

# Program Directors Association Guide for Residency Applicants

## Diagnostic Radiology

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 Diagnostic Radiology 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

Diagnostic Radiology 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>	No specialty recommendation to programs
Application materials accepted after the deadline <sup>2</sup>	No specialty recommendation to programs

**Additional Deadline Guidance:** None noted.

## Match Platform

Diagnostic Radiology participates in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP).

**Additional Guidance:** None noted.

## Program Signals

Program Signals Details	Specialty Recommendation
Number of signals	6 gold, 9 silver
Signal home institution or away rotation sites?	Yes

**Additional Guidance:** Previously, Diagnostic Radiology and Interventional Radiology - Integrated shared the same set of signals. This year, the two specialties will each have their own set of signals.

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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

Although the recommendation is to signal home institutions and away rotations, the programs may still give different guidance as to whether a candidate should signal their program or not.

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

License Exam Details	Specialty Recommendation
<b>Deadline to submit license exam transcripts to be considered for interview<sup>3</sup></b>	Initial application deadline
<b>Deadline to submit license exam transcripts to be ranked<sup>4</sup></b>	Initial application deadline
<b>USMLE transcripts required for DO applicants?<sup>5</sup></b>	No specialty recommendation to programs

**Additional Guidance:** It is highly recommended to have scores in by the initial application deadline. Some programs may allow a later submission for consideration or ranking. There is no specialty specific requirement for USMLE, although there may be slight preference in the specialty as a whole to have the USMLE score.

## Letters of Recommendation (LORs)

LOR Details	Specialty Recommendation
<b>Required number of LORs</b>	3
<b>Required specialty-specific letters<sup>6</sup></b>	Letter from someone in the specialty (e.g., faculty, attending)

**Additional Guidance for Specialty-Specific Letters:** Programs rarely specify the individuals who should write letters for Radiology. Generally, a minimum of one letter from someone in the specialty is expected, although it may not be required. Some programs like standardized letters, however, it is rare to have that be a requirement.

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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

**Guidance for Transitional Year/Prelim Programs:** Unless a Radiology program is partnering or offering a TY/Prelim year as part of their program, there are no specialty requirements for letters to separate TY/Prelim programs.

**Guidance for IMG Applicants:** No recommendations that are generalizable.

## 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>	No specialty recommendation to programs
Number of away rotations in the specialty	–

**Additional Guidance:** Generally, away rotations are not expected in Diagnostic Radiology.

## Interviews

Interview Details	Specialty Recommendation
Universal interview offer date(s)	–
Typical interview offer window	September 2025 - January 2026
Interview scheduling platform	–
Interview format(s) <sup>8</sup>	Virtual

<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

**Additional Guidance:** Invites in Diagnostic Radiology are still highly variable in timing although most are offered between the 2nd week of October and Mid November. There are some programs that do more of a rolling invite. Note that some Diagnostic Radiology programs are offering in-person interviews.

## **Applicant Communications**

**Pre-Interview Communication Guidance:** No specialty guidance.

**Post-Interview Communication Guidance:** No specialty guidance. Most programs will give guidance at the time of interview.

## **Open Houses / Second Looks**

**Open Houses:** No specialty guidance, although most are virtual and are generally done before invitations.

**Second Looks:** No specialty guidance, highly variable. Generally recommended to lock ranking (even in the absence of the NRMP voluntary rank order list Lock Pilot) prior to any second look.

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