Communicate with clarity! At all times, medical school officials must be transparent with programs and convey all information related to an applicant's medical school experience.
 - Be sure the Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) contains complete and accurate information about an applicant's journey, highlighting all academic and personal events that could bear on a program's consideration of the applicant's candidacy.
 - Create and upload an addendum to an MSPE if the school has confirmed knowledge the MSPE, as written, is no longer accurate.
 - Contact a program, even if after a student has matched, if there is something about the student's status (e.g., delayed graduation, transfer) that will impact the student entering the program.

Accurate information must be maintained and communicated, verbally and in writing, throughout the application, interview, ranking, matching, and onboarding processes!

Applicant Match Process Overview



Applying to Programs

NRMP and the different application services are separate organizations with separate systems.

- The most widely-used application service is the AAMC's Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS®)
- ResidencyCAS is the application service being used by OB/Gyn and Emergency Medicine programs



Applicants apply and programs review applications and supporting materials in the application system used by the program, NOT in the NRMP's R3 system

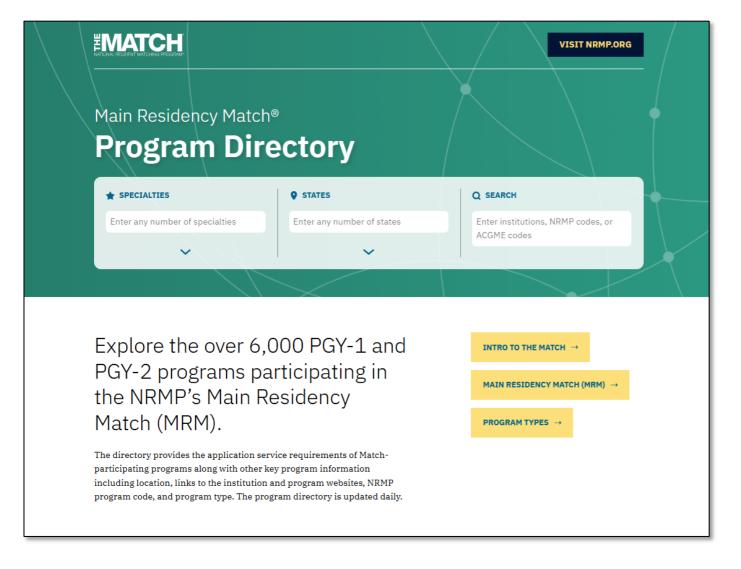
- NRMP is the matching service where applicants will register, rank programs, and receive Match results
- NRMP manages SOAP. SOAP applications are provided through the different application services

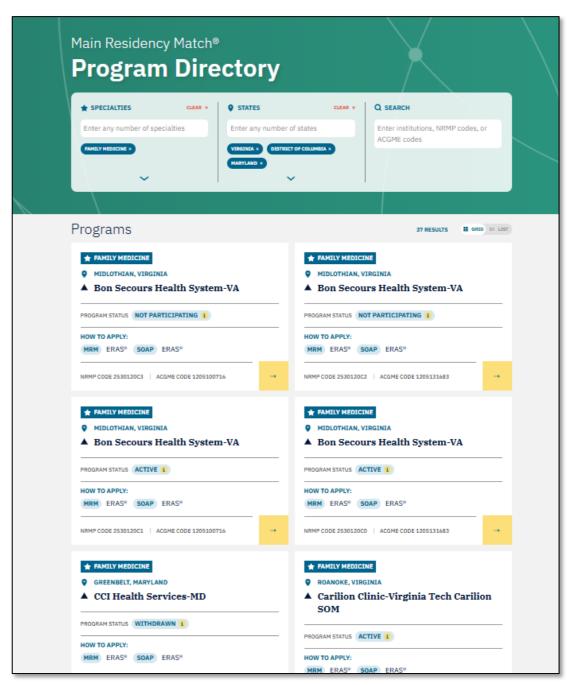
Programs and applicants register for both the application and the Match separately

Types of Programs in the Match

Categorical	С	Training that is 3-7 years in length, begins in the PGY-1 year, and leads to specialty board certification.
Primary Care Categorical	M	Categorical programs in primary care offered by some <u>Internal</u> <u>Medicine</u> and <u>Pediatrics</u> programs.
Preliminary	P	Training that is one year in length in transitional, medicine, surgery, or other specialty programs and provides the prerequisite training for advanced programs.
Advanced	Α	Training that is 3-4 years in length in specialty programs that begin after one or more years of preliminary training. Advanced positions in the 2026 Match are PGY-2 positions that begin in 2027.
Reserved-Physician	R	Training in specialty programs reserved for physicians with prior graduate medical education and who can enter advanced training in the year of the Match. Reserved-Physician positions in the 2026 Match are PGY-2 positions that begin in 2026.

