

Anesthesiology

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| Application System | ERAS |
| Away Rotations | Not necessary, but becoming more common. <i>National Guidelines: Don't do more than 2 away rotations.</i> |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 5 gold and 10 silver signals (same as 2025-2026). <i>National Guidelines: Signal both home and away programs.</i> |
| Couples Match | "Applicants who are couples matching should ensure both members of the couple signal the same programs whenever possible. Asking a program that the applicant did not signal for an interview because their partner received an interview at the same institution is discouraged and unlikely to be successful." |
| Supplemental Questions (from 2025-2026) *500 character limit per question | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe a time when you faced adversity, how you overcame it, and any lessons learned from it. • Describe a situation in which you would have made a different decision that might have led to a better outcome. • Describe your ideal career as an attending. |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most programs require 3, rarely will programs require 4 • At least one letter must be from an anesthesiologist • You will typically get a department letter from home Anesthesia AIs |
| Interviews | No release date, the majority occur from late October to mid-January. |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | Pre: PD guide recommends no letter of interest prior to receiving an interview. Post: Thank you letter or letter of interest are welcome but may not influence rank list/interview outcomes. |
| Second Looks | Second looks were offered. |

Resources

- Program Directors Association Guides for Residency Applicants 2025-2026
 - <https://cmss.org/program-directors-association-guides-for-residency-applicants/>
- CWRU Residency Roadmap
 - <https://sites.google.com/a/case.edu/casemed-guidebook/?usp=sharing>
- Residency Explorer
 - <https://www.residencyexplorer.org>

Child Neurology

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| Application System | ERAS |
| Away Rotations | Not recommended or required. |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 3 gold, 6 silver (different from 2025-2026). <i>Check if home/away require signals.</i> |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3-4, would recommend at least one Pediatrics and one Neurology |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• For the 2025-2026 application cycle, the Child Neurology Society recommended a universal interview offer date of October 6, 2025.• Interviews occur in late October through mid-January.• All virtual |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | Applicants may request and exchange clarifying information with programs following the interview but must not solicit or engage in post-interview communication for the purposes of influencing or ascertaining a program's ranking intentions. |
| Second Looks | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Optional, typically in late January. |

Resources

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Dermatology

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| Application System | ERAS |
| Away Rotations | APD recommends no more than 2 away rotations. |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 3 gold and 25 silver signals (same as 2025-2026). |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 required; all from Dermatology or 3 from Dermatology and 1 from Internal Medicine• Chair letter is strongly recommended |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 centralized interview release dates (in 2025, they were 11/3, 11/17, and 12/1)• Interviews usually take place from November to early February, weekdays only• Mostly virtual, but some are in-person |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | Recommend against all pre/post interview communication. |
| Second Looks | Second looks were offered, but rare. |

Resources

- Program Directors Association Guides for Residency Applicants 2025-2026
 - <https://cmss.org/program-directors-association-guides-for-residency-applicants/>
- CWRU Residency Roadmap
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Emergency Medicine

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|---|---|
| Application System | ResidencyCAS |
| Away Rotations | 1 away recommended. |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 5 non-tiered signals. <i>Guidance is that home and away programs should not require a signal. However, they recommended checking with each home and away program.</i> |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 LORs with 2 from EM in the SLOE format• Specific letters required: Standard Letter Of Evaluation SLOE (one from each EM AI) |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unified Interview Release Date for Emergency Medicine for the 2025–26 recruitment season was October 21, 2025 (Not all programs are following this date)• Interviews occur November-January, weekdays only• All virtual |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | Emergency Medicine discourages post-interview communication, including thank you letters, love letters, and letters of intent. |
| Second Looks | Offered in February. Optional, mostly informal. |

Resources

- Program Directors Association Guides for Residency Applicants 2025-2026
 - <https://cms.org/program-directors-association-guides-for-residency-applicants/>
- CWRU Residency Roadmap
 - <https://sites.google.com/a/case.edu/casemed-guidebook/?usp=sharing>
- Council of Emergency Medicine Directors (CORD) Student Advising Guides
 - <https://www.cordem.org/ascem>

