

# Program Directors Association Guide for Residency Applicants

**Academic Year:** 2025-2026

**Specialty:** Otolaryngology

**Application platform:** ERAS

Additional information about application platform:

We strongly recommend having complete application on on date of application on release to programs (September 24, 2025).

**Application deadline:**

Additional information about application deadline:

**Match platform:** NRMP

Additional information about Match platform:

**Letters of recommendation (LORs):**

Total number of LORs recommended: 3-4 letters

Is it recommended that all LORs come from within this specialty:

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Determined by individual program

Is it acceptable to submit any LORs after the initial application is submitted?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☒ Determined by individual programs

Is a standardized letter or letter from the department chair recommended?

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☒ Determined by individual programs

If yes, is the standardized letter or department chair letter included in the total number of LORs recommended above?

- ☒ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Determined by individual programs

Recommended date by which all LORs should be submitted: September 24, 2025

Additional information about LORs:

Most letters should come from Otolaryngology. However, a letter from someone who knows you very well from another specialty or from an extended experience in research (1 year or longer) can be very helpful.

**Away rotation expectations:**

No requirement. However, applicants have a high rate of interview offers from the site of an away rotation. Many applicants complete 1-2 away rotations.

Unless applicant comes from a medical school with no home otolaryngology program, letters of recommendation from the site of the away rotation are not expected.

**Supplemental information:**

Are applicants required to complete supplemental application materials?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☒ Determined by individual programs

If yes, please specify:

Additional information about supplemental information:

**Signal information:**

Please indicate the number of signals available: 25

Are applicants expected to signal their home institution? ☒ Yes  
☐ No

Are applicants expected to signal institutions where they completed away rotations?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

Additional information about signals:

Recommend using all 25 signals if applying to 25 programs or more.

**Use of USMLE/COMLEX scores:**

What is the recommended date that a USMLE Step 2CK/COMLEX Level 2 score should be available in order for the application to be reviewed?

Applicants should have passed USMLE step 1 (or COMLEX Equivalent). USMLE step 2 score should be available when applications are released to programs.

What is the recommended date that a USMLE Step 2CK/COMLEX Level 2 score should be available in order for an interviewed applicant to be ranked?

Are USMLE scores required or strongly recommended by the specialty even when an applicant has a COMLEX score?

☒

Yes

☐

No

☐

Determine by individual program

Additional information about USMLE/COMLEX scores:

**Interview invitation process:**

Universal interview release dates recommended? ☒ Yes

☐

No

If yes, please specify the dates:

Common interview offer date is November 7, 2025.

Interviews can be accepted on November 10, 2025.

If no, during what time period are interviews typically offered?

Additional information about interview invitations:

After the initial interview offers are accepted, additional interviews will be offered as positions are available.

Applicants should not schedule or hold interview spots that they do not intend on attending.

**Interview format:**

Recommended interview format ☐ Virtual  
☐ In-person  
☐ Hybrid  
☒ Determined by individual programs

Additional information about interview format:

Most otolaryngology programs interviewed in-person. Some programs will choose to interview sub-interns who completed an away rotation in a virtual format.

**Additional information for applicants, if relevant (e.g. applicant communication, second look/open house):**

Second-look open houses may be offered by programs at their discretion.