

Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology

RESIDENT MATCHING PROGRAM

Applicant Instructions for Participating in the 2026 APPCN Match

Every applicant who registers for the APPCN Match must use the NMS Match System to enter and certify a Rank Order List of program choices or withdraw from the Match by **11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 11, 2026**.

If you are matched to a position, you must accept your Match result and attend the program as stipulated in the Applicant Agreement as well as the Rules and Policies of the APPCN Match.

Applicants who withdraw from the APPCN Match are permitted to access information on positions that remain available in the Post-Match Process (see point #5 below).

1 Ensure your information is up to date in the NMS Match System.

- Confirm that you can log in to the NMS Match System, which is accessible from the APPCN Match website at natmatch.com/appcnmat.
[Log In to the NMS Match System >](#)
- You must use the NMS Match System to update your Account and Profile information, withdraw from the Match if necessary, submit your rankings, and access your Match result.
[View the NMS Match System Guides for Applicants >](#)
- Ensure your NMS Match System Profile is updated to include the program type(s) you will be interested in for the Post-Match Process, in case you either do not match or withdraw but indicate you are still seeking a position.

2 Be familiar with the Match Policies, especially those related to preemptive offers, interviews, and rankings.

- If a program that does not participate in the APPCN Match offers you a position prior to the Rank Order List deadline (i.e., a “preemptive offer”), you may contact programs that participate in the Match to inform them of the preemptive offer. If a participating program intends to rank you in a manner that will guarantee a match, that program may so inform you in accordance with APPCN Match Policy #4e.

You may choose to hold the preemptive offer and participate in the Match by submitting a Rank Order List of programs that includes only programs you prefer to the preemptive offer. If you obtain a position in the Match, you must decline the preemptive offer.

- Applicants and programs may not communicate, accept, or use any ranking-related information prior to the release of the Match results, and may never solicit such information either during the Match or after the Match results are released, except as permitted in the APPCN Match Policies (see Policy #4d and #4e)

Programs may provide limited information about the status of your candidacy, in accordance with APPCN Match Policy #4d. While some programs choose to communicate this information, others do not; the absence of such communication should not be interpreted as a lack of interest in your candidacy.

- If you certify a Rank Order List and are matched to a position, you **must** accept the position where you matched as stipulated in the Applicant Agreement.

[Review the Rules and Policies of the Match >](#)

3 Determine your preferences for the programs to which you have applied.

- Rank programs in order of your true preferences, with your most preferred program as rank #1, your next most preferred program as rank #2, and so on. Do not consider how any program might rank you when ordering your choices.

Rank all programs at the residency sites where you applied that you find acceptable. By including more programs on your Rank Order List, you may increase the likelihood of being matched. You will be matched to the most preferred program on your list that ranks you and does not fill all its positions with applicants it prefers.

Do not rank any program that you consider unacceptable and would not want to be matched with under any circumstances. You can only be matched to a program that appears on your Rank Order List.

[Learn More About Ranking Strategy >](#)

- Two applicants who are participating in the APPCN Match and who wish to coordinate their matches (e.g., obtain positions in the same geographic location) may participate in the Match as a Couple.

[Learn More About Participating as a Couple >](#)

4 Enter and certify your Rank Order List in the NMS Match System by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 11, 2026.

- The NMS Match System opens for the entry of rankings on January 21, 2026. All Rank Order Lists must be submitted using the NMS Match System.
- Only programs that are participating in the Match can be included on your Rank Order List. The List of Participating Programs on the APPCN Match website provides the unique 4-digit Code Number assigned to each participating program.

[View the List of Participating Programs >](#)

Some residency sites offer more than one program or track in the Match, each with its own 4-digit Code Number. As the match is processed using the Code Numbers, make sure the correct Code Number for each program you want to rank appears on your Rank Order List. If you rank a program represented by one Code Number, but are ranked by the residency site for a program with a different Code Number, a match will not be made. If you need clarification regarding the Code Number to be used for any program, contact the Program Director directly.

- In the Rankings section of the NMS Match System, search for and add programs to your Rank Order List in rank number sequence. You can search for programs by Code Number, residency site name, Program Director name, location, or program description. An option is provided to set a filter on the search results in order to restrict your search to a specific state. If you scheduled interviews with programs using NMS Interview, you can import those programs directly into your Rank Order List.

[View the User Guide for Entering Your Rankings >](#)

- Your Rank Order List must be entered and certified by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 11, 2026. You should enter and certify your Rank Order List well before the deadline date to avoid potential problems near the deadline.

[View the User Guide for Certifying Your Rank Order List >](#)

You can make changes to your list even after it is certified, until the Rank Order List deadline. If you make changes to a list that has been certified, you simply have to certify the list again before the deadline in order for it to be used in the Match.

You will not be able to use the NMS Match System to enter or certify rankings, withdraw, or change any of your information after the Rank Order List deadline.

- You should print a copy of your final certified Rank Order List for your records, as this information will only be available until February 22, 2026.

5 If you decide not to submit any rankings for any reason, you must withdraw from the APPCN Match using the NMS Match System by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 11, 2026.

- Withdrawn applicants are permitted to seek positions after the Match. You will be able to access information on positions that remain available in the Post-Match Process.

[Learn More About Withdrawing from the APPCN Match >](#)

6 Your Match result will be available on February 18, 2026.

- Your Match result will be available in the NMS Match System beginning at 12:00 p.m. noon Eastern Time on February 18, 2026. In addition, NMS will make one attempt to send the Match result by email by 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time on February 18, 2026 to each applicant who certified a Rank Order List and did not withdraw. Result emails that are delayed or not delivered will not be resent as the same information will be available in the NMS Match System.

[Learn More About Obtaining Your Match Result >](#)

- If you match, you and the program where you matched are encouraged to contact each other to acknowledge the Match result after 12:00 p.m. noon Eastern Time on February 18, 2026. No contact between applicants and programs should take place on February 18 prior to 12:00 p.m. noon Eastern Time.

7 If you do not match, you may seek and accept positions offered in the Post-Match Process.

- The Post-Match Process begins at 12:00 p.m. noon Eastern Time on February 18, 2026. No action to fill available positions may be taken prior to that time.
- Programs with positions available and applicants seeking positions are free to contact and negotiate directly with each other to fill the available positions.

Beginning at 12:00 p.m. noon Eastern Time on February 18, a list of programs offering positions in the Post-Match Process will be available in the NMS Match System. Programs can update the information on the list as positions are filled or new ones become available.

Programs will have access to a list of applicants who certified a Rank Order List but did not obtain a position, or who withdrew but indicated they are still seeking a position.

[Learn More About the Post-Match Process >](#)

If you have any questions about the APPCN Match, please contact NMS directly.