

SOAP and Match Mentoring for Preceptors

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Disclosures

- Dr. Wieting has no financial relationships to disclose.
- Ms. Shelburne has no financial relationships to disclose.

Objectives

1. Provide preceptors with a brief overview of The National Residency Match Program (NRMP), The Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), and the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP)
2. Review resources available to preceptors and applicants about NRMP, ERAS, SOAP, and other topics
3. Identify appropriate methods for assisting and supporting 4th-year medical students on rotation who are participating in SOAP.

National Residency Match Program (NRMP)

- A private, non-profit match service for residency and fellowship applicants and programs
- Mission: match applicants to GME via fair, equitable, efficient, transparent, and reliable process
- Vision: global provider for GME matching
- Match uses preferences of applicants and Residency Programs

Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS)

- An application service
- Transmits residency/fellowship applications (which include application, letters of recommendation, MSPE, transcripts, licensing exam scores, CV, and other credentials from applicants to Residency Programs)
- Applicants must register with both NRMP and ERAS or to other application/match services to use the services of each

Supplemental Offer and Acceptance (SOAP)

- Provides a uniform system for programs to offer unfilled positions to eligible unmatched/partially matched applicants through a series of offer rounds during Match Week
- Applicants must be ready for SOAP in case they do not match on Monday of Match Week.
- NRMP is the authority for applicant SOAP eligibility; applicants are responsible for ensuring they apply only for the positions they are eligible for.

Supplemental Offer and Acceptance (SOAP)

- Applicants not eligible for SOAP can't apply to match-participating programs until SOAP is over.
- During SOAP, applicants will have set deadlines to submit applications, schedule phone or video interviews, and decide (accept, reject, let offer expire) on offers, all of which are extended simultaneously at the beginning of each round.
- Guidance is available on the NRMP website.

Resources

- Website- NRMP R3 system
- Residency Match Application checklist
- Match Participation Agreement
- Code of Conduct
- Information about SOAP
- LMU-DCOM Career Services

What is SOAP?

- Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP).
- Programs review ERAS applications, contact applicants, and express preference with lists created in the R3 system.
- Unfilled positions are offered to eligible applicants on the program's preference list in a series of 4 rounds.
- It is NOT another match, and applicants do NOT enter a rank list.
- Positions offered and accepted constitute a binding commitment under the Match Participation Agreement.

SOAP Policies

- Participants can access the list of Unfilled Programs in the R3 system only for positions for which they are eligible.
- Participants can apply only to unfilled Match-participating programs that are participating in SOAP.
- Participants are prohibited from using any means other than an ERAS application to apply to and contact programs.
- NO ONE on behalf of the participants can contact programs until they initiate contact with applicants!
 - This includes family members, other students or residents, preceptors, DCOM faculty or staff, and community members.

Match Week and SOAP Schedule

Match status Monday, March 11 at 10:00 am ET via NRMP's R3 system and email.

Partially-unmatched applicants and couple applicants whose partner did not match will have the city, state, and zip code of their matched program provided.

Unmatched or partially unmatched applicants will have access to the list of unfilled programs under the SOAP tab in NRMP.

Begin applying to programs in MyERAS at 11:00 am ET.

Match Week and SOAP Schedule

Monday March 11	Tuesday March 12	Wednesday March 13	Thursday March 14	Friday March 15
<p>10:00 am (ET) Students will receive their Matched or Unmatched notifications in their email and/or the NRMP R3 system</p> <p>11:00 am (ET) SOAP applicants can begin to apply to unfilled programs in ERAS</p>	<p>8:00 am (ET) Unfilled programs can begin to review applicants. Students will begin to receive contact from unfilled programs.</p>	<p>All Day Programs continue to review applications and conduct interviews.</p>	<p>9-11 am (ET) SOAP Round 1</p> <p>12-2 pm (ET) SOAP Round 2</p> <p>3-5 pm (ET) SOAP Round 3</p> <p>6-8 pm (ET) SOAP Round 4</p> <p>9 pm (ET) SOAP ends NRMP Releases unfilled programs list to applicants.</p>	<p>MATCH DAY</p> <p>12:00 PM (ET) Applicants find out where they matched through the NRMP R3 system and email.</p>

SOAP Rounds

- SOAP contains 4 rounds of potential offers.
- Limit of 45 applications to be submitted during the entire SOAP process.
- SOAP participants can receive more than one offer in a round.
- SOAP participants can accept or reject an offer during each round.
- Accepted offers for Categorical – The students are complete with SOAP and matched to a program.
 - Accepted offers for PGY-1 or Transitional or Advanced years only – the students are partially matched and can participate for only the training lacking. If a participant matched a PGY-1, that participant can apply to advanced programs during subsequent rounds. If a participant matched to an advanced year, that participant can only apply to PGY-1 or transitional years during subsequent rounds.

After Applying

- Programs receive ERAS applications on Tuesday and can begin contacting applicants, usually via phone or email.
- NRMP Policy - Applicants and those on behalf of an applicant CANNOT contact programs until a program contacts them in response to their ERAS application.
- Tuesday, March 12, and Wednesday, March 13, applicants should be available for communication and interviews.
 - How programs review applicants, contact applicants, and conduct interviews is up to the programs

How can I help students during SOAP?

- Remind students to complete and submit the DCOM SOAP form
- Be flexible in the student's schedule for the SOAP period
- Allow students who remain on rotations to take breaks and use their cell phones
- Support students by reminding them of the resources DCOM has available (advising and counseling)

Summary

- NRMP is the annual match program for accredited postgraduate medical training.
- ERAS is the application service used for applicants in the NRMP match.
- SOAP is the process for applying to unfilled positions to eligible, unmatched or partially matched applicants through a series of offer rounds in Match Week.
- Preceptors can offer valuable assistance to student applicants in reviewing applications, CVs, personal statements, and providing strongly positive LORs as well as accommodating students' needs in the SOAP week.
- Students/applicants have specific processes to follow and deadlines to meet for all program applications.