Family Medicine

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| Application System | ERAS |
| Away Rotations | Strongly recommended. No specific number of aways required. |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 5 non-tired signals. <i>Check if home/away require signals.</i> |
| Letters of Recommendation | Usually 3-4 letters of recommendation. Individual Family Medicine programs may have different requirements for the number of LORs or by whom they should be authored. Please check with individual programs for their requirements for letters of recommendation. |
| Personal Statement | Check residency websites beforehand because some residency programs want a personalized one specific to their program. |
| Supplemental Application | A few programs invite you to complete a supplemental application after the primary application is due. |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rolling interview release, starts in early October • Interviews are generally a half day on weekdays from October - January. A few programs have options to interview on weekends. • Most virtual, but a few programs only have in-person or hybrid options. |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | <p>Pre: Applicants are discouraged from sending letters of interest or intent to rank.</p> <p>Post: The National Residency Match Program discourages post-interview communication between applicants and programs. If an applicant would like to send a thank you note, they are welcome to do so, but they should understand the Family Medicine program may not respond.</p> |
| Second Looks | End of January to mid-February. Most programs say they lock their rank lists before second looks. Not required. |

Resources

- Program Directors Association Guides for Residency Applicants 2025-2026
 - <https://cmss.org/program-directors-association-guides-for-residency-applicants/>
- CWRU Residency Roadmap
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General Surgery

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|---|---|
| Application System | ERAS |
| Away Rotations | Not necessary, but can allow you to get a better sense of program culture or express interest in a particular region. Away LORs can be viewed as more indicative of your performance than a home LOR. Doing an away does NOT guarantee an interview at all programs. |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 15 non-tiered signals. <i>Check with individual home/away programs if you need to signal them.</i> |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most programs require 3 letters; aim to ask for 3-4 letters with majority or all from surgeons (especially from general surgery or its subspecialties) • Very few programs require a chair letter; Be sure to read the program's website carefully. |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2025, the Association of Program Directors in Surgery recommended that programs release interview invitations between Oct 22-24. The vast majority came out the first two days, but not all programs followed this recommendation (some released earlier, some later). HIGHLY recommend having reliable and immediate access to your phone during these release dates. • Interviews take place November through January, some programs offer weekend dates but majority on weekdays (resident social typically the night before). Majority virtual, some in-person (particularly programs looking to see commitment from applicants). |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | <p>Pre: Applicants to surgical programs are encouraged to maintain professional and timely communication to programs in order to provide the most consistent recruitment process possible. If necessary to cancel an interview, timely and professional communication is expected with at least one-week notice.</p> <p>Post: No guidance.</p> |
| Second Looks | Offered by some programs, many emphasize that the second look dates are after rank lists are already submitted and will have no bearing on your rank. The majority of second looks are in February; recommend not having a clinical rotation then to make it easier for you to travel if you are interested in doing so. |

Resources

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Internal Medicine

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| Application System | ERAS |
| Away Rotations | Not required, but more students are doing them. |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 3 gold and 12 silver signals. <i>Signal Away: Yes</i> <i>Signal Home: TBD (CCF and UH did not require signals last year)</i> |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• #of LORs: 2-3 from IM attendings recommended (most students acquire from Acting Internships); others optional• Specific LOR required: one IM standardized letter of evaluation (SLOE) also called "Department of Medicine" or "Chair" LOR (most easily obtained from UH/VA Acting Internship) |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rolling release: Start mid- October, recommended to release initial invitations on Tuesdays and Fridays after 3PM ET• Most interviews occur in November and December, few in January. Weekdays only.• All virtual |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | Pre: No guidance. Post: AAIM strongly discourages programs from sending tailored, individualized post-interview communication. If post-interview communication is necessary, establishing guardrails are imperative. |
| Second Looks | Some programs offered, most didn't. If offered, they were mostly in February. Some programs participated in early lock, so they had submitted their rank list before 2nd looks. All programs that offered 2nd looks stated that 2nd looks were optional and would not have an on how applicants were ranked. |

Resources

- Program Directors Association Guides for Residency Applicants 2025-2026
 - <https://cmss.org/program-directors-association-guides-for-residency-applicants/>
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Med/Peds