NRMP Program Directory programdirectory.nrmp.org





New! Voluntary Locking Functionality for Program Rank Order Lists (ROL)

Internal Medicine, Pediatrics, and Vascular Surgery are participating in the pilot



Programs announce their intention to participate in the pilot



Lock could be implemented voluntarily by a program anytime after ranking opens and either before the first post-interview or by Feb.9

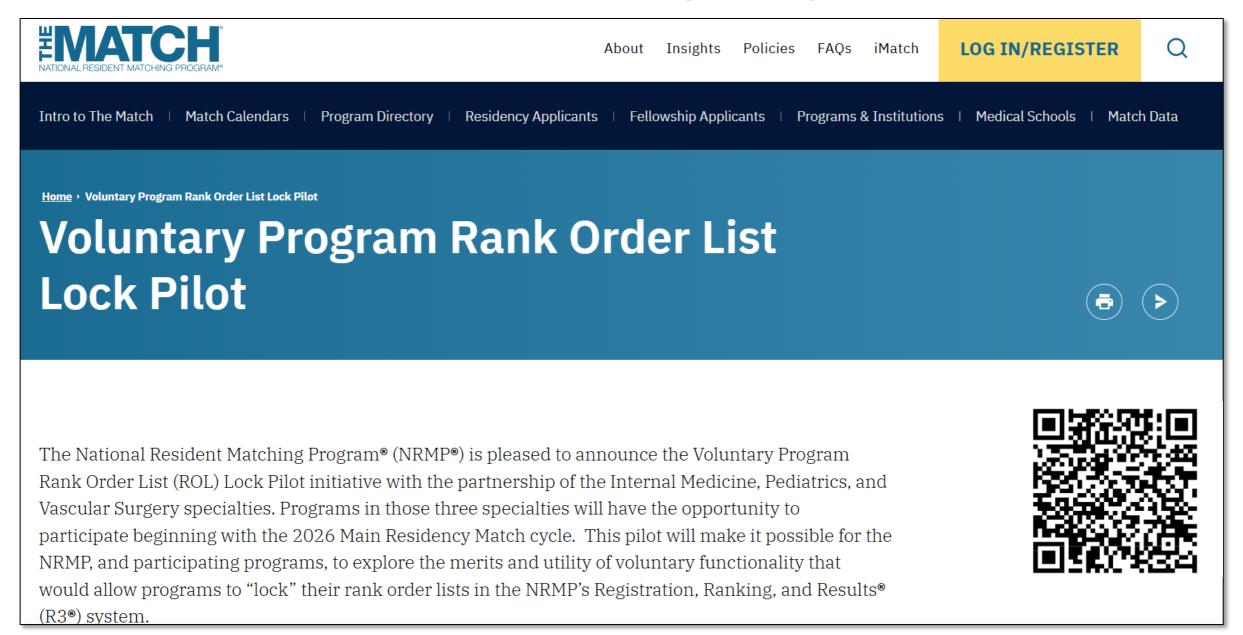


Program's participation and lock status will be indicated to applicants and medical schools in the NRMP's R3 system



ROL must be certified before being locked and once locked, the ROL cannot be changed. Locking is irreversible.

Please check out the website or contact pilot@nrmp.org with additional questions.



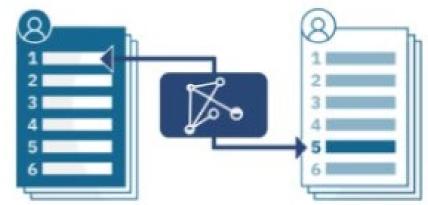
https://www.nrmp.org/voluntary-program-rank-order-list-lock-pilot/

Making the Match

The matching algorithm is applicant proposing - the process begins with an attempt to match an applicant to the program ranked #1 by that applicant



- the program has unfilled positions <u>or</u>
- the program is filled <u>but</u> the applicant is ranked higher than another applicant already matched tentatively to the program





Main Residency Match Week and SOAP

- Match Week is March 16 20, 2026
- Begins at 10:00 a.m. ET on Monday and ends at 12:00 p.m. ET on Friday when applicants and programs learn the results of the Match
- Positions unfilled after the matching algorithm has been processed are offered to eligible applicants through SOAP



What is SOAP?

