

Program Directors Association Guide for Residency Applicants

Psychiatry

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 Psychiatry 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

Psychiatry has published a statement: Updated guidance about recruitment is available on the AADPRT recruitment page: <https://www.aadprt.org/trainees/recruitment-fairs>

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	Date applications are released to programs
Application materials accepted after the deadline²	Letters of recommendation, Step 1 or Level 1 transcripts, Step 2 or Level 2 transcripts

Additional Deadline Guidance: None noted.

Match Platform

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

Additional Guidance: None noted.

Program Signals

Program Signals Details	Specialty Recommendation
Number of signals	10
Signal home institution or away rotation sites?	Yes

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

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	Prior to rank order list opening
USMLE transcripts required for DO applicants? ⁵	No, USMLE scores are not required for DO applicants

Additional Guidance: None noted.

Letters of Recommendation (LORs)

LOR Details	Specialty Recommendation
Required number of LORs	3 - 4
Required specialty-specific letters ⁶	Letter from someone in the specialty (e.g., faculty, attending)

Additional Guidance for Specialty-Specific Letters: There is an option of a standardized letter of recommendation (<https://www.admsep.org/matchrelated.php>).

Guidance for Transitional Year/Prelim Programs: None noted.

Guidance for IMG Applicants: 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

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

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 ⁷	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)	–
Typical interview offer window	October 2025 - February 2026
Interview scheduling platform	–
Interview format(s) ⁸	Virtual

Additional Guidance: None noted.

Applicant Communications

Pre-Interview Communication Guidance: None noted.

Post-Interview Communication Guidance: Post-interview communication is voluntary and does not affect ranking decisions.

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

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

Open Houses / Second Looks

Open Houses: The specialty recommends that programs not host any open houses after ERAS opens.

Second Looks: The specialty recommends that second looks are not mandatory, have no effect on ranking, and that ROLs be submitted in advance of the second look.

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