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|---|--|
| Application System | ERAS |
| Away Rotations | Not required or recommended. |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 5 non-tiered signals (same as 2025-2026). <i>National Guidelines: Both home and away programs should require signals, but check with programs individually.</i> |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3-4 LORs• Ideal letters include at least one from a Med-Peds trained physician, one from IM, and one from Peds. One of these letters should be from the Chair of Medicine or Chair of Pediatrics at your home institution |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rolling release, mid-October through November• Interviews occur from November through January• All virtual |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | Post-interview communication discouraged unless it is: 1. A thank you note (and this is considered optional). 2. Specific follow-up questions from the interview day. 3. Updates to provide to an application (e.g., new publication, award). Letters of intent are not expected and if sent, should only be sent to one program. Programs are not expected to reply to such communications. |
| Second Looks | Yes, optional. Programs are encouraged to lock their rank list before these 2nd looks. |

Resources

- Program Directors Association Guides for Residency Applicants 2025-2026
 - <https://cmss.org/program-directors-association-guides-for-residency-applicants/>
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Neurology

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|---|---|
| Application System | ERAS |
| Away Rotations | Not required, but can help if you have a strong geographical preference. |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 8 non-tiered signals (same as 2025-2026). |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3-4, at least one from a neurologist• Some prelim programs require 1 IM chair letter or IM recommendation letter |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Released early to mid-October through November• Scheduling options from mid-October through the end of January, only offered on weekdays (some programs lumped prelim interview and neuro interview into 1-2 days during week)• All virtual |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | Overall, recommended limited program-to-applicant communication, but programs were very responsive and receptive to thank you letters. |
| Second Looks | Most programs offered second looks in late January/early to mid February post-rank list submission (at least internally rank list submission per the program). |

Resources

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Neurological Surgery

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| Application System | ERAS |
| Away Rotations | Recommended to do one home AI, 2-3 away rotations. |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 25 non-tiered signals (same as 2025-2026). |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 LORs, including one SNS SLOE from home program. Remaining LORs can be written by an individual OR a committee (commonly chair, PD, faculty who worked directly with applicant) |
| Supplemental Questions (from 2025-2026) *1000 character limit per question | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Describe a time when you had to make a quick decision. What did you consider when making the decision? Who did you consult or not and why? Describe a specific situation where you received negative feedback about your performance. How did you adjust your behavior? What did you learn from this situation? Describe a specific situation when your workload was overwhelming. What specific actions did you take to manage your workload? What was the outcome? |
| Personal Statement (prompt from 2025-2026) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neurosurgery is an arduous but rewarding career track. Describe your vision for your future career as a neurosurgeon. Discuss the challenges you foresee for your career as a neurosurgeon. Discuss the competencies and experiences you have had that prepare you for that future career and to face those challenges effectively. |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Released Fridays in October at/after 4pm EST; applicants have until Sunday to schedule and are guaranteed a spot (although choice of dates will be first-come-first-served) Interviews take place end of October through January; both weekdays/weekends Vast majority were in-person, with a few virtual interviews (https://www.societyns.org/medical-students/interview-dates) |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | No guidance. |
| Second Looks | Optional second looks for programs that interviewed virtually (after last interview date), will not impact ranking. |

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- CWRU Residency Roadmap
 - <https://sites.google.com/a/case.edu/casemed-guidebook/?usp=sharing>
- Residency Explorer
 - <https://www.residencyexplorer.org>
- <https://www.neurosurgerymatch.org/application-process/>

Obstetrics and Gynecology

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| Application System | ResidencyCAS |
| Away Rotations/AIs | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Away rotations aren't required. They can be helpful if there is a particular program you are interested in, but can be detrimental if you do not perform well.• Applicants will typically do one gynecology AI and one obstetrics AI |
| Signals (from 2025-2026) | 3 gold and 15 silver signals |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 LORs total – 1 Chair + 1 SLOE + 2 Traditional/Narrative• SLOE = Standard Letter of Evaluation. Not all programs require it, but most do.• You can get a Chair letter from UH or CCF |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is one interview release date in late October. If you are on a waitlist, you can get interview offers later in November or December.• APGO has an interview start date, usually the first Monday of November (<i>exception: home programs sometimes interview before the start date</i>). The majority of interviews are in November and December, but some occur in January. Very few programs interview in February.• Interviews are on weekdays (all virtual) with socials the night before |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | Most programs discouraged post-interview communication in general. |
| Second Looks | A few programs offer a second look. They were either in-person or virtual, depending on the program. The programs said they did not impact rank and are truly optional. |

