

Frequently Asked Questions: The NRMP Match for Pathology Fellowships

The selection process for prospective fellows in Gynecologic and/or Breast Pathology fellowships has switched to the NRMP Pathology Fellowship Match **for positions that begin in 2028**. This document assumes you are a prospective fellow who is applying for positions beginning in 2027. These subspecialties will participate in a multi-specialty Pathology Fellowship Match with Molecular Genetic Pathology, Hematopathology, Forensic Pathology, Bone and Soft Tissue Pathology, Cytopathology, and Dermatopathology.

1. When should I apply for fellowship positions?
 - a. Programs are encouraged to accept applications at least through **January 1, 2027**. Applicants should review individual program requirements. Individual programs may modify their application deadline, so applicants should review individual program websites for requirements. Note that you can start applying to positions before registering for the NRMP Match (see below).
2. When do interviews begin?
 - a. Programs participating in the match are encouraged to **interview from January through March, 2027**. Individual programs may modify their interview timeline, so you are encouraged to review program websites.
3. Do I apply for positions through ERAS like I did for residency?
 - a. **No, ERAS is not used** for applications. Refer to each program's individual website for application requirements including things like application forms and required letters of reference. Many 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 I make an account and register for the Pathology Fellowship Match?
 - a. You can make an account **starting February 3rd, 2027**.
5. How do I make an account and register for the Pathology Fellowship Match?
 - a. 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 Match?
 - a. You will need your USMLE ID, NBOME, and/or AOA ID, USMLE or COMLEX Test Scores, and AAMC ID.
7. When can I enter my rank list of programs?
 - a. Ranking opens on **March 10, 2027 at noon, ET**.
8. When can I no longer edit my rank list?
 - a. Ranking certification must be completed by **April 14, 2027 at noon, EST**.
9. When is Match Day?
 - a. **Match day is April 28, 2027 at noon, ET**.
10. Can I apply to non-Match programs?
 - a. You may apply to and interview at non-Match programs. However, you must decide whether or not 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 you are matched to a program in the NRMP Match and do not

accept that position, you have committed a Match violation that may be disclosed to your medical school, current program director, designated institutional official, and other relevant parties.

11. May I ask programs to disclose their interest in me in terms of ranking preference?
 - a. Applicants **must not** request the program's ranking preference or intentions. **However**, programs **may voluntarily disclose their ranking preference or interest** to you during the application process. Likewise, **you may voluntarily disclose your ranking preference** or interest to programs, but programs are **not permitted to request** your ranking preference from you.
12. How should I rank programs?
 - a. 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 to a program and don't want to go there?
 - a. You should only rank programs you would WANT to attend. If you Match to a program, you have created 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 (see link below). Waivers are granted only in cases of ineligibility, change of specialty, or unanticipated, serious, and extreme hardship.
14. What happens if I commit a Match violation?
 - a. 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) may be barred from giving you an offer. See also the NRMP Violations policy section 6 below:
 - i. 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?
 - a. https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/NRMP-Match-Codes-of-Conduct_Applicants.pdf
 - b. 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?
 - a. See the below website for reporting information:
<https://www.nrmp.org/policy/reporting-and-investigation-of-violations/>
17. How does the Match work?



- a. https://youtu.be/cnVe_NYIVAE or scan this:

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?
 - a. After Match Day, all programs 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 at these unfilled positions **outside of the NRMP Match**.
19. What are the benefits of using the NRMP Match?
 - a. The NRMP Match ensures professional standards in conduct are used in the selection of fellows. The Match will help make the Pathology Fellowship selection process more equitable and timelier.
20. Where can I find a list of fellowships participating in the match?
 - a. Go to the [ADASP website \(adasp.org\)](https://www.adasp.org/) and look for the Fellowship Tile
21. How much does it cost to register with the NRMP Match?
 - a. 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 more information: [Match Fees | NRMP](#)
22. Where can I find more information on the Match for Gynecologic and/or Breast Pathology Pathology?
 - a. [ADASP website](https://www.adasp.org/)
 - b. <https://www.nrmp.org/fellowship-applicants/>