

# 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 in ORMatch for residency positions that start service between April 1 and December 31, 2024, 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, 2024. Positions which cannot be assured by the Rank Order List deadline should not be offered in ORMatch. Programs may take no action to advertise non-participating positions before 12:00 p.m. noon Eastern Time on the day ORMatch results are released, and may not offer non-participating positions to applicants until 48 hours after this time.
2. Fulfill the Eligibility Requirements of ORMatch shown on the ORMatch website at [natmatch.com/ormatch](https://natmatch.com/ormatch).
3. Abide by the Schedule of Dates and Rules of ORMatch shown on the ORMatch website at [natmatch.com/ormatch](https://natmatch.com/ormatch).
4. Provide complete and accurate information to applicants prior to the Rank Order List deadline, or prior to offering a position in the Post-Match Process, concerning the position(s) being offered, including all institution and residency program policies related to eligibility requirements for appointment, compensation for residents and accreditation status of the residency program.
5. Accept and consider only applications submitted through the ORMatch Application Service prior to the release of the ORMatch results. After release of the ORMatch results, 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 commitment from any applicant, make no commitment to any applicant the program intends to rank regarding an applicant's position on a program's Rank Order List, and make no offer of appointment to any position participating in ORMatch prior to the release of the ORMatch results.
8. Offer appointment to each applicant matched with this program or accepted in the Post-Match Process. The ORMatch result, or the acceptance of an applicant in the Post-Match Process, constitutes a binding obligation between the program and applicant. The program cannot avoid offering appointment to a matched applicant, or an applicant accepted in the Post-Match Process, without a written release obtained from ASCO. Furthermore, even if the program is released from its ORMatch or Post-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 each applicant matched with the program or accepted in the Post-Match Process.
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 are released.
10. Not offer a position to any applicant who was matched elsewhere unless the applicant has received a formal written release of their ORMatch 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 ranking 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 or intention to rank made during the discussion between the program and any applicant is subject to change based on further considerations. Both the program and the applicant have the right to change their Rank Order Lists at any time prior to the Rank Order List deadline.

The Rank Order List submitted to ORMatch by each program is the sole determinant of the program's order of preference among applicants registered in ORMatch. Similarly, the Rank Order List submitted to ORMatch by each applicant is the sole determinant of the applicant's order of preference for programs registered in ORMatch.

Information concerning the participation of the program in ORMatch and the Post-Match Process, including its status and results, may be reported to ORMatch participants, as well as to the program's affiliated school or college, ASCO, and others deemed appropriate by ASCO.

The program agrees to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policies of the ORMatch websites as shown at [natmatch.com/ormatch](https://natmatch.com/ormatch), and agrees that NMS may contact the program by email and/or phone regarding its participation in ORMatch.

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. ASCO may report the violation to all its member schools and colleges of optometry, and may impose penalties on the residency, including barring the residency from future participation in ORMatch.