

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
OPTOMETRY RESIDENCY MATCH (ORMATCH)
Applicant Ranking and Results Instructions for ORMatch

Every applicant who registers for ORMatch must use the NMS Match System to enter and certify a Rank Order List of program choices, or withdraw from ORMatch, by **11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 24, 2026**.

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

Applicants who withdraw from ORMatch are permitted to access information on positions that remain available in the Post-Match Process (see point #4 below).

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

- In the Profile section of the NMS Match System, you can provide consent for ORMatch to release your US Citizenship status and Pass/Fail NBEO examinations results to programs in the Post-Match Process if you do not obtain a position in ORMatch.

[View the NMS Match System Guides for Applicants >](#)

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

- Each residency site offers one or more programs in ORMatch. If you intend to rank a residency site that is offering more than one program, you should rank each program that you would be willing to accept. Although you submit one application to a residency site, you rank individual programs on your Rank Order List and you are matched to a specific program, not the overall residency site.
- 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 residencies 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 you include on your Rank Order List.

[Learn More About Ranking Strategy >](#)

- Applicants and programs may not solicit any information about rankings, or disclose information about numerical ranking preferences on a Rank Order List (e.g. “you are my first choice”). However, it is permissible to voluntarily disclose your intention to rank a program (e.g., “I intend to rank your program”).
- If you match to a program in ORMatch, you **MUST** accept the matched position.

[Learn More About the ORMatch Rules >](#)

[Learn About the ORMatch Violations Review Process >](#)

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

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

3 Enter and certify your Rank Order List in the NMS Match System by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 24, 2026.

- The NMS Match System opens for the entry of rankings on February 9, 2026. All Rank Order Lists must be submitted using the NMS Match System.
- The List of Participating Programs on the ORMatch website provides the unique 5-digit Code Number assigned to each participating program. 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 at a residency site represented by one Code Number, but are ranked by the residency site for a different 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 Coordinator directly.

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

- In the Rankings section of the NMS Match System, there are two ways to add programs to your Rank Order List:
 1. Import the programs where you applied into your Rank Order List and then sequence the rankings in order of your true preferences.
 2. Search for any participating program, and add the programs individually to your list in rank number sequence. You can search for programs by Code Number, residency site name, Program Coordinator name, location, or program description.

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

- Your Rank Order List must be entered and certified in the NMS Match System by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 24, 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 ORMatch.

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 March 7, 2026.

4 If you decide not to submit a Rank Order List for any reason, you must withdraw from ORMatch using the NMS Match System by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on February 24, 2026.

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

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

5 Your ORMatch result will be available on March 3, 2026.

- Your ORMatch result will be available in the NMS Match System beginning at 12:00 p.m. noon Eastern Time on March 3, 2026. In addition, NMS will make one attempt to send the ORMatch result by email, by 12:00 p.m. noon Eastern Time on March 3, 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 ORMatch Result >](#)

- Your ORMatch result will be available to the Director of Residencies at each school and college of optometry and to all residencies that participate in ORMatch, but it will not be available to other applicants.

- If you match, you and the program where you matched are encouraged to contact each other to acknowledge the ORMatch result after 12:00 p.m. noon Eastern Time on March 3, 2026. No contact between applicants and residencies should take place on March 3 prior to 12:00 p.m. noon Eastern Time.

The ORMatch result constitutes a binding obligation between you and the residency. The residency 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 ORMatch results.

In June, ORMatch will send updated NBEO Score Data to the residency where you matched. ORMatch will send you an email to review the NBEO Score Data that will be provided to the residency. It is your responsibility to correct any errors or omissions in the NBEO Score Data directly with the residency.

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

- In order to give all Post-Match participants time to consider their options, the Post-Match Process will operate according to the schedule described below. No offers of appointment in the Post-Match Process may be made or accepted prior to March 5, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. noon Eastern Time.

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

- March 3, 2026, 12:00 p.m. noon Eastern Time: Post-Match Opens

A list of programs with available positions is provided to unmatched applicants in the NMS Match System. Programs can update the information on this list as positions fill or new positions become available.

Information on applicants who submitted an application or certified a Rank Order List but were not matched, or who withdrew but indicated they are still seeking a position, is provided to residency sites and Directors of Residencies in the NMS Match System.

Registered applicants who did not obtain a position in ORMatch can apply to programs in the Post-Match Process using the NMS Match System or by contacting programs directly. Eligible applicants receive 10 free credits to submit applications via the NMS Match System. Individuals who did not register for ORMatch must contact programs directly.

Programs and applicants are free to contact each other, share information, and conduct interviews. However, no offers of appointment may be made or accepted until March 5 at 12:00 p.m. noon Eastern Time.

- March 5, 2026, 12:00 p.m. noon Eastern Time: Post-Match Offers Begin

Programs may offer Post-Match positions to applicants, and applicants may accept the positions. Applicants who receive an offer for a Post-Match position may hold the offer for up to 24 hours, after which the program can rescind the offer.

If you accept a position in the Post-Match Process, ORMatch can include your NBEO scores in a report sent to programs in June, provided that the program confirms your acceptance of the position to ORMatch.

- March 10, 2026: Post-Match List of Programs Publicly Available

The list of programs with available positions will be posted publicly on the ORMatch website.

If you have any questions about ORMatch, please contact NMS.

Key Dates

NMS Match System Opens for Rankings	February 9, 2026
Rank Order List Deadline	February 24, 2026 (11:59 p.m. ET)
Match Results Day	March 3, 2026
Post-Match Opens	March 3, 2026 (12:00 p.m. ET)
Post-Match Offers Begin	March 5, 2026 (12:00 p.m. ET)
NMS Match System Closes	June 30, 2026