

Program Directors Association Guide for Residency Applicants

Application platform:

Applicants to Family Medicine should apply via the Association of American Medical College's (AAMC) ERAS application. Please visit the AAMC ERAS website for additional information.

Application deadline:

Family Medicine Program Directors will begin reviewing applications on September 25, 2025. It is recommended to submit application materials to programs before September 25, 2025.

Please check with individual programs for their application deadlines.

Match platform:

Family Medicine participates in the National Residency Match Process (NRMP) Main Residency Match. Please visit the NRMP website for additional information.

Letters of recommendation:

Individual Family Medicine programs may have different requirements for the number of letters of recommendation or by whom they should be authored. Please check with individual programs for their requirements for letters of recommendation.

Away rotation expectations

Family Medicine encourages each applicant to arrange a fourth-year rotation schedule that allows them to confirm their interest in Family Medicine and gain broad experience caring for people of all ages across a variety of health care settings.

Supplemental information:

Individual Family Medicine programs may choose to participate in Supplemental Applications. If so, they should indicate this on their website or informational materials.

Signal information:

Applicants may send up to 5 program signals to Family Medicine residencies. Programs may use these signals to make decisions when offering interviews but should not use the presence or absence of signals when developing rank order lists. The AAMC suggests that applicants signal their most interested programs regardless of whether they rotated at the program or it is associated with their medical school.

Use of USMLE/COMLEX-USA Step/Level scores:

Applicants should ideally have both Step 1 and Step 2 USMLE OR Level 1 and Level 2 COMLEX-USA scores available for Family Medicine programs to review by the application opening date. Family Medicine values all trainees on their respective pathways to licensure, residency program application, and board certification, and supports efforts to reduce bias and undue burden for applicants to residency. Osteopathic applicants to residency should neither be required nor made to feel required to undergo licensing examinations other than the osteopathic (COMLEX-USA) licensure exam process. Residency programs and their sponsoring institutions should implement processes that fairly consider osteopathic applicants within the context of the osteopathic (COMLEX-USA) licensure process.

Interview invitation process:

Individual Family Medicine programs may have different interview release or rolling dates. Please check with individual programs as to their process.

Interview format:

Individual Family Medicine programs may host interviews that are virtual or in-person. Some programs may choose to offer both. Programs should indicate this on their website or informational materials.

Applicant communications:

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. Applicants are discouraged from sending letters of interest or intent to rank.

Second Look/Open House planning:

Individual Family Medicine programs should describe plans for any in-person or virtual open houses or second looks, with explicit statements around how these visits are not evaluative and will not affect ranking.