SOAP is not another Match

Applicants apply to programs using ERAS, ResidencyCAS, or the application designated by the program

Programs review applications, contact applicants of interest, and express preferences with lists of applicants created in the R3 system

Unfilled positions are offered to eligible applicants on the program's preference list in a series of four rounds

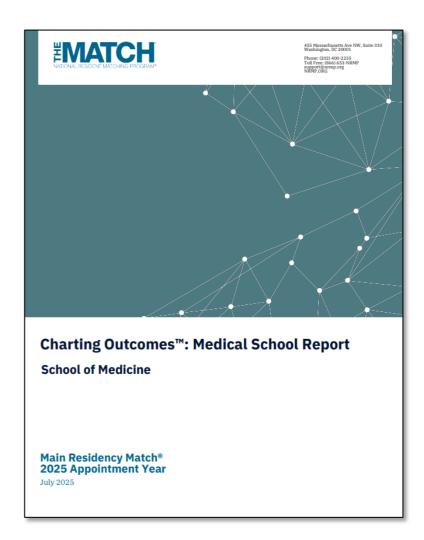
Positions offered and accepted constitute a binding commitment under the Match Participation Agreement

Resources and Support



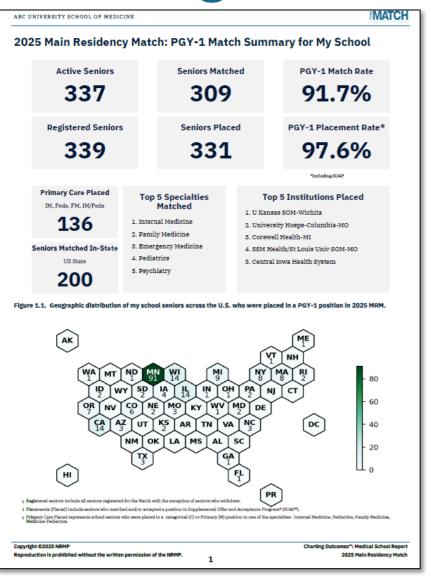
R3 Reports

- New! Custom Report: Charting Outcomes[™]: Medical School Report for the 2025 Main Residency Match®
- Characteristics of Matched Seniors
- Seniors/Graduates Registered in the Match
- Seniors with Certified Rank Order Lists/Seniors without Certified ROL
- Withdrawn Applicants/Withdrawn Seniors