Resources

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 - <https://sites.google.com/a/case.edu/casemed-guidebook/?usp=sharing>

Ophthalmology

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| Application System | SF Match |
| Away Rotations | 2+, STRONGLY recommended |
| Signals (from 2025-2026) | 10 non-tiered signals <i>National Guidelines: Signal both home and away programs.</i> |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most programs require 3 • 2 from Ophthalmology, the 3rd letter can be Ophthalmology or from any field (ex. IM, Surg, etc.) |
| Autobiographical Statement (from 2025-2026) | Narrative focusing on your unique path to ophthalmology, personal story, and future aspirations (approx 500 words). |
| Supplemental Questions (from 2025-2026) *Choose 2 (250 words each) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Resilience</u>: Describe a situation in your personal or professional life where you have demonstrated resilience and what it means to you. • <u>Mentorship</u>: Describe an important mentor and discuss their impact on your development. • <u>Diversity</u>: Discuss how you will add diversity to your residency class, including background, experiences, or perspectives. • <u>Core Values</u>: Outline three core values you would use to build an ophthalmology residency program |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 official dates (in 2025, they were 10/15, 10/22, 10/29, 11/5) • Occur late October through mid-December (in 2025, Oct 27th- Dec 19th), all virtual • Interview cap of 15, can only hold 15 interviews. If you get more offers than that, then you need to give up one in order to take on another interview. |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage post-interview communication if there were specific things you connected with the interviewers • Should send a Letter of Interest to your #1 program, but do not send this to multiple programs. • Encourage your mentors to reach out for you. |
| Second Looks | Ophthalmology programs submit their rank list (beginning of January) before these 2nd looks (early-mid Jan), so no impact on rank list. Not all programs have it. They are all in-person, 4 hours, include facility tour/resident Q&A. |

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- Residency Explorer
 - <https://www.residencyexplorer.org>

Orthopedic Surgery

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| Application System | ERAS |
| Away Rotations | Strongly recommended to do at least 4 away rotations. |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 30 signals (same as 2025-2026). |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• - #of LORs : 3-4• Specialty-specific standardized letter(s) (encouraged to use eSLOR)• At least two should be from the field of orthopaedic surgery (many say all, unless you have a research letter). These can be from your home institution and/or an institution where you completed an away rotation. |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interview release date usually in late November (last year was 11/17/2025), had 48 hrs to respond• Interviews occur from December to February• In Person |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | N/A for applicants. However, strongly discourages any post-interview communication from the Program Director, Department Chair, or faculty on the Selection Committee. |
| Second Looks | Program specific, should only be allowed after the Rank Order List has been submitted and certified by the Program and should not affect Rank Order decisions. |

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- Residency Explorer
 - <https://www.residencyexplorer.org>

Otolaryngology

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| Application System | ERAS |
| Away Rotations | Most Case students will do both the UH and CCF rotations and 2-3 additional away rotations. |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 25 non-tiered signals (same as 2025-2026). |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3-4 letters of recommendation, almost all recommended to be from ENTs• Chair letter co-authored by Dr. Mowry and Dr. Maronian from UH at the end of home AI |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Historically released the first week of November (November 6 and 7 in 2025)• Centralized scheduling date is the Monday following the centralized interview release date (November 10 in 2025)• Interviews are conducted late November through the end of January• All in-person interviews. Some away rotations will offer virtual interviews for rotators. |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | No specialty-specific guidelines listed for pre/post interview communication. |
| Second Looks | No second look offers – you will get a good “first look” since nearly all interviews are held in person! |

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- Residency Explorer
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Pathology

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| Application System | ERAS |
| Away Rotations | Not necessary or required. |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 5 non-tiered signals. <i>National Guidelines: applicants should signal their home institution, or an institution where they completed an away rotation, if they are interested in an interview at that program.</i> |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Applicants to Pathology Residency Programs are encouraged to have at least 3 letters of recommendation. Individual programs may specify more stringent requirements, and a date by which these letters are received. |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Rolling release, starts mid-OctoberInterviews occur October - FebruaryAll virtual |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | Refer to the NRMP code of conduct. |
| Second Looks | TBD by individual programs. Optional to applicants. Programs are required to submit their Rank Order list in advance. |

