Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program® (SOAP®)

2026 Guide for Residency Programs

The Match Week Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP) is the process for offering positions that are unfilled after the matching algorithm has been processed to eligible unmatched and partially matched applicants. The National Resident Matching Program® (NRMP®) manages SOAP in the Registration, Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system, and SOAP applications are delivered to unfilled programs through the application service (e.g. ERAS, ResidencyCAS) designated by the residency program. Only unfilled programs that previously indicated in the R3 system that they will take part in SOAP can participate.

Application Services

Application services participating in SOAP include:

- AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) Electronic Residency Application Service® (ERAS®), providing application services for programs in all Match-participating specialties besides Emergency Medicine, EM Combined Specialties, and Obstetrics and Gynecology; and
- ResidencyCAS, providing application services for programs in Emergency Medicine, EM Combined Specialties, and Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Program directors were prompted during NRMP Match registration to choose which application service or process their program(s) will be using. This information is displayed in the **Program Directory** on the NRMP website and on the SOAP *List of Unfilled Programs* in the NRMP's R3 system. If the designated application service has not been provided or needs updating, please **log into the R3 system** and update your Program Directory Information tab in preparation for Match Week and SOAP.

With multiple application services participating in SOAP, each application service will display to applicants all the unfilled programs using that service for SOAP. Applicants are responsible for ensuring they apply only to positions for which they are eligible, as shown on the SOAP *List of Unfilled Programs* in the NRMP's R3 system.

To ensure applicants are eligible, programs can view whether an applicant is eligible for a SOAP position by searching in the **Applicant Match History** tool in the R3 system. Programs will not be able to add an ineligible applicant to their preference list.

All application services will adhere to the same SOAP schedule. SOAP applications will be available for unfilled programs to begin reviewing in their designated application service on Tuesday, March 17, at 8 a.m. ET.

The NRMP does not manage the application process, and you cannot access SOAP applications in the NRMP's R3 system. All application questions must be directed to the appropriate application service provider at the contact information provided below.

AAMC ERAS® Program

The AAMC ERAS® program provides participating residency programs with resources, presents webinars, and shares information to help unfilled programs prepare for and participate in SOAP. Programs are encouraged to review:

- **ERAS Program SOAP information**
- 2026 SOAP Schedule
- ERAS email for residency programs with SOAP information

For assistance before or during SOAP, programs can contact the AAMC Support Center by phone Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET, or **anytime online**.

ResidencyCAS

ResidencyCAS provides participating residency programs with resources and shares information to help unfilled programs prepare for and participate in SOAP. We encourage programs to review SOAP resources on the **ResidencyCAS website**, where they will find:

- The SOAP Schedule
- Pre-SOAP Tasks
- What to Do During SOAP
- SOAP Resources for ResidencyCAS Programs

For assistance before or during SOAP, please contact the ResidencyCAS Support at **ResidencyCAS Support**, or call 617-612-2870.

Policy Rules for all SOAP-participating Residency Programs

- Applications for SOAP-eligible applicants *must* be submitted using the application service designated by the program.
- Except for submission of the application, neither applicants nor their representatives may contact or communicate with the program until the program has first initiated contact with the applicant.
  - Programs receiving communication from an applicant or their representative before contacting the applicant must report the communication to **policy@nrmp.org**.
- Programs may initiate contact with SOAP-eligible applicants only after receiving their application during SOAP. Programs can contact applicants by phone, email, or however they choose.
- 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.
- Only SOAP-eligible applicants applying to programs during SOAP may be offered unfilled positions before the conclusion of SOAP on Thursday, March 19, at 9 p.m. ET. During this time, all positions must be offered and accepted only through the R3 system.
- After SOAP concludes, programs can create positions for *partially matched applicants* to create a full course of training.

Prepare for SOAP

Review SOAP Policies, Schedule, and Resources with Staff
Identify staff who will assist in the selection of applicants for your program's SOAP preference list. If your program is unfilled, ensure staff understand the SOAP process and the NRMP's SOAP policies.

NRMP's *List of Unfilled Programs*
SOAP-eligible unmatched and partially matched applicants can access the *List of Unfilled Programs* in the R3 system on Monday, March 16, at 10 a.m. ET. The NRMP is the authoritative source for applicant SOAP eligibility status. Applicants are responsible for ensuring they apply only to positions for which they are eligible, as shown on the SOAP *List of Unfilled Programs* in the NRMP's R3 system.

