



American University of the Caribbean
School of Medicine

OCA Match Corner

Office of Career Advisement

Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP)®



What is SOAP?

SOAP is the National Residency Matching Program's[®] (NRMP) Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program

[Match Week for the Main Residency Match[®]](#) takes place the third week in March. It is the period of time beginning at 11:00 a.m. ET on Monday and ending at 1:00 p.m. ET on Friday when applicants and programs learn the results of the Match.

Positions left unfilled after the matching algorithm has been processed are offered to eligible applicants through the Match Week SOAP[®]. Applicants should spend time familiarizing themselves with Match Week information and resources.



SOAP and the 2021 Match

- Due to COVID-19, virtual interviews and possibly longer-than-normal rank order lists, there may be more positions in SOAP than previous years
- OCA recommends applicants with 5 or less interviews or any student who feels there's a chance he or she may go unmatched to take the necessary steps to prepare for SOAP



SOAP Eligibility

In order to participate in SOAP, applicants must:

**Be registered for the
NRMP Main Residency Match**

**Be eligible to enter residency training
on July 1, 2021**

**Have a passing score reported for all
USMLE examinations, or verified
through an ECFMG Pathway**

**Be partially matched, or fully
unmatched, on
Monday, March 15th***

**Complete your registration in the Main Residency Match (User Status = ACTIVE) &
have your credentials verified by the Rank Order List Deadline
in order to participate in SOAP**

*Dates based on 2021 Match Calendar. For updated dates, refer to [NRMP's Match Calendar](#).



SOAP Eligible Applicants

- On the Friday prior to Match Week (March 12), **ALL** Main Residency Match applicants receive email notification of SOAP eligibility
- On Monday of Match Week (March 15) at 11:00 AM ET, applicants learn if (but not where) they matched. Match status notification is sent by email, and applicants also can use a mobile device to access their match status in the Registration, Ranking, and Results® (R3®) system
- SOAP-eligible applicants can access the *List of Unfilled Programs* in the R3 system

SOAP applicants are prohibited from using any means other than ERAS to apply to programs and must refrain from any other contact until programs initiate contact with them

*Dates based on 2021 Match Calendar. For updated dates, refer to [NRMP's Match Calendar](#).



SOAP Ineligible Applicants

- Cannot apply to any Match-participating programs, regardless of program's SOAP participation status, until SOAP concludes
- ERAS will not send applications to SOAP-participating programs and applicants are prohibited from contacting those programs during Match Week
- Can apply to non-Match participating programs
 - Beginning at 3:00 p.m. 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 12:00 p.m. ET on Wednesday of Match Week.

*Dates based on 2021 Match Calendar. For updated dates, refer to [NRMP's Match Calendar](#).



How SOAP Works

1. List of Unfilled Programs distributed through NRMP's Registration, Ranking and Results system (R3)
2. Applicants express interest in programs by applying using ERAS
3. Program directors can accept application only through ERAS and can offer positions only through SOAP
4. 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.
5. Positions offered by programs AND accepted by applicants establish a binding commitment enforced by the Match Participation Agreement

*Dates based on 2021 Match Calendar. For updated dates, refer to [NRMP's Match Calendar](#).



SOAP Schedule

Monday, March 15th

- 11:00 a.m. EST– Applicants learn if they Matched and List of unfilled Programs is released (R3 System)
- 12:00 p.m. EST – SOAP applicants can start preparing applications in the AAMC ERAS[®] system. Applicants and their representatives CANNOT communicate with a program until contacted by that program. SOAP applicants have 45 applications now through Thursday 11 a.m. EST
- 3:00 p.m. EST– Programs can begin reviewing SOAP applications in the AAMC ERAS system and can contact applicants upon receipt of an application.

*Dates based on 2021 Match Calendar. For updated dates, refer to [NRMP's Match Calendar](#).



SOAP Schedule

Tuesday, March 16th

- 11:30 a.m. EST– Programs begin creating SOAP preference lists (Applicants do not submit a preference list for SOAP).

*Dates based on 2021 Match Calendar. For updated dates, refer to [NRMP's Match Calendar](#).