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Pediatrics

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| Application System | ERAS |
| Away Rotations | Not required. |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 5 non-tiered signals (same as 2025-2026). <i>National Guidelines: Recommend signals to home and away, but clarify with home/away programs to see if these are required.</i> |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3-4, at least one pediatrics• Specific letters required: SLOE or chair or other type letter- would strongly recommend getting Department letter from Dr. Michael Dell, Vice Chair of Education at Rainbow |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Earliest release date of 2025 was Oct 6, then rolling• Interviews occur from October through January• All virtual |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | We discourage post-interview communication unless it is: 1. A thank you note (and this is considered optional). 2. Specific follow-up questions from the interview day. 3. Updates to provide to an application (e.g., new publication, award). Letters of intent are not expected and if sent, should only be sent to one program. Programs are not expected to reply to such communications. |
| Second Looks | Second looks were offered, but optional. |

Resources

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 - <https://www.residencyexplorer.org>

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

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| Application System | ERAS |
| Away Rotations | Not required, but many students will do 1-2. |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 20 non-tiered signals (same as 2025-2026). <i>National Guidelines: Signal both home and away programs.</i> |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3• Specific letters required: SLOE <p><i>Applicants are strongly suggested to have a PM&R Standard Letter of Evaluation (SLOE) submitted. Information for the PM&R SLOE can be found on the Association of Academic Physiatrists' (AAP) website. Other narrative letters of recommendation, from PM&R faculty or other specialties, remain acceptable.</i></p> |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rolling release, no centralized date• Interviews occur October through January, many happen in the second half of this timeframe• Format is program dependent, some in-person and some virtual |

Resources

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- Residency Explorer
 - <https://www.residencyexplorer.org>

Plastic Surgery - Integrated

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| Application System | ERAS |
| Changes for 2026-2027 | Three pilot features: (1) a pricing package pilot - see MyERAS for details, (2) a program signal explanation to accompany each signal, and (3) specialty-specific questions. |
| Away Rotations | Recommend a home AI and two away rotations. |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 20 non-tiered signals. |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-4 LORs, at least 2 from plastic surgeons • 2027 Match Plastic Surgery Residency Recommendation Form: Integrated Applicant: https://aceplasticsurgeons.org/multimedia/files/2025/Integrated-Cover-Letter-Form-ACPS25-Fillable.pdf |
| Supplemental Questions (2026-2027) *500 character limit per question | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe a specific situation when a team you were on had to collaborate to achieve an outcome and there was a disagreement. How did you specifically contribute to the solution? • Describe a specific situation where you experienced a setback. How did you overcome this challenge? • Describe a time when you had to make an important decision quickly. What did you consider when making the decision? |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the 2025-2026 cycle: interview offers were made on Friday, November 7th between 8:00AM and 12:00PM PST. Interview scheduling by programs must not start before Monday, November 10th at 8:00AM PST to allow students to figure out their interview schedule. • Interviews take place throughout January and the first week of February; both weekdays/weekends • Vast majority in-person, with some virtual |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | Communication from applicants regarding their rank list OR from faculty regarding the applicant's ranking are prohibited. There can be no unsolicited contact from programs to applicants. Contact with residents can only be initiated by the applicant and content of communication is prohibited from addressing the applicant's ranking/desirability. |
| Second Looks | Second looks were offered, will NOT affect rank list. |

Resources

- Program Directors Association Guides for Residency Applicants 2025-2026
 - <https://cmss.org/program-directors-association-guides-for-residency-applicants/>
- CWRU Residency Roadmap
 - <https://sites.google.com/a/case.edu/casemed-guidebook/?usp=sharing>
- Residency Explorer
 - <https://www.residencyexplorer.org>

