

**Association of Chiropractic Colleges**  
**CHIROPRACTIC RESIDENCY MATCH (Chiro Match)**

**Applicant Instructions for Participating in the 2026 Chiro Match**

Every applicant who registers for the Chiro Match must use the NMS Match System to enter and certify a Rank Order List of program choices, or withdraw from the Chiro Match, by **11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 18, 2026**.

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

Applicants who withdraw from the Chiro Match are permitted to access information on positions that remain available and participate in the Post-Match Process (see point #3 below).

Note: While the Chiro Match allows programs to offer multiple tracks (i.e., different streams or types of training within a single program), **each program participating in the 2026 Chiro Match is offering only one track**. Therefore, references to “program” or “track” effectively mean the same thing throughout these instructions, the Chiro Match website, and the NMS Match System.

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

- Rank all programs/tracks where you applied that you find acceptable. By including more choices on your Rank Order List, you may increase the likelihood of being matched.

Rank the programs/tracks in order of your true preferences, with your most preferred choice as rank #1, your next most preferred choice as rank #2, and so on. Do not consider how any program might rank you when ordering your choices. You will be matched to the most preferred program/track on your list that ranks you and does not fill all its positions with applicants it prefers.

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

[Learn More About Ranking Strategy >](#)

- Applicants and programs may not solicit any information about rankings. You are permitted to voluntarily disclose your intention to rank a program (e.g., “I intend to rank your program”), and programs are permitted to voluntarily disclose their intention to rank you. However, both you and the programs are prohibited from soliciting or disclosing information about numerical rankings or positioning on a Rank Order List (e.g. “you are my first choice”).
- If you wish to accept a position at a program that is not registered in the Chiro Match, or you decide not to participate in the Chiro Match for any other reason, then you must withdraw from the Chiro Match using the NMS Match System prior to the Rank Order List deadline. See point #3 below.

If you submit a Rank Order List for the Match and are matched to a position, you **must** accept the position and attend the program.

[Learn More About the Chiro Match Rules >](#)

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

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

**2 Enter and certify your Rank Order List in the NMS Match System by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 18, 2026.**

- The NMS Match System opens for the entry of rankings on February 4, 2026. All Rank Order Lists must be submitted using the NMS Match System.

- The List of Participating Programs on the Chiro Match website provides the unique 5-digit Match Code Number for each program/track. As the match is processed using the Code Numbers, make sure the correct Code Number is shown on your Rank Order List for each program/track you want to rank. If you need clarification regarding the Code Number to be used for any program/track, contact the Program Director directly.

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

- In the Rankings section of the NMS Match System, there are several ways to add programs/tracks to your Rank Order List:
  - Search and add any participating program/track to your list individually.
  - Import the programs/tracks to which you submitted applications using the NMS Match System.
  - Import the programs/tracks with which you scheduled interviews using the NMS Match System.

Ensure that the program name, track description and 5-digit Code Number shown on your Rank Order List are correct for each program/track you rank, and that the programs/tracks are sequenced in true preference order on the 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 18, 2026. You should enter and certify your Rank Order List well before the deadline 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 online until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on March 1, 2026.

**3 If you will not submit a Rank Order List for any reason, you must withdraw from the Chiro Match using the NMS Match System by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 18, 2026.**

- If you withdraw, you will not be matched to a position. However, you will be permitted to seek a position after the Match. You will also have access to information on positions that remain available in the Post-Match Process.

If you have no programs to rank but want to be included on the List of Unmatched Applicants that is provided to programs in the Post-Match Process, you should withdraw in the NMS Match System and select the withdraw reason that indicates you are still seeking a position.

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

**4 Chiro Match results will be available on February 25, 2026.**

- Your result will be available in the NMS Match System beginning at 12:00 p.m. noon Eastern Time on February 25, 2026. In addition, NMS will make one attempt to send the Match result by 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time on February 25, 2026 by email 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 the Results of the Chiro Match >](#)

- If you match, you and the program where you matched are encouraged to contact each other to acknowledge the result after 12:00 p.m. noon Eastern Time on February 25, 2026. No contact between applicants and programs should take place on February 25 prior to 12:00 p.m. noon Eastern Time.
- The Chiro Match result constitutes a binding commitment between you and the program. The program where you matched will send you a letter of confirmation no later than 10 working days after the release of the results. You must return the letter of confirmation in accordance with the program's instructions within 30 days of the release of the Chiro Match results.

**5 If you do not match, you may seek and accept an available position in the Post-Match Process.**

- The Post-Match Process begins at 12:00 p.m. noon Eastern Time on February 25, 2026. No action to fill available positions may be taken prior to that time.
- When the Post-Match Process begins, a list of programs offering positions in the Post-Match Process will be provided in the NMS Match System. Applicants seeking positions are free to contact and negotiate with these programs directly to fill the available positions.
- Programs will have access in the NMS Match System to information on applicants who submitted an application or Rank Order List but did not match, or who withdrew but indicated they were interested in seeking a position in the Post-Match Process.
- Any application material requested by a program participating in the Post-Match Process must be sent to the program directly (e.g., via email). No new applications can be sent to programs in the Post-Match Process using the online Chiro Match application service.

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

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

January, 2026