

# Program Director Associations Guide for Residency Applicants

## Obstetrics and Gynecology

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 Obstetrics and Gynecology 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

Obstetrics and Gynecology has published a statement:

[https://cdn.ymaws.com/apgo.org/resource/resmgr/rrr/26-27\\_Application\\_Cycle\\_Guid.pdf](https://cdn.ymaws.com/apgo.org/resource/resmgr/rrr/26-27_Application_Cycle_Guid.pdf)

In preparation for applying, applicants should consider using the [Alignment Check Index for the OBGYN specialty](#). It allows residency applicants to compare their experiences and characteristics to the domains that residency programs consider in their own assessment of their program's values and interests. The Alignment Check Index (ACI) creates an alignment index that applicants can use in helping them determine with which programs they are the most aligned.

## Away Rotations

Away Rotation Details	Specialty Recommendation
<b>Away rotations in the specialty<sup>1</sup></b>	Optional, Not Expected Purpose: to gain additional exposure or confirm interest in specialty before applying
<b>Number of away rotations in the specialty</b>	–

**Additional Guidance:** None noted.

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

License Exam Details	Specialty Recommendation
<b>USMLE transcripts required for DO applicants?<sup>2</sup></b>	No specialty guidance

**Additional Guidance:** Programs should not require candidates who have taken the COMLEX exams to also take the USMLE exams. For additional information please refer to: <https://www.acog.org/news/news-articles/2023/09/acog-iterates-the-value-and-equivalence-of-osteopathic-medical-training-and-licensing-examination>.

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<sup>1</sup> 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)

<sup>2</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

## Application Process

Application Process Details	Specialty Recommendation
Main Residency Match Season	ResidencyCAS
Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP)	ResidencyCAS
When programs start reviewing applications <sup>3</sup>	Date applications are released to programs by the application service
Application materials accepted after the deadline <sup>4</sup>	No specialty guidance

**Additional Guidance:** None noted.

## Program Signals

Program Signals Details	Specialty Recommendation
Number of signals	3 gold, 15 silver
Signal home institutions?	Yes
Signal programs where they completed away rotations?	Yes

**Additional Guidance:** None noted.

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

<sup>4</sup> 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
<b>Required number of LORs</b>	At least 1, No more than 4
<b>Required letter writers<sup>5</sup></b>	Each applicant needs a SLOE, otherwise no requirements about who writes the letters as a specialty. It is program specific.
<b>Is there a specialty-specific standardized letter?<sup>6</sup></b>	Yes
<b>Specialty-specific standardized letter required?<sup>7</sup></b>	Required

**Additional Guidance:** SLOE writer should be an individual or group who has recent clinical experience with a student to provide the most up to date and clinically relevant insight into an applicant. SLOE Tools/instructions: <https://apgo.org/page/rrraplicant>

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

**Guidance for IMG Applicants:** None noted.

## Research/Scholarly Activity

The significance of research/scholarly work, how this is evaluated and whether there are activities in lieu of typical research that demonstrate important competencies is an individual residency program decision. There is no specialty specific guidance on this topic.

## Supplemental Information

Supplemental Application Materials	Specialty Recommendation
<b>Supplemental application materials required?<sup>8</sup></b>	No specialty guidance

**Additional Guidance:** None noted.

<sup>5</sup> 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

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

<sup>7</sup> If yes, is the specialty-specific standardized letter of evaluation recommended or required?: Recommended; Required

<sup>8</sup> Does the specialty require applicants to submit supplemental application materials (e.g., use of other assessments, supplemental videos or essays)?: Yes; No

# Applicant Communications

**Pre-Interview Communication Guidance:** The specialty is asking residency programs to be transparent about their preferences and use of pre-interview communication to secure an interview. Programs may specify their preferences on their individual program website or in ResidencyCAS.

**Post-Interview Communication Guidance:** The specialty is asking residency programs to be transparent about the program’s preferences around and use of post-interview communication such as thank you notes and letters of intent. Programs may specify their preferences on their individual program website or in ResidencyCAS.

## Interviews

Interview Details	Specialty Recommendation
Universal interview offer date(s)	October 27, 2026
Typical interview offer window	–
Interview scheduling platform	ResidencyCAS
Interview format <sup>9</sup>	Virtual

**Additional Guidance:**

- Interview offers limited to the number of interview spots.
- Allow applicants a minimum of 24 hours to respond to interview offers.
- Interviews occur no earlier than 11/01/2026.
- Notify applicants of final status (e.g. waitlist, rejection) by 11/25/2026.

## Open Houses / Second Looks

**Open Houses:** None noted.

**Second Looks:** Second looks should be optional, if offered at all, and should NOT be used to determine ranking. Programs should consider submitting their rank order list prior to allowing second looks to mitigate the risk of a second look influencing the rank list.

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

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<sup>9</sup> 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)

## **Match Platform**

Obstetrics and Gynecology participates in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP).

**Additional Guidance:** None noted.