

Program Directors Association Guide for Residency Applicants

Dermatology

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 Dermatology 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.

Table of Contents

Application Process	2
Match Platform.....	2
Program Signals.....	3
Use of USMLE and/or COMLEX-USA Scores.....	3
Letters of Recommendation (LORs)	4
Supplemental Information.....	4
Away Rotations.....	4
Interviews.....	5
Applicant Communications	5
Open Houses / Second Looks	5

Specialty Guidance for the 2025–2026 Cycle

Dermatology has published a statement:

https://www.dermatologyprofessors.org/programdirectors_resources.php

We also create an excel document that is usually available in August on the DIGA website with more detailed information at a program level related to coordinated interview release, virtual meet and greets, second looks, interview dates, interview format, etc.

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 interview¹	No specialty recommendation to programs
Application materials accepted after the deadline²	No specialty recommendation to programs

Additional Deadline Guidance: None noted.

Match Platform

Dermatology participates in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP).

Additional Guidance: None noted.

¹ 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

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

Program Signals

Program Signals Details	Specialty Recommendation
Number of signals	3 gold, 25 silver
Signal home institution or away rotation sites?	Yes

Additional Guidance: None noted.

Use of USMLE and/or COMLEX-USA Scores

License Exam Details	Specialty Recommendation
Deadline to submit license exam transcripts to be considered for interview ³	No specialty recommendation to programs
Deadline to submit license exam transcripts to be ranked ⁴	No specialty recommendation to programs
USMLE transcripts required for DO applicants? ⁵	No specialty recommendation to programs

Additional Guidance: None noted.

³ 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

⁴ 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

⁵ 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

Letters of Recommendation (LORs)

LOR Details	Specialty Recommendation
Required number of LORs	No specialty recommendation to programs
Required specialty-specific letters ⁶	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.

Supplemental Information

Supplemental Application Materials	Specialty Recommendation
Supplemental application materials recommended	No specialty recommendation to programs

Additional Supplemental Application Materials: None noted.

Away Rotations

Away Rotation Details	Specialty Recommendation
Away rotations in the specialty ⁷	No specialty recommendation to programs
Number of away rotations in the specialty	–

Additional Guidance: [https://www.dermatologyprofessors.org/files/APD Recommendations on Away Rotations 2025-2026.pdf](https://www.dermatologyprofessors.org/files/APD_Recommendations_on_Away_Rotations_2025-2026.pdf)

This is the APD PD section guidance on away rotations.

⁶ 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

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

Interviews

Interview Details	Specialty Recommendation
Universal interview offer date(s)	November 3, 2025, November 17, 2025, December 1, 2025
Typical interview offer window	–
Interview scheduling platform	–
Interview format(s) ⁸	No specialty recommendation to programs

Additional Guidance: https://www.dermatologyprofessors.org/programdirectors_resources.php

Applicant Communications

Pre-Interview Communication Guidance:

https://www.dermatologyprofessors.org/programdirectors_resources.php

Post-Interview Communication Guidance:

https://www.dermatologyprofessors.org/programdirectors_resources.php

Open Houses / Second Looks

Open Houses: None noted.

Second Looks: None noted.

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

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