

# Ophthalmology Residency Applicant Webinar



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## Deadlines

In the AUPO webinar, we were told that programs could first see apps on September 1st but now you guys are saying Sept 15. Which is it? Thank you!

Programs will not be able to see or download applications until September 1, 2020. Although applications will continue to be received later, the target date for submission is September 15. Programs may begin to download applications starting on September 1 in order to begin their review process, but there is no advantage to the applicants to submit before September 15. All applications received by programs by September 15 will be reviewed.

I have seen that programs have deadlines earlier than 9/15; are these incorrect?

Yes these are incorrect and the system will not display applications until September 1, 2020.

Will programs see which applications were submitted first and review them in that order once all the applications are released on September 1st?

Programs will see what date an application became complete for them to review. The order in which they review applications is at their discretion.

Will the details on programs be re-updated for accuracy?

Yes, if a program updates their information during the match cycle it is updated in real time.

Are programs allowed to set their own application dates even if they conflict with AUPO recommendations?

Yes, programs set their own deadlines.

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## Integrated/Joint/ Traditional Program Training Type

Does a "traditional" program mean they are not offering an integrated or joint intern year?

Yes

If a program is a joint program, does SF match allow you to apply to both the joint intern year and ophtho program?

You must apply for the joint intern year through the NRMP/ERAS system and apply to the ophthalmology program through SF Match. You only apply once to each program.

For which program types, do we need to add an application on ERAS?

Traditional and Joint

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## Submitting Applications

When does the system open to begin accepting applications?

July 1, 2020

Is it possible to apply to programs in different batches (ie apply to a certain number, and then apply to other programs at a later date)?

Yes but you will pay \$35.00 for each program after the first set of programs is submitted for distribution selection.

What are supplemental fees per program? Is that an additional \$35 for each program that asks us for a supplemental application?

Supplemental means that you are applying to programs after you have selected and applied

to an initial set of programs. Supplemental fees are charged by SF Match if you apply to additional programs after you apply to an initial set of programs. This fee is unrelated to the supplemental applications or information requested by some individual programs. Neither SF Match or the individual program would have fees for such submitting this information.

#### Can you change your email after registration?

Yes. This is not recommended and should only be done if you are unable to receive email at the old address to avoid confusing programs.

#### How do we enter degrees that are not available in the drop-down menu?

Degrees can be typed into the form. If your degree is missing from the dropdown you can type it into the form.

When I enter my medical school info, should I include the degree “MD” that I will get in 2021 when I graduate, or should I enter nothing, since it will be an anticipated degree that I do not actually have at the time I apply?

Yes, enter the degree that you will be receiving upon graduation.

#### Is MD/PhD an option under degrees for the medical education section?

Yes, you can select both types of degrees. First type MD and click Enter button, then input PhD and click Enter button. Enter both degrees under the school where you received the joint degree.

#### What if my degree is not one of the listed options in the dropdown for the college degrees? ex: bachelor of science and arts option

You can manually type in the degree by inputting degree and pressing the Enter button. The degree will then display as desired.

#### Is there an option to choose both types of visa (h1b and J1)?

Yes, select the other check box and enter that you are eligible for H1-B and J1 visa types.

Is there a way within the SFMatch system to find out which visa type (J-1 vs H1-B) a program sponsors?

Contact programs of interest and inquire. The situation for each program can change.

#### Is there a deadline for Personal Info update - can we provide real-time updates after Sept 15 when programs start reviewing applications?

Yes. Personal Info can be updated anytime. We advise you to complete as much of your Personal Info section as possible prior to applying to programs however, programs will be notified when an update is made.

#### Can the personal info section be updated up until the rank list deadline?

Yes

If we have specialty rotations in 4th year past app deadline for programs, can we include those ophtho rotations?

If you wish to include these, you may simply note them on the application as “University of ..... (planned for November 2020)”

#### Should we assign documents to a program first before applying, or should we apply and then assign documents?

It is recommended that you follow the order of questions provided on the left side menu. You can limit your choices if you go out of order.

Is the application “time-stamped” with the date/time that the application is submitted? Or are they all uniformly stamped with “September 15” when they are released to programs?

Yes, the application is date stamped so that programs are aware when it was first completed and made available for them to review.

#### What was the personal statement word limit in past years?

900 words. The current word limit is 1,200 but it is recommended that you limit your statement to no more than 1,000 words.

Will we be able to update any of that information after sending our first application (if we're applying in batches, e.g. send one first and the others later)

Yes. You can update your Personal Info section and upload non-required documents after you have already applied to programs.

After you submit your application and programs review it, can you edit, say in October or Nov? Ex: new publication?

Yes. Publications are an area in your Personal Info section, which can be updated anytime during the match cycle.

Can medical schools upload documents after you submit an application?

No. The only exception is for Ophthalmology Residency where the MSPE is expected in late October 2020.

For medical schools, is it better to wait to upload transcripts closer to the Sept 15 deadline so that it is more updated ( i.e. when is the best time to upload transcripts?)

