

Frequently Asked Questions:

The NRMP Match for Pathology Fellowships

The selection process for prospective fellows in Gynecologic and/or Breast Pathology will be through the NRMP Pathology Fellowship Match for positions in **2028**. Other Pathology subspecialties participating in the NRMP Match include Hematopathology, Forensic Pathology, Bone and Soft Tissue Pathology, cytopathology, and dermatopathology.

1. What is the timeline of Match?
 - a. **October 1, 2026 through February 3, 2027:** Complete new program form with NRMP.
 - b. **February 3, 2027** at noon, ET: Pathology Fellowship Match opens for registration: this is when your program signs a legally binding [Match Participation Agreement](#) with the NRMP, and also when applicants can begin registering for the Match.
 - c. **March 10, 2027** at noon, ET: Ranking opens.
 - d. **March 31, 2027** at 11:59 PM, ET: Quota Change Deadline (Quota is the number of positions your program intends to fill in the Match. Programs must withdraw by the deadline or make any change to their number of positions in the Match).
 - e. **April 14, 2027** at noon, ET: Rank Order List Certification Deadline (for you and for applicants). Rank lists cannot be edited after this.
 - f. **April 28, 2027** at noon, ET: Match day!
 - g. **July 2028:** your new fellow(s) start

2. When are applications due?

The NRMP does not define an application deadline. Programs are encouraged to accept applications **at least through January 1, 2027**.

3. When are interviews scheduled?

The NRMP does not define an interview timeline. Most programs interview from **January through March, 2027**. Earlier interviews have no real benefit.

4. Do we use ERAS to receive applications for fellowship?

No, **ERAS is not used** for applications. Each program will continue to have their own application requirements, including their application forms and required letters of reference. Many programs utilize the CAP standard fellowship application: [Standardized Application for Pathology Fellowships](#)

5. What should I expect to happen before the NRMP Match starts?

Most remaining steps will be completed by ADASP. Programs should anticipate:

- Program information survey – completed April 2026.
- Program meeting with NRMP – Fall 2026
 - This meeting will review requirements of the match and will be an opportunity to address any questions directly to NRMP.
- New specialty newsletter – sent my NRMP about 4 weeks before Match opens

6. When can our program make an account with the NRMP and register for the Match?

You can make an account starting **February 3, 2027** at noon, ET, which is when your program signs a legally binding Match Participation Agreement with the NRMP.

7. How does our program make an account with the NRMP and register for the Match?

- a. Follow this checklist, which includes a link to a video on “Institution and Program Match Process” and other resources: https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/SMS-Program-Checklist.pdf?utm_source=search_results_page&utm_campaign=nrmp_search_page&utm_term=program%20checklist
- b. Any new programs that would like to join the Match can register directly with NRMP using the [New Program Form – NRMP Forms](#). This will ultimately require coordinating your institutional official (IO).
- c. Instructions for activating a program can be found at can be found at: https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Activating-Programs_SMS_MRM_PD_IA.pdf
- d. Instructions for creating a record with the R3 system can be found at: https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Adding_Program-PD.pdf
- e. Changes in program directorship or other changes can also be made with the R3 system.

8. Will applicants be able to apply to non-Match programs?

Applicants can still apply to and interview at non-Match programs. However, they must decide whether or not to accept a position at a non-Match program before certification within the Match (**before April 14, 2027**). The Match is a binding commitment. If an applicant accepts a position at a non-Match program and does not withdraw from the NRMP Match, they will have committed a Match violation that may be disclosed to the medical school, current program director, designated

institutional official, and other relevant parties.

9. May I ask applicants to disclose their interest in our program in terms of ranking preference?

Programs must not request the applicants' ranking preference or intentions.

However, applicants may voluntarily disclose their ranking preference or interest to you during the application process. Likewise, you may voluntarily disclose your ranking preference or interest to applicants, but applicants are not permitted to request your ranking preference from you.

10. What if an applicant who matched at our program does not want to, or cannot enroll?

All programs and applicants must respect the binding nature of a match commitment and be prepared to honor the commitment if a match occurs with any program placed on a rank order list. If an applicant cannot or will not honor the commitment, a waiver or deferral must be requested from the NRMP (see link below). Waivers are granted only in cases of ineligibility, change of specialty, or unanticipated, serious, and extreme hardship.

11. Do we have to include all of our fellowship positions in the Match?

Yes. In order to have sufficient participant for a robust Match and to honor the "all-in" policy after the first Match, participating fellowship programs must include all of their fellowship positions in the Match.

12. I have an internal applicant who I want to recruit to my fellowship program. Can I offer them a position outside the Match?

No. In order to maintain the integrity and perpetuation of the fellowship match process, programs should declare and fill positions through the match process. The Program Director can, if they choose, share with the applicant their intention to rank the internal applicant in a position on their match list that guarantees placement (e.g. #1 on the list).

However, it is a violation of the Match agreement to ask applicants where they are ranking the program. Furthermore, the applicant is not obligated to rank the program more favorably based on these assurances. If a program and applicant rank each other first, the Match algorithm guarantees they will match with each other.

