

Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry

OPTOMETRY RESIDENCY MATCH (ORMatch)

PROGRAM AGREEMENT

The Optometry Residency Match (ORMatch) is a program of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO). By registering and participating in ORMatch for residency positions that start service between April 1 and December 31, 2019, the program agrees to abide by the rules of ORMatch. Specifically, the program agrees to:

1. Offer through ORMatch all positions being offered by the program to start service between April 1 and December 31, 2019. Programs for which positions cannot be assured by the Rank Order List deadline should not be offered in ORMatch. However, these programs may take no action to fill the non-participating positions before 12:00 p.m. noon ET on the day ORMatch results are released.
2. Fulfill the Eligibility Requirements of ORMatch shown on the ORMatch web site at natmatch.com/ormatch. The program must be affiliated with a school or college of optometry that is accredited by the Accreditation Council on Optometric Education (ACOE). The program must also be accredited by the ACOE to participate in ORMatch. An exception is provided that allows programs without accreditation to participate in ORMatch for one year provided the program genuinely pursues accreditation during that training year.
3. Abide by the Schedule of Dates of ORMatch shown on the ORMatch web site at natmatch.com/ormatch.
4. Provide complete and accurate information to applicants concerning the position(s) being offered in ORMatch, including all institution and residency program policies related to eligibility requirements for appointment, compensation for residents and accreditation status of the residency program.
5. Consider all applications submitted by applicants through the ORMatch Application Service up to January 31, 2019, or an earlier application deadline established by the program. Through January 31st, the program may accept only those applications submitted through ORMatch. After January 31st, the program may at its discretion accept applications submitted from other sources, such as directly from applicants.
6. Use all applicant information provided to the program by the ORMatch Application Service, including the National Board of Examiners in Optometry Score Report Data, for the sole purpose of selecting applicants.
7. Require no commitments from applicants, make no commitments to applicants the program intends to rank regarding an applicant's position on a program's Rank Order List, and make no offers of appointment to positions participating in ORMatch prior to the release of the ORMatch results.
8. Offer appointments to all applicants matched with this program. It is understood that the Match result constitutes an obligation between the program and applicant(s) with whom it has been matched. The program cannot avoid offering appointment to its matched applicants without a written release obtained from ASCO. Furthermore, even if the program is released from its Match obligation, the program may be subject to legal action by the applicant and/or disciplinary action by its affiliated school or college of optometry and/or ASCO if it does not offer appointment to all applicants matched with the program.
9. Send a letter of confirmation of the ORMatch result to each applicant matched with this program as soon as possible and no later than 10 working days after the ORMatch results release date.
10. Not offer a position to any applicant who was matched elsewhere unless the applicant has received a formal written release of their Match commitment from ASCO.

The program may freely discuss any matter with an applicant, and each may express a high level of interest in the other. A program may voluntarily inform an applicant as to whether or not it intends to rank the applicant, and an applicant may voluntarily inform a program as to whether or not the applicant intends to rank the program. However, neither party (program or applicant) may solicit such information from the other party. In addition, neither party may disclose to the other party or solicit from the other party any information regarding the positioning of any applicant or program on a Rank Order List. Furthermore, any expression of interest that may be made during the free discussion between the program and any applicant is subject to change based on further considerations. **Both the program and the applicant(s) have the right to change their minds at any time prior to the submission of the Rank Order Lists.**

For the purposes of ORMatch, the Rank Order List submitted by each program is to be the sole determinant of the order of preference among the applicants to that program. Similarly, for the purposes of ORMatch, the Rank Order List submitted by each applicant is to be the sole determinant of the applicant's order of preference among the participating programs to which he or she has applied.

Information concerning the participation of the program in ORMatch, including the ORMatch results, may be provided to the program and to its affiliated school or college electronically, as well as to ASCO and to others deemed appropriate by ASCO. Furthermore, the program agrees to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policies of the Match web sites as shown at natmatch.com/ormatch.

It is understood that if this residency violates any of the terms of this Agreement, such as refusing to offer an appointment to an applicant matched to this residency, the violation will be reported to ASCO and/or to schools and colleges of optometry, and ASCO may impose penalties on the residency, including barring the residency from future participation in ORMatch.