SOAP Schedule

Wednesday, March 17th

SOAP Round 1

- 11:55 a.m. ET Deadline to certify program preference list for Round 1 offers.
- 12:00 p.m. ET Applicants receive Round 1 offers by logging in to R3 system.
- 2:00 p.m. ET Applicant deadline to accept/reject Round 1 offers.
- 2:05 p.m. ET List of Unfilled Programs updated in R3 system.

SOAP Round 2

- 2:55 p.m. ET Deadline to modify and re-certify program preference list for Round 2 offers.
- 3:00 p.m. ET Applicants receive Round 2 offers.
- 5:00 p.m. ET Applicant deadline to accept/reject Round 2 offers.
- 5:05 p.m. ET List of Unfilled Programs updated.

*Dates based on 2021 Match Calendar. For updated dates, refer to [NRMP's Match Calendar](#).



SOAP Schedule

Thursday, March 18th

SOAP Round 3

- 8:55 a.m. ET Deadline to modify and re-certify program preference list for Round 3 offers.
- 9:00 a.m. ET Applicants receive Round 3 offers.
- 11:00 a.m. ET Applicant deadline to accept/reject Round 3 offers.
- 11:05 a.m. ET List of Unfilled Programs updated.

SOAP Round 4

- 11:55 a.m. ET Deadline to modify and re-certify program preference list for Round 4 offers.
- 12:00 p.m. ET Applicants receive Round 4 offers.
- 2:00 p.m. ET Applicant deadline to accept/reject Round 4 offers.

SOAP Ends

3:00 p.m. ET List of Unfilled Programs, updated to include unfilled programs not participating in SOAP, is available from R3 system top menu bar to all unmatched and partially matched applicants. Applicants can begin contacting all remaining unfilled programs. Programs can update the List as positions are filled.

*Dates based on 2021 Match Calendar. For updated dates, refer to [NRMP's Match Calendar](#).

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SOAP Schedule

Friday, March 19th

Match Day

12:00 p.m. ET Applicant Match result available
(by email and R3 system)

*Dates based on 2021 Match Calendar. For updated dates, refer to [NRMP's Match Calendar](#).



How to Prepare for SOAP

1

Request [updated MSPE Letter](#) and [ECFMG/ERAS/Match Transcript Request](#)

2

Review personal statement and make any necessary revisions.

3

Write a personal statement for FM, IM and any additional specialties that you are interested in that have a higher number of positions available in SOAP. This is especially important if you previously applied for a position in which you were not competitive for and did not receive many interviews.

4

Ensure you have a LoR uploaded to ERAS for preferred specialty.

5

Carefully review the SOAP schedule, process and SOAP resources listed on the NRMP website.

6

Review SOAP data from the past few years: NRMP's 2020 Main Residency Match Data.



Strategies to Consider

Be ready for interviews on short notice.

Have an area and equipment prepared for virtual interviews.

Make sure you are professionally dressed for interviews.

Turn on notifications on your phone, so you do not miss a request for an interview.

Consider applying to IMG-friendly, community, rural and newly-accredited programs.

You are allowed to apply to 45 programs during the entire SOAP process. It is recommended to apply to all 45 programs prior to 3PM ET on Monday, March 15th to have the best chances of being considered for a position.

NOTE: The majority of positions are filled in the first round.

NOTE: Your application is available to the programs you apply to during all SOAP rounds.



Things to Note About SOAP

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.



Things to Note About SOAP

Most positions available during the SOAP are preliminary residencies (PGY-1 Only) including Internal Medicine, Surgery and Transitional Programs.

Other specialties that tend to have higher numbers available are Internal Medicine, Family Medicine and Pediatrics.

Through the regular Match and SOAP the programs participating in the NRMP fill almost all the positions available.

According to NMRP Results and Data 2020 Main Residency Match*



Things to Note About SOAP

Applicants may apply to all 45 programs when SOAP begins on Monday, March 15th.

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 email to conduct an interview.



Accepting Offers in SOAP

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.



