

# Program Directors Association Guide for Residency Applicants

## Pediatrics

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

# Specialty Guidance for the 2025–2026 Cycle

Pediatrics has published a statement: <https://www.appd.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/May-30-2025-Letter-to-the-Pediatric-Community-Regarding-the-2025-2026-Pediatric-Residency-Recruitment-Process.pdf>

<https://www.appd.org/resources-programs/recruitment/>

## Application Process

Application Process Details	Specialty Recommendation
<b>Main Residency Match Season</b>	AAMC Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS)
<b>Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP)</b>	AAMC Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS)
<b>Application deadline to be considered for interview<sup>1</sup></b>	No specialty recommendation to programs
<b>Application materials accepted after the deadline<sup>2</sup></b>	No specialty recommendation to programs

**Additional Deadline Guidance:** None noted.

## Match Platform

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

**Additional Guidance:** None noted.

## Program Signals

Program Signals Details	Specialty Recommendation
<b>Number of signals</b>	5
<b>Signal home institution or away rotation sites?</b>	Yes

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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

**Additional Guidance:** None noted.

## 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>	No specialty recommendation to programs
<b>Deadline to submit license exam transcripts to be ranked<sup>4</sup></b>	Programs participating in the NRMP Voluntary ROL Lock Pilot may require a passing step/level 2 by the time they certify their rank list
<b>USMLE transcripts required for DO applicants?<sup>5</sup></b>	No, USMLE scores are not required for DO applicants

**Additional Guidance:** None noted.

## Letters of Recommendation (LORs)

LOR Details	Specialty Recommendation
<b>Required number of LORs</b>	No specialty recommendation to programs
<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 should only require one pediatrics-specific letter.

**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:** Programs should extend interview invitations no earlier than Monday October 6th, to allow time for holistic application review.

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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

## Applicant Communications

**Pre-Interview Communication Guidance:** Applicants should indicate interest in a program using ERAS preference signals.

**Post-Interview Communication Guidance:** 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.

## Open Houses / Second Looks

**Open Houses:** Program-sponsored virtual information sessions and social “Meet and Greets”: in addition to the webinars mentioned above some programs may offer virtual information sessions. Programs should limit any individual program virtual open houses to one which is recorded and available for applicants.

Attendance at open houses should be optional and not used as an indication of an applicant’s interest.

**Second Looks:** Programs hosting in-person visits/second looks after interviews have concluded should participate in the NRMP Voluntary ROL Lock Pilot to ensure visits do not impact an applicant’s position on the rank list.

Open houses, in-person visits, second looks, and other program-sponsored events are optional and intended to help applicants learn more about programs. Attending these events is not necessary to “express interest.” Applicants should consider in-person visits or second looks only for a few programs (at most) that may help them make final decisions for their rank list.

**NRMP Voluntary Rank Order List (ROL) Lock Pilot Initiative:** Yes