

# 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 entering into this Agreement with ASCO, this residency program agrees to participate in, and abide by this Program Agreement for, ORMatch for positions that start service between April 1 and December 31, 2026. Specifically, the residency program agrees to:

1. Offer through ORMatch all positions being offered by the program to start service between April 1 and December 31, 2026. 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 in ORMatch, including program participation status, all institution and residency program policies related to eligibility requirements for appointment, compensation for residents and accreditation status of the residency program.
5. Accept that ORMatch does not set, recommend, standardize, or communicate any requirements for programs with regard to the quality or content of training, the evaluation or eligibility of applicants, compensation, or the terms of any offer of appointment between a program and applicant. ORMatch is not responsible for the accuracy of program or applicant information or any changes to that information, or for changes to an applicant's status. ORMatch is a service used by registered participants, and judgments regarding applicant or program selection and ranking remain exclusively with the registered participants.
6. 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.
7. Use all applicant information provided to the program by the ORMatch Application Service, including the National Board of Examiners in Optometry Score Data, for the sole purpose of selecting applicants.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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 free discussion between a program and an 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.

Each participant is solely responsible for complying with all applicable laws and regulations related to their use of ORMatch and to any decisions made regarding selection, rankings or terms of offer or appointment between an applicant and a program.

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](http://natmatch.com/ormatch), and agrees that NMS may contact the program by email and/or phone regarding its participation in ORMatch.

NMS and ASCO assume no liability for any outcome of the matching process or for any decisions or agreements made between applicants and programs.

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.

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**SCHEDULE OF DATES**

**For Residency Positions Starting in 2026**

AUGUST, 2025	<b>Residency Registration:</b> Residency registration emails for participation in ORMatch are sent to Program Coordinators, who must complete the online registration process.
OCTOBER 1, 2025	<p>By this date, a list of programs participating in ORMatch is available on the ORMatch website at <a href="https://natmatch.com/ormatch">natmatch.com/ormatch</a>.</p> <p><b>Applicant Registration:</b> ORMatch registration opens for applicants. Prior to registering, applicants should review the information in the Applicant Registration section of the ORMatch website.</p> <p><b>Application Service:</b> The ORMatch Application Service opens for applicants and programs. Instructions for using the Application Service are provided on the ORMatch website.</p>
OCTOBER, 2025 - FEBRUARY, 2026	Applicants submit applications to programs using the ORMatch Application Service. Application deadlines and other program requirements vary; therefore, applicants should review the <a href="#">ASCO Residency Directory</a> and contact programs directly for more information.
DECEMBER 31, 2025	Recommended date by which applicants should register for ORMatch. Applicants cannot use the ORMatch Application Service until they have registered for ORMatch.
JANUARY 30, 2026	Application cutoff date for ORMatch to obtain verified NBEO score information to be transmitted to programs. Any application submitted after this date will not have verified NBEO score information sent to the program by ORMatch. Official score information for any application submitted after this date must be provided by the applicant directly to the program.
FEBRUARY 9, 2026	<b>Rankings Open:</b> Applicants and programs may begin to submit Rank Order Lists for ORMatch using the NMS Match System.
FEBRUARY 24, 2026	<b>Rank Order List Deadline:</b> Applicant and program Rank Order Lists must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. No Rank Order Lists, applications, registrations, or withdrawals can be submitted in the NMS Match System after this deadline.
MARCH 3, 2026	<p><b>Match Results Day:</b> Results of ORMatch are released to applicants, programs, and schools and colleges of optometry. No action to fill positions remaining unfilled after the Match is to be taken prior to 12 p.m. noon Eastern Time.</p> <p>Program Coordinators send letters of confirmation of the ORMatch results to matched applicants within 10 working days of the release of the ORMatch results. Applicants must return the letters in accordance with the program's instructions within 30 days of the release of the ORMatch results.</p>

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**POST-MATCH PROCESS**

MARCH 3, 2026	<b>Post-Match Opens:</b> Starting at 12:00 p.m. noon Eastern Time, a list of Programs with Available Positions will be provided to unmatched applicants. Unmatched applicants may send applications to programs with available positions using the NMS Match System.
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A list of applicants who submitted an application or certified a Rank Order List but were not matched, or who withdrew but indicated they are still seeking a position, is provided to programs and Directors of Residencies in the NMS Match System.

Programs and applicants are free to contact each other, share information, and conduct interviews. Programs may not make offers for Post-Match positions, and applicants may not accept offers from programs, prior to 12:00 p.m. noon Eastern Time on March 5, 2026.

MARCH 5, 2026

**Post-Match Offers Begin:** Starting at 12:00 p.m. noon Eastern Time, programs may offer Post-Match positions to any individual who was not matched to a position, and unmatched applicants may accept offers from programs. Applicants who receive an offer for a Post-Match position may hold the offer for up to 24 hours, after which the program can rescind the offer.

MARCH 10, 2026

The list of Programs with Available Positions will be posted publicly on the ORMatch website.

JUNE 30, 2026

**System Closes:** The NMS Match System closes for applicants, programs, and schools and colleges of optometry at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Applicants, programs, and schools and colleges must download their ORMatch information by this date.