



Policy Corner – January 2026

Complete, Timely, and Accurate Information

With the 2026 Main Residency Match cycle in full swing, it is important that all Match participants remember to provide complete, timely, and accurate information throughout the recruitment, interview, ranking, matching, and onboarding processes. To that end, we want to highlight key elements of the NRMP's policies on the topic and provide clarification on common questions.

Important Elements to the Policy:

- *Programs must disclose their required application service(s)/process(es) at the start of recruitment for both the Main Residency Match and SOAP. (Section 6.3.1 – Match Agreement for Programs)*
- *Programs must provide a copy of the appointment agreement matched applicants will be expected to sign, if available, prior to the Rank Order List Certification Deadline. Applicants must be notified of any subsequent material changes. (Section 6.3.1 – Match Agreement for Programs)*
- *Programs must communicate, in writing, all institutional policies regarding eligibility criteria (e.g. expected credentials, pre-employment testing, background checks, licensure, etc.) applicants would complete if matched to the program and obtain signed confirmation from interviewees prior to the Rank Order List Certification Deadline. (Section 6.3.1 – Match Agreement for Programs)*
- *Applicants must submit complete, timely, and accurate information through the 45th day following the start date as listed in the appointment contract for the position obtained through the Match or SOAP. Information to disclose includes, among other things, anything that could impact the ability to satisfy program requirements; circumstances that may delay or adversely impact an applicant's ability to commence training; or information relevant to licensure status or visa status. (Section 6.3 – Match Agreement for Applicants)*
- *Medical schools also must submit complete, timely, and accurate information. School officials must report to the program(s) any change in academic status, graduation date, or eligibility for applicants who have matched or accepted a position through SOAP. (Section 5.2 – Match Agreement for Schools)*

Frequently Asked Questions by Programs around Complete, Timely, and Accurate Information:

Are programs required to obtain a signed (electronic or written acknowledgement of institution and program policies and eligibility requirements from all applicants or only those who interview with the program?

Programs should obtain signed (electronic or written) acknowledgement of receipt from all applicants they interview. Programs are not required to obtain the signature of applicants they did not interview; however, programs should ensure the information is made available via electronic (website) or written means.

When should programs provide institutional policies, program policies, and eligibility requirements to applicants?

Information pertaining to institutional policies, program policies, and eligibility requirements should be made available to all applicants at the start of the transition cycle. This can be easily accomplished by posting the information to the program's website. Policy information and eligibility requirements must be provided to all applicants who interview with a program prior to the Rank Order List Certification Deadline, or an offer extended during SOAP.

What if my program makes changes to our eligibility requirements after interviews? ie, types of visas sponsored.

Programs are free to implement eligibility requirements as it sees fit. The NRMP simply expects that programs will convey those policy changes to all applicants interviewed.

Do programs have to disclose the application process(es) they intend to use for both Main Match and SOAP to applicants?

Yes, NRMP policy requires that all programs inform applicants about the specific application service(s) or process(es) they intend to use during the 2026 Main Residency Match and SOAP.

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 2026 Main Residency Match cycle.