



Association of Professors of Dermatology
Residency Program Directors Section

Information Regarding the 2023-2024 Application Cycle

May 22, 2023

This statement will cover a few aspects of the application cycle, including program signaling, interview release dates, interview formats, pre- and post-interview communication, and away electives.

Program signaling

Most dermatology programs will participate in signaling through ERAS. A list of participating programs will be released by AAMC after July 1. This year, dermatology will have 28 program signals – 3 gold, 25 silver. This allows applicants to denote their top 3 programs and an additional 25 programs of particular interest. Importantly, home programs and programs at which an away rotation was completed are not excluded from signaling this cycle. Applicants may signal their home programs and/or the programs at which they completed a virtual or in-person away rotation.

Of note, based on data from orthopedic surgery last year, we expect a low likelihood that applicants will receive interview invites at non-signaled programs. For many dermatology applicants, applying to only the 28 signaled programs will likely be sufficient. Applicants may consider applying to more programs (up to 40-50 programs), but applying widely (>60 programs) will likely not confer an additional benefit this year. Please consider whether it is appropriate to apply widely this year with the input of your advisors.

Coordinated interview invite release

There will be three sets of interview invite release dates. Participating programs will not release more interview invites than interview slots available. Programs not participating have also been asked to follow this guideline and to post the date of interview invite release on their websites. A list of participating programs will be released later in mid to late August. Last year, the majority of programs participated with most programs releasing on the 2nd date.

Timeline for participating programs only

First set of dates

Monday November 6, 2023: first round of interview invites released (generally for programs with November or early December interview dates)

Wednesday November 8, 2023: applicants begin scheduling interviews; must respond by November 10

Additional interview invites will be released as they become available starting after November 10, 2023.

Second set of dates

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Monday November 20, 2023: second round of interview invites released (generally for programs with late December or January interview dates)

Monday November 27, 2023: applicants begin scheduling interviews; must respond by November 29

Additional interview invites will be released as they become available starting after November 29, 2023.

Third set of dates

Monday December 4, 2023: third round of interview invites released (generally for programs with January or February interview dates)

Wednesday December 6, 2023: applicants begin scheduling interviews; must respond by December 8

Additional interview invites will be released as they become available starting after December 8, 2023.

Programs have been encouraged to notify all applicants of their status (interview, waitlist or decline) by January 1, 2024.

Interview formats and recruiting activities

The [AAMC released a statement](#) recommending virtual interviews across specialties for the 2023-2024 application cycle. Rather than enacting a specialty-wide decision and recognizing the differences between programs, the APD Residency Program Directors Section recommends that every program consider the costs and benefits of various interview formats (in-person, virtual, hybrid) and make an educated decision for their program, taking into account applicant costs, exposure to the program, uniqueness of clinical sites, environmental/sustainability factors, equity, and the myriad of other aspects that influence this decision. Dermatology residency programs should share information about their interview format(s) with applicants early in the process.

Pre- and post-interview communication guidelines

Before and during interview season, applicants are asked to refrain from contacting programs to express interest or provide application updates prior to interviews, except in truly exceptional circumstances (eg couples matching updates, major life events that impact preferences).

Questions about a program that cannot be easily answered by available materials (website, social media, etc) can be directed to the program.

Post-interview communication of preference – including “letters of intent” and thank you letters – should not be sent to programs. These types of communication are typically not used by residency programs in decision-making and lead to downstream pressures on applicants.

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Programs are also encouraged to either avoid direct communication with applicants after interviews and before Match Day, or at a minimum, ensure that such communication is informational in nature, avoiding efforts to persuade or pressure candidates, in line with NRMP guidelines. Applicants should not equate lack of communication from programs with lack of interest, just as programs will not equate lack of communication from applicants with lack of interest.

Away electives

A statement was previously released with information about away electives in dermatology. As a reminder, for this application cycle, students should limit their experiences to up to two external electives. Students without a home dermatology program may consider completing up to 3 external electives. Please be mindful of your future colleagues and equity concerns. Students will not be penalized for withdrawing from external electives in order to follow these recommendations. Please click [here](#) for the full statement.