Psychiatry

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| Application System | ERAS |
| Away Rotations | Not required |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 10 non-tiered signals (same as 2025-2026). |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3-4• At least one from psychiatry, one from primary care is also good (IM or FM elective/rotation/AI) |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Released September-February (mostly in the first half of this time frame)• Occur October - February (mostly in the first half of this time frame)• All virtual |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | Post-interview communication is voluntary and does not affect ranking decisions. |
| Second Looks | All scheduled after submission of rank lists |

Resources

- Program Directors Association Guides for Residency Applicants 2025-2026
 - <https://cmss.org/program-directors-association-guides-for-residency-applicants/>
- CWRU Residency Roadmap
 - <https://sites.google.com/a/case.edu/casemed-guidebook/?usp=sharing>
- Residency Explorer
 - <https://www.residencyexplorer.org>

Radiation Oncology

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| Application System | ERAS |
| Away Rotations | Highly recommended as Rad Onc is a small field. Would recommend doing at least 3 total rotations. |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 4 non-tiered signals. |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually 3 or 4 Rad Onc letters but program-specific, pay attention to websites • SLOE or chair or other type letter not necessarily required; nice to have one of your letters be written as a “department letter” and one from a PD (could combine these). • Also need letters for Prelim or Transition Year; department LOR medicine or surgery, so do a pre-ERAS MED or SURG AI before applying to get department LOR |
| Couples Match | “Applicants who are couples matching should ensure both members of the couple signal the same programs whenever possible. Asking a program that the applicant did not signal for an interview because their partner received an interview at the same institution is discouraged and unlikely to be successful.” |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No central release date, interviews sent from October to December • Interviews occur mid-November through the end of January • 50/50 in person and virtual. Most places cover hotel costs for one night. |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | Each program is different. Most do not want post-interview communication. Letters of interest are okay pre-interview. Letters of intent are not okay for all places, so make sure to ask. |
| Second Looks | Places with virtual interviews offer second looks, most being in February. Are said to not impact the rank list. |

Resources

- Program Directors Association Guides for Residency Applicants 2025-2026
 - <https://cmss.org/program-directors-association-guides-for-residency-applicants/>
- CWRU Residency Roadmap
 - <https://sites.google.com/a/case.edu/casemed-guidebook/?usp=sharing>
- Residency Explorer
 - <https://www.residencyexplorer.org>
- Many program coordinators collaborate together on this website to signify when their interview dates are and what format if you don't see it on their website page.
 - <https://www.aropa.org/interview-calendar>

Radiology - Diagnostic

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| Application System | ERAS |
| Away Rotations | Not required. |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 6 gold, 9 silver (same as 2025-2026). |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 LORs, at least one from a diagnostic radiologist• Radiology programs also want to see at least one clinical letter NOT from a radiologist |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No universal release date/time; majority of interview invites go out between the end of September and November (some in December)• Interviews occur October through January; both weekdays/weekends; majority virtual (some may be in-person) |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | No specialty-specific guidance. |
| Second Looks | No specialty-wide guidance regarding second-looks; refer to individual programs for additional information. Programs are “generally recommended to lock ranking prior to any second look.” |

Resources

- Program Directors Association Guides for Residency Applicants 2025-2026
 - <https://cmss.org/program-directors-association-guides-for-residency-applicants/>
- CWRU Residency Roadmap
 - <https://sites.google.com/a/case.edu/casemed-guidebook/?usp=sharing>
- Residency Explorer
 - <https://www.residencyexplorer.org>

Radiology - Interventional

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| Application System | ERAS |
| Away Rotations | Not required. |
| Signals (from 2025-2026) | 8 non-tiered signals. |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3-4, at least one from interventional radiology |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rolling release; starting in September (no centralized date)• Interviews occur from October through January• Majority are virtual |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | <p>Pre: PD guide recommends no letter of interest prior to receiving an interview. Post: Thank you letter or letter of interest are welcome but may not influence rank list/interview outcomes.</p> |
| Second Looks | No specialty-wide guidance regarding second-looks; refer to individual programs for additional information. Programs are “generally recommended to lock ranking prior to any second look.” |

Resources

- Program Directors Association Guides for Residency Applicants 2025-2026
 - <https://cmss.org/program-directors-association-guides-for-residency-applicants/>
- CWRU Residency Roadmap
 - <https://sites.google.com/a/case.edu/casemed-guidebook/?usp=sharing>
- Residency Explorer
 - <https://www.residencyexplorer.org>