13. What happens if our program commits a Match violation?

Match violations are investigated by the NRMP and serious consequences can occur. These consequences can include the violations being reported to relevant entities and being barred from future Matches. See also the NRMP Violations policy section 6b below: <https://www.nrmp.org/policy/violations-policy/>

14. Where can I find more information on the Match Code of Conduct?

- a. https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/NRMP-Match-Codes-of-Conduct_Applicants.pdf
- b. https://www.nrmp.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/NRMP-Match-Code-of-Conduct_Programs.pdf

15. What should I do if I feel a Match Code of Conduct violation has occurred? See the below website for reporting information:

<https://www.nrmp.org/policy/reporting-and-investigation-of-violations/>

16. How does the Match work?

You can view how the algorithm works at:

<https://www.nrmp.org/intro-to-thematch/how-matching-algorithm-works/>

17. What if our fellowship program does not fill all positions?

After Match Day, all programs in the Match with unfilled positions receive a list of applicants who did not Match. Applicants also receive a list of programs that did not fill. At this point, applicants can reach out directly to those programs to apply for and interview at these unfilled positions outside of the NRMP Match. You can interview and offer remaining positions to any qualified candidate at any time after Match Day.

18. What are the benefits of using the NRMP Match?

The NRMP Match ensures professional standards in conduct are used in the selection of fellows. The Match will help make the Pathology Fellowship selection process more equitable and timely.

19. Where can I find a list of gynecologic and/or breast pathology fellowships participating in the match?

The [ADASP website](https://adasp.org) (adasp.org). Look for the Fellowships tile.

20. How much does it cost for programs to register with the NRMP Match?
- The Institution registration fee will be \$300 per Match. Because the Institution fee is per Match, if your institution already has a program participating in the Match, there will be no additional institution registration fee for your participation.
 - The Program registration fee will be \$100 per program track.
 - There will be a \$75 fee per applicant matched to the program. For more information: <https://www.nrmp.org/intro-to-the-match/match-fees/>
21. Where can I find more information on the Match for gynecologic and/or breast pathology?
- The [ADASP website](http://adasp.org) (adasp.org). Look for the Fellowships tile.
 - <https://www.nrmp.org/fellowship-applicants/>
22. What do I tell an applicant who applies for a 2028-2029 position in my program?
- There is an FAQ document written for specifically for applicants on the ADSP website. There are also resources available on NRMP website (see answer to question 17).
 - Here is a possible response: “We are excited to participate in the Pathology Fellowship NRMP Match for the 2028-2029 appointment year. A list of all the programs participating in the Match can be found on the [ADASP website](http://adasp.org). An FAQ document on the match process written for applicants is also available on that website. Please send us your application materials including {insert program specific information here}. We will be in touch to schedule interviews, which will take place starting January 2027. You will need to register for the Pathology Fellowship Match in February 2027 with the NRMP (<https://www.nrmp.org/fellowship-applicants/>) and can rank programs participating in the match with which you have interviewed.”
23. What do I do if I have questions that are specific to my pathology fellowship program?
- You can reach out directly to the NRMP for more information.
 - Email: support@nrmp.org Toll Free: (866)653-NRMP Phone: (202)400-2233

For applicants expressing interest in more than one fellowship, please see guidance below:

I have an applicant who is interested in gynecologic and/or breast pathology and a second fellowship at my institution.

Questions to ask the applicant:

1. Is the applicant interested in the gynecologic and/or breast fellowship only if they can secure the desired second fellowship?
 - If no, the PD should interview and rank the applicant based on their suitability for gynecologic and/or breast fellowship training.
 - If yes, the PD will need to coordinate with the second fellowship PD to determine if this is a mutually beneficial recruitment (see below)

2. Is the applicant flexible in the order of fellowship training such that the gynecologic and/or breast fellowship training can occur before or after the second fellowship?
 - The PD should coordinate with the second fellowship PD to determine if there is a mutually beneficial recruitment timeline.

Questions to ask the second fellowship Program Director:

Scenario A: The second fellowship participates in a fellowship Match

- Will the second fellowship program arrange an (early) interview for the applicant during the current application cycle?
- Will the second fellowship commit to ranking the applicant to match in the future cycle provided the applicant successfully matches with gynecologic and/or breast?

The programs should generate a written agreement that the applicant will be “ranked to match” in the match cycle for the second fellowship provided the applicant successfully matches with gynecologic and/or breast. If the second fellowship PD is not willing to accommodate an early interview or guarantee placement, the applicant must be informed that there are no guarantees for dual fellowship recruitment at your institution.

Scenario B: The second fellowship does not participate in a fellowship Match

- Will the second fellowship program accommodate an (early) interview for the applicant during the current application cycle?
- Will the second fellowship make a future offer provided the applicant successfully matches with gynecologic and/or breast?

The programs should generate a written agreement that the applicant will be offered a position in the second fellowship provided the applicant successfully matches with gynecologic and/or breast. If the second fellowship PD is not willing to accommodate an early interview or guarantee placement, the applicant must be informed that there are no guarantees for dual fellowship recruitment at your institution.

Scenario C: The institution offers a “dual-track” option in the fellowship Match.

- The applicant should be interviewed and ranked based on the institutional procedures for dual-track applicants.

Please review the requirement and carefully consider the advantages and disadvantages of adding tracks. Dual-track programs add additional complexity both for the applicants (e.g. identifying programs with dual-tracks vs. those without) and for PDs. Dual-track matches may limit flexibility for PDs to rank applicants, add an additional cost, and dual-track programs must be offered/declared for each match cycle.