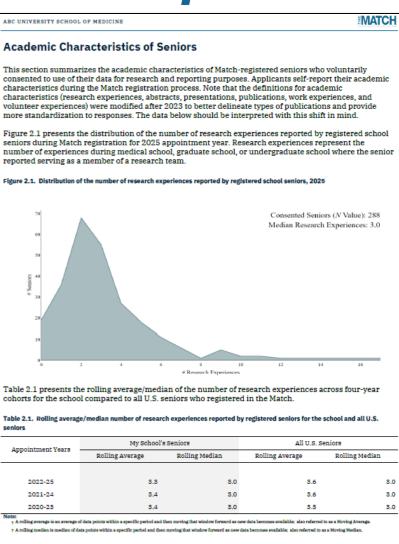


2025 Main Residency Match

Charting Outcomes™: Medical School Report



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Seniors	#	96	# %		6			% #		% # 9		
Active Seniors 1	29 9	7.7	136	96.	5 1	51	96.2	125	92.6	132	95.0	
		3.3	126	89.		144	91.7	117	86.7	124	89.2	
		4.4	10	7.		7	4.5	8	5.9	8	5.8	
Withdrew	3	2.3	4	2.	3	6	3.8	7	5.2	7	5.0	
No Rank List	0	0.0	1	0.1	7	0	0.0	3	2.2	0	0.0	
Total 1	32 10	0.0	141	100.	0 1	.57 1	.00.0	135	100.0	139	100.0	
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	total act	ive sen	iors.			ied pos	ition typ	e. Per	cent (%)	column		
Table 1.2. Senior Match outcomes b	y matche	tive sen d positio	iors. n type	2021 -	2025	202	28	20	24	202	25	
Table 1.2. Senior Match outcomes b	y matche	d positio	iors. n type	2021 – 2022	2025	201	23 %	20	24 %	202	%	
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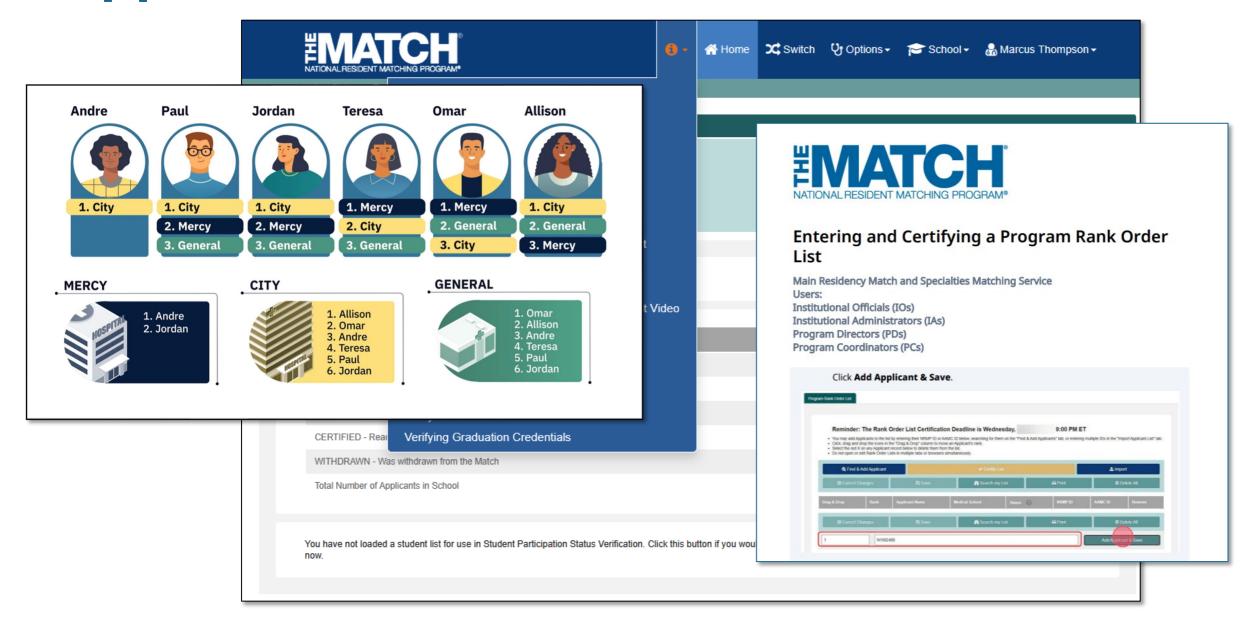
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Data Resources

- Charting Outcomes™: Characteristics of Applicants Who Match to Their Preferred Specialty
- Charting Outcomes™: Applicant Survey Results, 2025 Main Residency Match®
- Results and Data: 2025 Main Residency Match®



Support Guides & Video Resources



Calendars and Web Resources

- Match Calendars: general and detailed versions outlining Match milestones and deadlines <u>www.nrmp.org/match-calendars</u>
- Match Checklists, Support Guides, and FAQs: important deadlines, reminders, frequently asked questions, and step-by-step instructions

www.nrmp.org/help

 Medical Schools: information about managing applicants, verifying graduation, SOAP, and Match Week

www.nrmp.org/medical-schools

 Policies and Compliance: access to current Match Participation Agreements, Codes of Conduct, Waiver and Violations Policies

www.nrmp.org/policies

Transition to Residency: Conversations Across the Medical Education Continuum

Theme: Changing World. Changing Vision

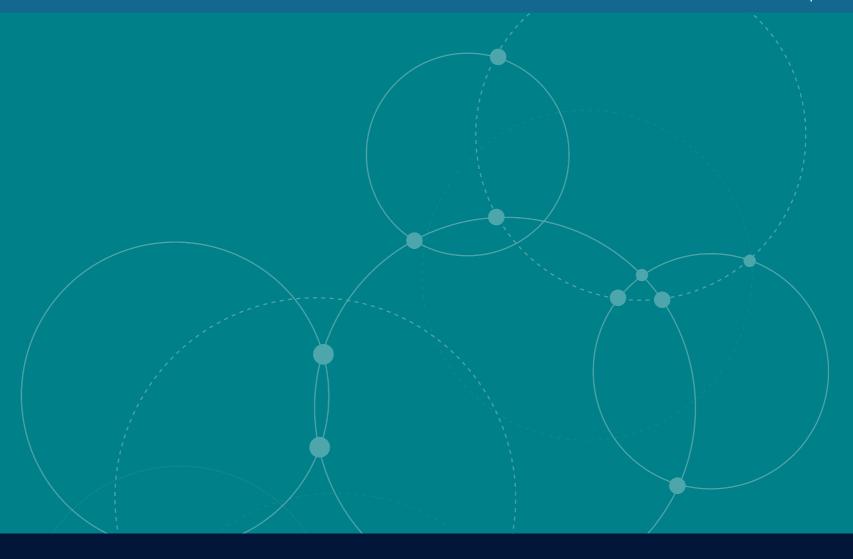
- October 11-12, 2025
- We will explore how a new administration, shifts in health policy focus and priorities, and changes in the transition to residency landscape may be impacting our collective efforts to educate and train the next cohort of physicians.
- Scan QR code for more details!



Questions?



Thank You!



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