

Program Director Associations Guide for Residency Applicants

Medical Genetics (Categorical)

The *Program Director Associations 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 Medical Genetics (Categorical) programs. **Specialty-specific guidance reflects the specialty’s intent for applicant preparation and the residency application process but may not reflect all individual program requirements.** Applicants should review individual program requirements in Residency Explorer™ tool, FREIDA™, or on program websites.

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 guidance,” it means the specialty does not provide guidance on that aspect of the selection process.

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Specialty Guidance for the 2026–2027 Cycle

Specialty-Specific Resources

None noted.

Away Rotations

| Away Rotation Details | Specialty Recommendation |
|--|--------------------------|
| Away rotations in the specialty ¹ | No specialty guidance |
| Number of away rotations in the specialty | – |

Additional Guidance: None noted.

Use of USMLE and/or COMLEX-USA Scores

| License Exam Details | Specialty Recommendation |
|--|---|
| USMLE transcripts required for DO applicants? ² | No, USMLE scores are not required for DO applicants |

Additional Guidance: None noted.

¹ Even if an applicant’s home institution has a program in your specialty, are completing away rotations in the specialty optional, strongly recommended, or required for applicants?: Optional, Not Expected (to gain additional exposure or confirm interest in specialty before applying); Strongly Recommended (important to being considered, but not always required given certain circumstances); Required (will not be considered without it)

² 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

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) |
| When programs start reviewing applications ³ | Date applications are released to programs by the application service |
| Application materials accepted after the deadline ⁴ | None |

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 institutions? | – |
| Signal programs where they completed away rotations? | – |

Additional Guidance: None noted.

³ Which best describes when programs will start reviewing applications for this application cycle (2026-2027)?: Date applications are released to programs; Other

⁴ Is it acceptable for applicants to submit some application materials after the initial application?: Yes; No

Letters of Recommendation or Evaluation

| LOR Details | Specialty Recommendation |
|---|--------------------------|
| Required number of LORs | At least 3 |
| Required letter writers ⁵ | No specialty guidance |
| Is there a specialty-specific standardized letter? ⁶ | No |

Additional Guidance: Recommended (but not required) to have a letter from a practicing geneticist.

Guidance for Applicants from Transitional Year/Prelim Programs: None noted.

Guidance for IMG Applicants: None noted.

Research/Scholarly Activity

None noted.

Supplemental Information

| Supplemental Application Materials | Specialty Recommendation |
|---|--------------------------|
| Supplemental application materials required? ⁷ | No specialty guidance |

Additional Guidance: None noted.

Applicant Communications

Pre-Interview Communication Guidance: None noted.

Post-Interview Communication Guidance: None noted.

⁵ Who is required to submit letters? (Select all that apply): Someone within the specialty (e.g., faculty, attending); Department chair; Program director; Physician preceptor at an away rotation (e.g., program director, faculty); Other

⁶ Does your specialty have a specialty-specific standardized letter of evaluation or standardized letter of recommendation?: Yes; No

⁷ Does the specialty require applicants to submit supplemental application materials (e.g., use of other assessments, supplemental videos or essays)?: Yes; No

Interviews

| Interview Details | Specialty Recommendation |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Universal interview offer date(s) | – |
| Typical interview offer window | July 2026 - September 2026 |
| Interview scheduling platform | – |
| Interview format ⁸ | Virtual |

Additional Guidance: None noted.

Open Houses / Second Looks

Open Houses: Attendance at Second Look or Open House events is optional and should have no impact on ranking decisions. We recommend programs voluntarily lock their rank order list prior to hosting their Second Look or Open House events in order to reinforce the optional nature of these programs for applicants.

Second Looks: Attendance at Second Look or Open House events is optional and should have no impact on ranking decisions. We recommend programs voluntarily lock their rank order list prior to hosting their Second Look or Open House events in order to reinforce the optional nature of these programs for applicants.

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

Match Platform

Medical Genetics (Categorical) participates in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP).

Additional Guidance: None noted.

⁸ Which interview format does the specialty recommend that programs use?: Virtual; In-person; Hybrid (an applicant chooses either an in-person or virtual interview format); Hybrid (an applicant completes both virtual and in-person interviews)