



Policy Corner – February 2026

Important Reminders for Ranking

Ranking opens February 2, 2026, at 12 p.m. ET, for the 2026 Main Residency Match, and we want to provide programs and applicants with some key reminders about the rank order list submission process.

Important Considerations for Programs:

- Ensure each applicant placed on your rank order list meets requirements for licensure, as published by the program's state Licensure Board.
- Confirm and accurately message your institution's willingness and/or ability to sponsor the visa type requested or intended by any non-U.S. citizen applicant you intend to rank.
- Communicate, in writing, all institutional policies regarding eligibility criteria (e.g. expected credentials, pre-employment screenings, background checks, etc.) applicants must meet if matched to the program. Programs shall obtain signed acknowledgment from interviewees that all pertinent information has been provided.
- Programs must certify their rank order lists by March 4, 2026, at 9 p.m. ET. This deadline applies to Ranking and certifying applicants, entering, and approving reversions and Institutional officials approving program changes.

Important Considerations for Applicants:

- Confirm the willingness of any institution you rank to sponsor the appropriate visa if you are in need.
- Rank only those programs where you are willing to start training in good faith (i.e., with the intent to complete training) on the date specified in the appointment agreement.
- Adhere to the withdrawal deadline if you no longer wish to participate in the Match. The deadline to withdraw from the Match is the same as Rank Order List Certification Deadline: March 4, 2026, by 9 p.m. ET. Independent applicants can withdraw by logging into the R3 system and completing the [withdrawal process](#); however, sponsored applicants (U.S. MD and DO seniors) must be withdrawn by their school official.

Lastly, both applicants and programs should remember that their ranking preferences are confidential. While they are free to voluntarily communicate how they may rank each other, neither party is obligated to share ranking intentions and preferences, nor should they be asked to do so.

For questions regarding Match policies, please visit the [Match Policies](#) page on the NRMP website for access to Match Participation Agreements as well as the Match [Codes of Conduct](#) for best practices during recruitment and ranking. You also can contact NRMP Policy at policy@nrmp.org. We are here to help and look forward to supporting you throughout the 2026 Main Residency Match.