

# SOAP: Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program

*By: Vinayak Aryal, MD*

*Peer reviewed by: Terri Jones, MD and Kamran Mirza, MD, PhD*

*What is the SOAP?*

The Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP) is an opportunity through which eligible unmatched applicants in the main residency match apply for and are offered the positions that remained unfilled during the matching process <sup>1</sup>.

*When is the SOAP?*

The third week of March is Match Week for the Main Residency Match, starting at 9:00 am EST on Monday and ending at 12:00 pm EST Friday. All applicants receive an email notification of their SOAP eligibility the Friday prior to Match Week. On Monday of Match Week, all applicants are notified through email if they have matched or not. Any candidates that have not matched can choose to participate in the SOAP on Monday through Thursday, applying and interviewing for unfilled positions<sup>2</sup>.

*Am I eligible for the SOAP?*

Those who registered for the Main Residency Match are eligible for SOAP, even if they did not receive any interview offers. If the applicant has applied to at least one residency program, the SOAP process will be free for the applicant. If the applicant has not applied to any residency program through ERAS prior to being eligible for SOAP, the applicant will have to pay a fee (usually less than \$100) <sup>3</sup>.

*How does the SOAP process work?*

Candidates may reapply to programs they have previously applied to, but the program must participate in SOAP and have unfilled positions that they are qualified for. The applicant can apply to a maximum of 45 programs through SOAP. The program participating in the SOAP will

review applications at 8 am EST on the Tuesday following the Match announcement until that Thursday. The actual SOAP matching process is split into four rounds starting 9 am EST on Thursday and ending at 9 pm EST that same day. Each round lasts for 2 hours, with about 1 hour available for the candidates to apply after each round. According to the rules outlined by the NRMP, the applicants are not allowed to contact the programs directly during the SOAP process, but programs may initiate contact with applicants<sup>4</sup>.

The SOAP interview usually lasts approximately 15-20 minutes and the interviews feature similar questions to those covered in standard match interviews. Most programs will contact applicants by telephone or email and conduct brief telephone or video interviews. For applicants applying locally, in-person interviews may be offered<sup>5</sup>.

### *What programs participate in the SOAP?*

Any program with unfilled positions may participate in the SOAP process. A total of 36,277 positions were offered for the PGY-1 year for all specialties during Match 2022, with 2,262 remaining unfilled after the Match. For pathology specifically, 168 programs offered 631 seats for anatomic and clinical pathology residency. Ten pathology residency programs had unfilled positions in 2022 after the Match. So, in the pathology program, the total number of matched candidates was 619, and the number of seats available for SOAP was 12<sup>2</sup>.

1. Murphy B. No match for you? SOAP offers last-minute options. MAR 9, 2022; <https://www.ama-assn.org/residents-students/match/no-match-you-soap-offers-last-minute-options>.
2. Results and Data 2022 Main Residency Match®. 2022; [https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/2022-Main-Match-Results-and-Data\\_Final.pdf](https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/2022-Main-Match-Results-and-Data_Final.pdf).
3. Am I Eligible for SOAP? 2022; <https://medschoolinsiders.com/medical-student/soap-match-guide/>.
4. SOAP for Ineligible Applicants. 2022; <https://www.nrmp.org/residency-applicants/soap/>.
5. Interviews during the Post-Match SOAP. 2 March, 2016; <https://blog.matcharesident.com/interviews-during-the-post-match-soap/>.