

# Program Directors Association Guide for Residency Applicants

## Colon & Rectal Surgery

The *Program Directors Association Guide for Residency Applicants* is a collaborative effort between the Organization of Program Directors Association (OPDA), Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), and American Medical Association (AMA). Its purpose is to provide specialty-specific guidance, application information, and resources. This guide outlines specialty-level guidance and policies for applicants to Colon & Rectal Surgery programs.

Specialty responses in this guide were provided through a standardized web form. The corresponding questions from that form are referenced in the footnotes. If a specialty indicated “No specialty recommendation to programs,” it means the specialty does not provide guidance on how programs should approach that aspect of the selection process.

Please note that not all aspects of the residency application process are standardized at the specialty level. Applicants should review individual program requirements in Residency Explorer™ tool, FREIDA™, or on program websites.

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# Specialty Guidance for the 2025–2026 Cycle

Colon & Rectal Surgery has published a statement: None noted.

## Application Process

Application Process Details	Specialty Recommendation
Main Residency Match Season	AAMC Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS)
Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP)	AAMC Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS)
Application deadline to be considered for interview <sup>1</sup>	Date applications are released to programs
Application materials accepted after the deadline <sup>2</sup>	Letters of recommendation

**Additional Deadline Guidance:** An applicant may submit an additional letter up to 2 weeks after the initial application submission deadline.

## Match Platform

Colon & Rectal Surgery participates in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP).

**Additional Guidance:** None noted.

## Program Signals

Program Signals Details	Specialty Recommendation
Number of signals	Not applicable or specialty does not participate in signaling
Signal home institution or away rotation sites?	–

**Additional Guidance:** None noted.

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<sup>1</sup> By when should applicants submit applications to programs to be considered for interview?: Date applications are released to programs; Universal interview offer date for the specialty; Other

<sup>2</sup> Is it acceptable for applicants to submit some application materials after the initial application?: Yes; No

## Use of USMLE and/or COMLEX-USA Scores

License Exam Details	Specialty Recommendation
Deadline to submit license exam transcripts to be considered for interview <sup>3</sup>	Initial application deadline
Deadline to submit license exam transcripts to be ranked <sup>4</sup>	Initial application deadline
USMLE transcripts required for DO applicants? <sup>5</sup>	No, USMLE scores are not required for DO applicants

**Additional Guidance:** If a DO applicant has taken USMLE, those scores are required to be submitted along with COMLEX scores.

## Letters of Recommendation (LORs)

LOR Details	Specialty Recommendation
Required number of LORs	3 - 4
Required specialty-specific letters <sup>6</sup>	Specialty-specific standardized letter(s) of evaluation (e.g., SLOE, SEL, SLOR), Letter from someone in the specialty (e.g., faculty, attending)

**Additional Guidance for Specialty-Specific Letters:** None noted.

**Guidance for Transitional Year/Prelim Programs:** None noted.

**Guidance for IMG Applicants:** None noted.

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<sup>3</sup> By when must an applicant submit a USMLE Step 2 CK or COMLEX-USA Level 2 CE score to be considered for interview?: Initial application deadline; Other

<sup>4</sup> By when must an applicant submit a USMLE Step 2 CK or COMLEX-USA Level 2 CE score to be ranked?: Initial application deadline; Prior to rank order list opening

<sup>5</sup> Does your specialty require that DO applicants submit USMLE scores in addition to COMLEX-USA scores?: Yes, USMLE scores are required for all applicants; No, USMLE scores are not required for DO applicants

<sup>6</sup> Which specialty-specific letters of recommendation should an applicant submit to a program? (Select all that apply): Specialty-specific standardized letter(s) of evaluation (e.g., SLOE, SEL, SLOR); Letter from a Chair; Letter from someone in the specialty (e.g., faculty, attending); Other letters

## Supplemental Information

Supplemental Application Materials	Specialty Recommendation
Supplemental application materials recommended	No

**Additional Supplemental Application Materials:** None noted.

## Away Rotations

Away Rotation Details	Specialty Recommendation
Away rotations in the specialty <sup>7</sup>	Not required or recommended
Number of away rotations in the specialty	–

**Additional Guidance:** None noted.

## Interviews

Interview Details	Specialty Recommendation
Universal interview offer date(s)	No specialty recommendation to programs
Typical interview offer window	No specialty recommendation to programs
Interview scheduling platform	–
Interview format(s) <sup>8</sup>	Virtual

**Additional Guidance:** None noted.

## Applicant Communications

**Pre-Interview Communication Guidance:** None noted.

**Post-Interview Communication Guidance:** None noted.

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<sup>7</sup> Does the specialty expect or strongly recommend that applicants complete away rotations in the specialty?: No; Strongly recommended; Expected

<sup>8</sup> Which interview format does the specialty recommend that programs use? (Select all that apply): Virtual; In-person; Hybrid

## **Open Houses / Second Looks**

**Open Houses:** None noted.

**Second Looks:** None noted.

**NRMP Voluntary Rank Order List (ROL) Lock Pilot Initiative:** No