Programs will have access to applications on September 1st. It would be helpful to upload the transcript prior to September 1st. Updated transcripts can be uploaded at a later date when new grades are available. Each applicant can upload as many as 3 versions of the medical school transcript.

Will programs be notified when we update scores or will we have to reach out to them ourselves?

Yes, programs receive a notification when you update scores. If you insert a new score for an exam, it is important that you also upload the exam score report document. Programs will look for this document to confirm the score you have added.

Do we need official USMLE score reports?

The PDF transcript that includes the performance profile you receive via e-mail will suffice. The alternative is to upload the official transcript.

For college and non-medical school transcripts, do they need to be official transcripts? Or can they be uploaded by applicant?

Applicants can upload student issued college and non-medical school transcripts.

My transcript says "PRINTED COPY" as a watermark and I can't remove it. is that okay?

Yes, student issued transcripts are acceptable.

How do we submit 2 different undergraduate college transcripts?

Scan both documents together as one PDF document and upload the file.

If you went to a post-bacc or grad program do you upload those transcripts; and if so in the same file as your college ones?

Post graduate transcripts can be uploaded in Additional Documents. Go to Documents, select Global and view the list of Additional documents eligible to upload.

Where is the additional documents section?

Go to Documents, select Global and view the list of Additional documents eligible to upload.

If we are taking Step 2 CK after the application is submitted are we required to update the application or is it optional?

Step 2 CK is not a required document.

For uploading documents like a medical school diploma and medical license, is a picture sufficient if these documents are already framed or does it need to be a scanned copy?

Do not take a picture of the document. Scan the documents and upload them. The digital image that you upload is what you are presenting to the programs reviewing the application.

Do we submit supplemental applications through SF match? How do we know if each program has supplementals required?

No. If a program requires a separate application you must send it to them directly.

Can we submit application before letter writer submits or before school uploads MSPE/transcript?

Yes.

If you type in AOA “not yet determined”, it shows AOA next to the honors — is this misrepresentative of our AOA status? Or will programs see that it’s not yet determined?

Programs will see the value “Not Yet Determined” that you have selected next to the AOA status.

Would honors listed under the education tab differ from the honors listed under the honors/interests tab? and how so?

The only difference is where the information is displayed on the application form. When you enter honors in the education section, they will be displayed in that section. Honors entered in the Honors/Interests section will be displayed in that section.

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## Submitting Applications

Is there a processing time after submission of the application? Thank you.

Complete applications are released to programs no earlier than September 1. After that date, they are available to the program immediately upon completion.

Is the pdf preview on the home page what our application will look like for programs?

No. Programs will also see the list of letter writers you assign to their program as well as one personal statement. The applicant’s Print PDF preview function shows all personal statements (if multiple are created) so the applicant can see how the formatting of the free text is displayed for programs to view.

If we have specialty rotations in 4th year past app deadline for programs, can we include those ophtho rotations?

If you wish to include these, you may simply note them on the application as “University of ..... (planned for November 2020)”.

Is there any way to distinguish first-author publications from other publications we have?

This is not necessary. Reviewers will be able to survey all the publications to which you contributed through a variety of means.

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## Interviews

Will all interviews be offered at once?

The earliest date that any interview invitations can be extended is October 12. Programs are not required to extend any or all of their invitations on this date. Some programs may extend all their invitations on October 12, while others may extend all their invitations on a different date. Additionally, any program may extend a portion of their interview invitations on a certain date, and continue to issue additional invitations on a rolling basis. Programs will not offer any more invitations than they have interview spots, but they may impose a deadline for a response from an applicant. Specific information on each program may be ascertained from their websites, or via direct communication with program officials.

Will there be a limit in the number of programs that I can apply to/interview at?

There is no application limit. Interviews are limited to 20 for applicants this year.

Can programs send more interview invites than they have available slots?

No.

Are interview invitations sent to our message box, our emails or both?

All messages sent through the SF Match system are sent to both your e-mail address and SF Match message box.

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No

Is there any way to distinguish first-author publications from other publications we have?

This is not necessary. Reviewers will be able to survey all the publications to which you contributed through a variety of means.

Is “peer-reviewed abstract/article (other than published)” where we should list manuscripts currently under review? And is there a way to update this if it gets accepted for publication after we submit our application?

This is the correct place to list them. Personal information, including publications, can be updated after you submit the application to programs.

If we have sent our letters of recommendation request but the letter writers haven't sent them in yet by September 15th can we still apply to programs?

Yes. You can apply to programs before assigning documents. September 15th is a target date. Look at the program directory to find out application deadlines for the programs.

Are all letters of rec needed for an app to be “complete” and visible to programs on Sept 15?

Assigning 3 letters of recommendation is required as part of submitting a complete application. Your application is not complete until it includes three letters of recommendation.

Is there an optimal web browser to use to access the website?

Google Chrome, Safari or Firefox

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## Letters of Recommendation

Once LOR requests are sent to letter writers, can the applicant view the status of the request? If so, Where?

You can view the status on the LOR page

Are we able to submit an additional LOR after our application is submitted?

No

Can we request more than 3 letters of recommendation?

Yes, but only three letters of recommendation may be uploaded to each program.