

## SOAP for the Program Director New Programs and Leaders Fair

### What is the SOAP?

The SOAP is the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program—implemented by the NRMP and the AAMC in 2012 to replace the “Scramble”.

In the past, during “the Scramble” the applicant would contact the unfilled programs by phone, fax and email creating somewhat of a chaotic and hectic process for all involved.

### SOAP “Can’s” and “Cannot’s”

- **Can** accept applications only through ERAS and can offer positions only through SOAP® until SOAP® concludes at 5:00 p.m. ET on Thursday of Match Week.
- **Cannot** contact applicants directly or through personal contacts until after an ERAS application has been received.
- **Cannot** ask applicants to commit to an offer prior to the offer being extended through SOAP®.
- **Cannot** “create” positions for unmatched applicants until SOAP® concludes. Positions can be created only for partially-matched applicants.
- **Can** opt out of SOAP®, but cannot fill positions until SOAP® concludes!

### Monday:

*11:00 am:* Applicants and programs find out who did not match and who did not fill. The NRMP releases its list of unfilled programs to SOAP eligible applicants.

### What to expect:

1. Emotions-there will be a lot of them. Allow time for that and then put them aside and deal with the task at hand.
2. Support
  - a. Gather your team
  - b. Reach out to other PD’s
  - c. Delegate tasks to the support team

*2:00 pm:* Applicants are able to prepare ERAS applications to programs (both new and reapply) up to 35.

*3:00pm:* Programs begin receiving applications and will initiate contact with applicants.

### Tips:

- There will be a lot of applicants! You are looking for the best possible applicant(s). Look for the good student who maybe didn’t apply widely enough or was too ambitious with his/her rank list.
- Use the filters!

- If you make contact with the applicant today, it may be best to do this by telephone. Skype or Face Time interviews can be reserved for Tuesday for those applicants you are strongly considering.
- Recruit your residents to help out. The applicant is going to want a resident's perspective on the program.
- Reach out to PD's at home institutions—they can give invaluable advice.

**Tuesday:**

11:30 am: Programs may begin to create the SOAP preference list.

**Wednesday:** *Remember to certify your preference list by 11:55 am!*

12-2:00 pm: OFFER #1

2:30 pm: Applicants can apply to 10 additional programs

3:00-5:00 pm: OFFER #2

**Thursday:**

9-11:00 am: OFFER #3

12-2:00 pm: OFFER #4

3-5:00 pm: OFFER #5

**Avoiding the SOAP for PDs**

1. Be honest with yourself about how competitive your program is—if you are not a highly competitive program, don't fill all of your interview slots with your top applicants
2. Scoring system—middle of the applicant pool
3. Interview enough applicants—err on the side of more rather than less

**Helpful NRMP/SOAP links:**

SOAP Video Tutorials:

<http://www.nrmp.org/match-a-to-z/video-tutorials/soap-for-programs-tutorial/>

SOAP Cheat Sheet: <http://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/SOAP-Program-Cheat-Sheet.pdf>

SOAP FAQ's: <http://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/SOAP-FAQ-Programs.pdf>