



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - **APPLICANTS**



NRMP Match for Cytopathology Fellowship

The selection process for prospective fellows in Cytopathology has switched to the NRMP Pathology Fellowship Match **for positions that begin in 2028**. Cytopathology will participate in a multi-specialty Pathology Fellowship Match with Molecular Pathology, Hematopathology, Forensic Pathology, Dermatopathology, other subspecialties in surgical pathology that have also decided to implement in match for recruitment.

1. When should one apply for fellowship positions?
 - Applications should be submitted to programs of your choice **before January 1, 2027**.
 - Applicants are encouraged to submit applications well in advance of January 1, 2027.
 - Applicants should check on the fellowship program website for program-specific applications and requirements.
 - Note that one can start applying for positions before registering for the NRMP Match (see below).
2. When do interviews begin?
 - Programs participating in the match have agreed to begin **interviewing starting in January 2027**.
3. Are applications for cytopathology fellowship positions through ERAS like for residency?
 - **No. ERAS is not used** for fellowship applications. For fellowship positions, only the selection process (the Match) is being handled by a central entity (the NRMP).
 - Refer to each program's individual website for application requirements, including things like application forms and required letters of reference.
 - Some programs utilize the CAP standard fellowship application: [standardized-pathology-fellowship-application.pdf \(cap.org\)](https://www.cap.org/standardized-pathology-fellowship-application.pdf)
4. When can the applicant make an NRMP account and register for the cytopathology Fellowship Match?
 - One can make an account **starting February 3, 2027**.
5. How do applicants make an account and register for the cytopathology Fellowship Match?
 - Follow this step-by-step guide: https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Registering_for_SMS_Match-App.pdf

6. What items/documents are required to register for the NRMP Match?
 - USMLE ID, NBOME, and/or AOA ID, USMLE or COMLEX Test Scores, and AAMC ID.
7. When can applicants enter a rank list of programs?
 - **Ranking opens on March 10, 2027, at noon, ET.**
8. When can one no longer add to a rank list?
 - Ranking certification must be completed by **April 14, 2027, at noon EST.**
9. When is Match Day?
 - **Match Day is April 28, 2027, at noon, ET.**
10. Can one apply to non-Match programs?
 - An applicant may apply to and interview at non-Match programs. However, they must decide whether to accept a position at a non-Match program **before certification within the Match (before April 14, 2027).**
 - The Match is a binding commitment. If an applicant accepts a position at a non-Match program and does not withdraw from the NRMP Match, they will have committed a Match violation that may be disclosed to their medical school, current program director, designated institutional official, and other relevant parties.
11. May an applicant ask programs to disclose their interest in me in terms of ranking preference?
 - Applicants must not request the program's ranking preference or intentions.
 - Programs may voluntarily disclose their ranking preference or interest during the application process. Likewise, applicants may voluntarily disclose your ranking preference or interest to programs, but programs are not permitted to request ranking preference from an applicant.
12. How should applicants rank programs?
 - Applicants should create rank order lists based on their true preferences, the characteristics of the programs interviewed, and the perceived alignment of the applicant's capabilities and interests with program mission, aims, and eligibility.
 - Applicants must respect the binding nature of a match commitment and be prepared to honor the commitment if a match occurs with any program placed on a certified rank order list.
13. What if I match at a program and don't want to go there?
 - You should only rank programs you would WANT to attend to.
 - If you match to a program, there is a binding commitment to attend that program.
 - If you cannot or will not honor the commitment, a waiver or deferral must be requested from the NRMP. Waivers are only granted in cases of ineligibility, change of specialty, or unanticipated, serious, and extreme hardship.

14. What happens if I commit a Match violation?
- Match violations are investigated by the NRMP, and serious consequences can occur. These consequences can include being barred from future Matches and programs (even if they are not in the Match), and may be barred from giving you an offer. See also the NRMP Violations policy section 6 below:
https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Violations-%20Policy_Ver.Aug2023.pdf
15. Where can I find more information on the Match Code of Conduct?
- https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/NRMP-Match-Codes-of-Conduct_Applicants.pdf
 - https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/NRMP-Match-Code-of-Conduct_Programs.pdf
16. What should I do if I feel a Match Code of Conduct violation has occurred?
- See the website below for reporting information:
 - <https://www.nrmp.org/policy/reporting-and-investigation-of-violations/>
17. How does the Match work?
- You can also view how the algorithm works at <https://www.nrmp.org/intro-to-the-%20match/how-matching-algorithm-works/>
18. What if I do not Match?
- After Match Day, all programs participating in the Match with unfilled positions receive a list of applicants who did not Match. Applicants also receive a list of programs that did not fill. At this point, you may reach out directly to these programs to apply for and interview for these unfilled positions **outside of the NRMP Match**.
19. What are the benefits of using the NRMP Match?
- The NRMP Match ensures professional standards in conduct are used in the selection of fellows.
 - The Match will help make the Cytopathology Fellowship selection process more equitable and timelier.
20. Where can I find a list of cytopathology fellowships participating in the match?
- [Click here](#) for a list of participating fellowship programs.
21. How much does it cost to register with the NRMP Match?
- The standard registration fee for applicants is \$70; this includes the listing of up to 20 unique program codes on the rank order list.
 - For additional information: [Match Fees | NRMP](#)
22. Where can I find more information on the Match for cytopathology fellowship?
- [Cytopathology Fellowship Match - American Society of Cytopathology](#)

MATCH Dates:

- **Interviews:** Suggested to start January 1, 2027
- **Match Opens:** February 3, 2027
- **Rank Order List Opens:** March 10, 2027
- **Quota Change/Withdrawal Deadline:** March 31, 2027
- **Rank Order List Certification Deadline:** April 14, 2027
- **Match Day:** April 28, 2027
- **Fellowship training begins:** July 1, 2028