

# Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP) and the Rank Order List (ROL)

Information and strategies for obtaining the best  
possible results

Presented by the Office of Student Professional Development (OSPD)

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# What is SOAP?

SOAP is the National Residency Matching Program's<sup>®</sup> (NRMP) Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program

\*\*\*It is not a second match, but a series of offers made by unfilled programs

# SOAP Eligibility

- Must be registered for the NRMP Main Residency Match
- Must be eligible to enter residency training on July 1, 2017
- Must be partially matched or fully unmatched on Monday, March 13
- Must have a passing score reported for all United States Medical Licensing Examination<sup>®</sup> (USMLE) examinations
- You **MUST** complete your registration in the Main Residency Match<sup>®</sup> (User Status = ACTIVE) and have your [credentials verified](#) by the Rank Order List Deadline in order to participate in SOAP.

## SOAP Eligible Applicants:

- Applicants are notified of their SOAP eligibility status by the Friday before Match Week (March 10)
- Can access the List of Unfilled Programs
- Can apply only to unfilled Match-participating programs that are participating in SOAP
- Are prohibited from using any means other than the AAMC's Electronic Residency Application Service<sup>®</sup> to apply to and contact programs
- Can apply to non-Match participating programs after Match Week.

## SOAP-Ineligible Applicants:

- Cannot apply to any Match-participating programs, regardless of program's SOAP participation status, until SOAP concludes
- ERAS will not send application to SOAP-participating programs, and applicants are prohibited from contacting those programs during Match Week
- Can apply to non-Match participating programs
  - Beginning at 1:00 pm ET Monday of Match Week
  - Phone, fax, email, or other methods of communication can be used
  - SOAP-ineligible applicants are prohibited from accepting a position before 12:00pm ET on Wednesday of Match Week.

## How SOAP Works

- List of Unfilled Programs distributed through NRMP's Registration, Ranking and Results system (R3)
- Applicants express interest in programs by applying using ERAS
- Program directors can accept application only through ERAS and can offer positions only through SOAP
- The R3 system uses a series of rounds to offer positions in order of programs' preferred applicants and according to number of unfilled positions remaining in the program during each round
- Applicants can receive multiple offers in any round
- Positions offered by programs AND accepted by applicants establish a binding commitment enforced by the Match Participation Agreement

# SOAP Schedule

Monday, March 13

- 11 am - Applicants learn if they Matched and List of unfilled Programs is released (R3 System)
- 2 pm - Applicant can begin preparing applications in MyERAS
- 3 pm - Applicant can begin sending ERAS applications

# SOAP Schedule

Tuesday, March 14

- Applicants continue to apply
- Programs continue to initiate contact with applicants
- 11:30 am - Programs begin submitting preference lists (R3 System)



# SOAP Schedule

Wednesday, March 15

- 12 pm - Round 1 offers extended (R3)
- 2 pm - Deadline for applicants to accept/reject offers
- 3 pm - Round 2 offers extended (R3)
- 5 pm - Deadline for applicants to accept/reject offers

# SOAP Schedule

Thursday, March 16

- 9 am - Round 3 offers extended (R3)
- 11 am - Deadline for applicants to accept/reject offers
- 12 pm - Round 4 offers extended (R3)
- 2 pm - Deadline for applicants to accept/reject offers
- 3 pm - Round 5 offers extended (R3)
- 5 pm - Deadline for applicants to accept/reject offers
  - - SOAP Ends

# SOAP Schedule

Friday, March 17

- 1 pm - Match results available in the R3 system

# How Do I Prepare for SOAP?

- Request updated copies of the MSPE and Medical School Transcript
- Review your CV and personal statement. Make changes if necessary.
- Make sure you have a letter of recommendation uploaded to ERAS for the specialty that you are applying to.

## Please Note

- There are no additional processing fees to participate in SOAP
- You will not submit a rank order list during SOAP
- All paperwork must be submitted to programs using ERAS.
- Offers made and accepted through SOAP establish a binding commitment.

## Please Note

- Applicants may apply to all 45 programs with SOAP begins on Monday, March 14.
- SOAP eligibility status reported prior to Match Week is not an indication of match status
- Any contact with programs outside of the designated times is a violation and you could be disqualified.
- Programs may contact applicants by phone or Skype to conduct an interview.

# Accepting Offers

You may decline an offer or let an offer expire. However, we urge you to seriously consider your initial offers. If you decline an offer, there is NO GUARANTEE that you will receive another offer in a subsequent round.

\*\*\*To be courteous to the program, it is best practice not to let an offer expire if you are not interested.

## Rank Order List (ROL)

- Rank programs in order of YOUR TRUE PREFERENCE and not where you think you will match
- Rank only those programs where you are able and would be happy to train
- Putting a program on your ROL creates a binding commitment if a match occurs
- Do not rank programs where you do not wish to train
- Do not rank programs where you did not interview



## Rank Order List (ROL)

- Applicants are more successful at matching to their preferred specialty when they rank more programs in their preferred specialty.
- If an applicant's preferred specialty is highly competitive, the applicant should consider whether to rank a less competitive alternate specialty to guard against being unmatched.
- Putting a program on your ROL creates a binding commitment if a match occurs

## Rank Order List (ROL)

- When a ROL is complete, it must be certified in order to be included when the matching algorithm is processed.
- The “Applicant Status” field in the R3 system will change from “Ranking” to “Certified”
- Do not wait until the last minute to enter your ROL in the R3 system.
- Do not make last minute changes to your ROL.

# Rank Order List (ROL)

- NRMP video: “How to Create a Primary Rank Order List”  
<http://www.nrmp.org/match-a-to-z/video-tutorials/createcertify-a-primary-rank-order-list-tutorial/>

# Important Links

- NRMP SOAP Page: <http://www.nrmp.org/residency/soap/>
- SOAP for Applicants: <http://www.nrmp.org/residency/soap/soap-for-applicants-and-schools/>
- SOAP FAQs: [http://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/SOAP-FAQ-Applicants\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/SOAP-FAQ-Applicants_FINAL.pdf)
- SOAP Tutorials for Applicants: <http://www.nrmp.org/match-a-to-z/video-tutorials/soap-for-applicants-tutorial/>
- Match Week and SOAP Schedule: <http://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Match-Week-and-SOAP-Schedule.pdf>
- MSPE and Medical School Transcript Request form: <http://www.aucmed.edu/student-services/forms-and-resources/mspe/letter-update.aspx>

Questions?





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