SOAP Resources

- [NRMP SOAP for Applicants Video](#)
- [NRMP 2020 Match Week and SOAP Schedule](#)
- [SOAP: Viewing Unfilled Programs support guide](#)
- [SOAP: View & Respond to Offers support guide](#)
- [Program Codes and Types](#)
- [View How a SOAP Round Works](#)
- [SOAP Banner Messages](#)
- [NRMP SOAP FAQs](#)
- [Cheat Sheet](#)
- [SOAP Matches for Previous Years](#)

OCA's SOAP Info Sheet

AUC OCA: SOAP INFO SHEET

A basic guide for students seeking a position through SOAP.

PRIOR TO SOAP

Due to possible, longer ROIs from applicants this year there may be more positions in SOAP. OCA encourages students with 8 or less interviews or who think they might have to participate in SOAP to review the steps below:

- ❑ Request an **updated Transcript** from the Office of the Registrar.
- ❑ Request an **updated MPPE letter** from OCA.
- ❑ Make any necessary revisions to your personal statement.
- ❑ Write a personal statement for Family Medicine, Internal Medicine and any additional specialties that you are interested in that have a higher number of positions available in SOAP. This is especially important if you previously applied for a position in which you were not competitive for and did not receive many interviews.
- ❑ Write a customized personal statement for home state programs.
- ❑ Try to obtain a letter of recommendation in the specialty you plan to apply to during SOAP.
Example: Do you have Family Medicine LOB?
- ❑ Be prepared to answer: "Why are you interested in our program?"
- ❑ Carefully review the [SOAP schedule](#), process and [SOAP resources](#) listed on the NRMP website.
- ❑ Review SOAP matches from the past few years: <https://hanelman.us/app/residency-match/>
➤ [SOAP Match Data](#) indicates the most available positions during SOAP were Family Medicine, Surgery (Prelim).
- ❑ Remember: AUC does not receive information from NRMP that you didn't match and will be going through SOAP

BASICS

- ❑ You must apply to all positions through ERAS.
- ❑ You cannot reach out to a program before they contact you until SOAP has concluded. A program **must** contact you first. Contacting a program, having someone contact a program on your behalf, or expressing interest in a position outside of ERAS during SOAP is considered a Match violation.
- ❑ Offers are extended and accepted/rejected in NRMP's R3 system, not ERAS. You have a limited amount of time to accept an offer if one is extended. Accepting an offer creates a binding contract.

STRATEGY

- ❑ You are allowed to apply to 48 programs during the entire SOAP process. It is recommended to apply to all 48 programs in the first round, enter to R3M ET on Monday, March 18th to have the best chances of being considered for positions.
➤ The majority of positions are filled in the first round.
➤ Your application is available to the programs you apply to during all SOAP rounds.
- ❑ Consider applying to IMC-friendly, community, rural and newly accredited programs.
- ❑ Be ready for an interview any time after 3PM ET on Monday, March 18th when programs are able to begin reviewing applications. |
- ❑ Turn on notifications on your phone to ensure you do not miss any interview requests.
- ❑ Be sure you have appropriate interview clothing and setup should a program choose to conduct a video interview.
- ❑ If you do not obtain a position through the Match or SOAP, schedule an appointment with an OCA advisor to discuss next steps at oca@aucmed.edu.

*These are based on 2017 Match Calendar. For updated dates, please see [OCA's Match Calendar](#).



What Happens After SOAP?

If you do not obtain a position through the Match or through SOAP, do not panic – it can and does happen on occasion, even if you do everything right.



Be on the lookout for an email from OCA following the Match sharing information regarding potential opportunities to consider.



What Happens After SOAP?

For graduates interested in applying to programs not participating in the Match:



You will email the following to oca@aucmed.edu:

ERAS Application

Letters of Recommendation

Professional Photo

Personal Statement

USMLE Score Report

C.V.

Thursday, March 18 at 3 pm EST: List of Unfilled Programs updated in R3 to show ALL unfilled programs including those that did not participated in SOAP.

*Dates based on 2021 Match Calendar. For updated dates, refer to [NRMP's Match Calendar](#).



SOAP Webinar

Questions?

Good luck in the Match!

oca@aucmed.edu | 305.446.0600 option 5