SOAP Resources for Programs
2026 Match Week and SOAP Schedule
NRMP Program Pitfalls for SOAP

During SOAP

Review Applications
- Applicants may begin submitting applications via the required application service designated by the programs on Monday, March 16, at 11 a.m. ET.
  - Applicants may apply to new programs or reapply to programs that received their applications during the regular season.
- Programs may begin reviewing applications in their designated application service on Tuesday, March 17, at 8 a.m. ET.
  - To avoid interviewing ineligible applicants, programs can view whether an applicant is eligible for a SOAP position by searching in the **Applicant Match History** tool in the R3 system.
  - Programs can search for individual applicants or use the bulk upload option to search for multiple applicants at once using name and NRMP ID. The type of positions for which an applicant is eligible will be

displayed in the search results.
  - o The R3 system allows programs to add only applicants who are eligible for their unfilled positions to the program's preference list (e.g., excluding partially matched applicants who may not be eligible for certain position types).
- Programs should review and evaluate applications and initiate contact with eligible applicants to schedule an interview or obtain additional information.

Create Preference Lists in the NRMP's R3 system
- Programs can begin creating preference lists in the NRMP's R3 system on Tuesday, March 17, at 11:30 a.m. ET. Preference lists are used to offer positions to applicants during a SOAP Round.
  - o ***Creating a Preference List*** support guide
  - o Programs will not be able to add applicants who are not eligible to their preference list.
- Preference lists can be created with more applicants than remaining unfilled positions and can be modified before each round.
- All SOAP Offer Rounds will take place on Thursday, March 19. *Preference lists must be certified no later than five minutes before an Offer Round begins*. Preference lists must be certified by:
  - o Round 1: 8:55 a.m. ET
  - o Round 2: 11:55 a.m. ET
  - o Round 3: 2:55 p.m. ET
  - o Round 4: 5:55 p.m. ET
- Program coordinators may create preference lists, but only program directors can certify preference lists.

Offer Rounds in the R3 system
- Offers will be sent to applicants on Thursday, March 19, at 9 a.m. ET (Round 1), 12 p.m. ET (Round 2), 3 p.m. ET (Round 3), and 6 p.m. ET (Round 4).
  - o Positions will be offered to applicants in order of a program's preference list and according to the number of unfilled positions remaining in the program.
  - o Applicants have the full two hours to accept or reject offers.
  - o Applicants can receive multiple offers in any Offer Round.
  - o An offer rejected by an applicant will **not** be sent to the next available applicant on the program's preference list until the next Offer Round.
  - o Preference Lists should be monitored and applicants added as necessary to ensure there are enough available applicants in advance of each round. View the ***Monitoring a Preference List*** support guide.
  - o Offers that are not accepted or rejected at the end of each SOAP Round will automatically expire and expired offers will not be extended again to the same applicant in future SOAP Offer Rounds.

THE **MATCH**
NATIONAL RESIDENT MATCHING PROGRAM®

ERAS
A PROGRAM OF THE AAMC

RESIDENCYCAS
CENTRALIZED APPLICATION SERVICE

- The R3 system updates preference lists in real time, showing whether applicants have accepted or rejected offers.
  - Applicants who have accepted another program's offer will show as "unavailable" on a program's preference list.
- Email notifications will be sent to programs when an offer is accepted.
- The number of applicants available on a preference list can change in each SOAP Round. Program directors are encouraged to monitor their lists and add applicants as necessary.

Post-SOAP

- The post-SOAP *List of Unfilled Programs* will be accessible to program directors and institutional officials on Thursday, March 19, at 8:30 p.m. ET in the R3 system. All unfilled programs, regardless of their participation in SOAP, will be displayed.
  - Programs may remove unfilled positions from the *List* if they do not intend to fill them before the *List* is released to applicants.
  - Programs may update the *List* as positions are filled after SOAP concludes.
  - ***Updating Unfilled Positions*** support guide
- The *List of Unfilled Programs* will become available on Thursday, March 19, at 9 p.m. ET to all unmatched and partially matched applicants, regardless of their SOAP eligibility.

Additional Resources

NRMP: SOAP Resources | Support: **support@nrmp.org**, 866-653-NRMP (6767), 202-400-2233 | **@TheNRMP**

AAMC ERAS Program: Resources | Support : the AAMC Support Center, 202-828-0413 | **@ERASinfo**

ResidencyCAS: Resources | Support: **ResidencyCAS Support**, 617-612-2870 | **@LiaisonEDU**