Cardiothoracic Surgery - Integrated (6 YR)

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| Application System | ERAS |
| Away Rotations | 2-3 away rotations recommended. |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 4 signals (different from 2025-2026, which was 3 signals). <i>Do not need to signal home or away programs.</i> |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3-4 LORs, prioritize letters from CT surgeons; some programs do accept letters from general surgeons |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Release date TBD, for 2025-2026 it was October 21, 2025• Interviews take place in late November through January• Format is program-specific, mix of in-person and virtual interviews |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | No guidance. |
| Second Looks | Some programs offer second looks; consult each program for their policy on whether it will affect ranking |

Resources

- Program Directors Association Guides for Residency Applicants 2025-2026
 - <https://cmss.org/program-directors-association-guides-for-residency-applicants/>
- CWRU Residency Roadmap
 - <https://sites.google.com/a/case.edu/casemed-guidebook/?usp=sharing>
- Residency Explorer
 - <https://www.residencyexplorer.org>

Additional links from students:

- [Cardiothoracic Residency Application Process for Medical Students: Part 1](#)
- [TSMA Residency Interview Advice Series - YouTube Playlist](#)
- <https://www.ctmedstudent.org/copy-of-resources>

Urology

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| Application System | ERAS |
| Away Rotations | 1-3 away rotations are strongly recommended. |
| Couples Match | Urology Match is early (last year was February 2, 2026). |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 30 non-tiered signals (same as 2025-2026). <i>National Guidelines: Signal both home and away programs.</i> |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-4 LORs • Specialty-specific standardized letter(s) of evaluation (SLOE) • Letter from a Chair (you will typically get a department letter from home Urology AIs) • Letter from someone in urology; Applicants typically will submit letters from home program PD or chair or other faculty as well as their sub internship/ away rotation PD or chair or other faculty. |
| Interviews | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release date is typically 1 month after ERAS opens to programs (usually on a Friday), Flush Day is typically on a Tuesday after the Friday universal release • Interviews occur the end of October through December • In-person, hybrid, and virtual format |
| Rank List | Rank list due at the end of December (2026-2027 date TBD). |
| Pre/Post-Interview Communication | PD guide recommends no letter of interest prior to receiving an interview. Post-interview thank you or letter of interest are welcome but may not influence rank list/interview outcomes. |
| Second Looks | <p>Currently not recommended for programs with in-person interviews although we recognize in a virtual format interview that there is interest in visiting the local area.</p> <p>NRMP Voluntary Rank Order List (ROL) Lock Pilot Initiative: No</p> |

Resources

- Program Directors Association Guides for Residency Applicants 2025-2026
 - <https://cmss.org/program-directors-association-guides-for-residency-applicants/>
- CWRU Residency Roadmap
 - <https://sites.google.com/a/case.edu/casemed-guidebook/?usp=sharing>
- Residency Explorer
 - <https://www.residencyexplorer.org>
- Society of Academic Urologists
 - <https://sauweb.org/match/>

Vascular Surgery

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| Application System | ERAS |
| Away Rotations | Away rotations are recommended, no number specified. |
| Signals (2026-2027) | 3 gold and 12 silver signals. <i>NOTE: Signals were NOT used in 2025-2026.</i> |
| Letters of Recommendation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At least one letter from vascular surgery |
| Interviews | All programs listed on choosevascular.com website (under student resources) with interview dates and whether in-person or virtual for 2025-2026 interview season. Most programs interview on 2-3 days only. |

Resources

Reference APDVS-guidance statement on 2025-26 recruitment cycle here:

- https://vascular.org/sites/default/files/2025-08/2025_Updated%20Guidance%20Statement%20from%20the%20Association%20of%20Program%20Directors%20in%20Vascular%20Surgery_final%20%288.13.2025%29.pdf
- Program Directors Association Guides for Residency Applicants 2025-2026
 - <https://cmss.org/program-directors-association-guides-for-residency-applicants/>
- CWRU Residency Roadmap
 - <https://sites.google.com/a/case.edu/casemed-guidebook/?usp=sharing>
- Residency Explorer
 - <https://www.residencyexplorer.org>