

Program Director Associations Guide for Residency Applicants

Vascular Surgery - Integrated

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 Vascular Surgery - Integrated 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

Vascular Surgery - Integrated has published a statement:

https://vascular.org/sites/default/files/2026-05/APDVS_Guidance_2026-27.pdf

Away Rotations

Away Rotation Details	Specialty Recommendation
Away rotations in the specialty ¹	Strongly Recommended Purpose: important to being considered, but not always required given certain circumstances
Number of away rotations in the specialty	At least 1

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 specialty guidance

Additional Guidance: USMLE Step 1 and COMLEX Level 1 are reported as PASS/FAIL and should not be used as screening criteria. Programs should clearly disclose how USMLE Step 2 CK and COMLEX Level 2 CE scores will be considered.

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)	No specialty guidance
When programs start reviewing applications³	Date applications are released to programs by the application service
Application materials accepted after the deadline⁴	No specialty guidance

Additional Guidance: None noted.

Program Signals

Program Signals Details	Specialty Recommendation
Number of signals	3 gold, 12 silver
Signal home institutions?	Yes
Signal programs where they completed away rotations?	Yes

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	Someone within the specialty (e.g., faculty, attending), Department chair, Clerkship Director
Is there a specialty-specific standardized letter? ⁶	No

Additional Guidance: None noted.

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: Only offer the number of available interview positions. Communicate expectations about response timelines clearly to applicants at the time of invitation.

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

Post-Interview Communication Guidance:

- Programs must not ask applicants where they intend to rank the program, directly or indirectly.
- Programs must not make statements implying that ranking decisions are conditioned on the applicant’s ranking of the program (e.g., “We will rank you #1 if you rank us #1”).
- Programs must not make verbal or written pre-Match commitments or offers of a position outside of the NRMP Match.
- Programs must not require or pressure applicants to reveal where they have applied, where they have interviewed, or how they plan to rank other programs.
- Programs must not threaten or coerce applicants in connection with ranking decisions.
- Programs must not contact applicants after the rank order list certification deadline for ranking-related purposes.
- Programs must not request or require applicants to withdraw from the Match or commit to accepting a position outside the Match.

Interviews

Interview Details	Specialty Recommendation
Universal interview offer date(s)	October 15, 2026, Allow at least 96 hours after an invitation is sent before extending the offer to another applicant. This prevents overbooking and late cancellations.
Typical interview offer window	–
Interview scheduling platform	Thalamus Core
Interview format⁸	In-person

Additional Guidance: APDVS 2026/2027 Guidance Statement:
https://vascular.org/sites/default/files/2026-05/APDVS_Guidance_2026-27.pdf

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)

Open Houses / Second Looks

Open Houses: None noted.

Second Looks:

- Voluntary ROL-LOC deadline: February 8, 2027, at 11:59 PM EST — at least 24 hours before the first post-interview visit.
- Standard ROL Certification Deadline: March 3, 2027, at 9:00 PM EST.
- Once locked, the ROL cannot be uncertified or edited under any circumstance.

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

Match Platform

Vascular Surgery - Integrated participates in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP).

Additional Guidance: None noted.