Checklist: SF Match (Ophthalmology)

JANUARY to MARCH	
Specialty Choice	☐Work toward identifying/finalizing specialty choice • Utilize AAMC Careers in Medicine Resources • Attend OSA Residency Application Workshops • Meet with Specialty Advisor(s), OSA, Senior Students/Alumni Network *Resources*: • AAMC CiM (Log in required) • The Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (AUPO) • Resources for Medical Students - Ophthalmology Residency - SF Match - Residency and Fellowship Matching Services • Medical Student Webinars - American Academy of Ophthalmology (aao.org)
ACP Scheduling	☐Schedule the Advanced Clinical Phase • Meet with Specialty Advisor(s), OSA Advisors, Senior Students/Alumni Network • Consult the SOM Renaissance Curriculum Graduation Requirements • Consider whether you plan to do any extramural ("away") rotations. ☐Apply to extramural rotations • Attend SOM Workshop: Extramural Rotations • Attest to review of Module/Workshop and contact OSA to get VSLO Token • Get a head start on vaccine requirements. • Work on a draft of a personal statement/letter of interest for extramural rotations *Resources*: SOM Academic Handbook, "Clinical Scheduling" and "Extramural Rotations" *Resources*: SOM Renaissance Curriculum Graduation Requirements *Workshop*: ACP Scheduling (12/4) *Workshop*: Extramural Rotations (1/4)
USMLE Step 2	☐Schedule your USMLE Step 2 examination • we recommend taking no later than July 15, 2025 • expect results 4-8 weeks after your test date *Workshop*: Step 2 Registration and Timing
APRIL to JUNE	
Application Prep	☐Update your CV ☐Begin to outline/draft your personal statement ☐Consider possible LoR writers *Resources*: SOM Residency Application Manual *Resources*: SF Match Central Application Services (CAS) Instructions *Resources*: Medical Student Resources | Association of University Professors of Ophthalmology (aupo.org) *Resources*: AAMC How to Apply for Residency Positions *Workshop*: The Residency Application Overview Workshop: Watch the Personal Statement 101 Video and attend a Personal Statement Workshop (7/15 and 8/19)
OSA Advising	☐Attend OSA Specialty Advising Sessions (April and May)

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	• Review specifics of applications by specialty including general application strategies, competitiveness of specialty, and unique application aspects for your specialty. ☐Schedule your personal (1:1) meeting with your OSA Advisor (May, Jun, Jul) • Refine specialty choice, discuss Advanced Clinical Phase Schedule and review graduation requirements, review components of the residency application, discuss/review the MSPE, discuss application specifics including number of and which programs to apply to as well as contingency planning. ☐Discuss contingency planning ☐ Monitor timelines/announcements on different professional websites • [Medical Students - American Academy of Ophthalmology (aao.org)](#) • [Resources for Medical Students - Ophthalmology Residency - SF Match](#) • [AUPO Medical Student Resources](#) •
Access MyERAS	☐Access your MyERAS Application – OSA will issue token in April • Access is limited to demographic information and LoR portal ☐Otain your ERAS Photo – OSA will help schedule with SOM photographer *Even for students in SF Match, it is still important to Access MyERAS as some advanced programs require ERAS applications for preliminary programs.
JUNE to AUGUST	
USMLE Step 2	☐Take USMLE Step 2 (May, Jun, July) – last day to take July 15, 2025
Acuity Insights	☐ Determine whether you will need to take CASPER/Acuity Insights (Specialty/Program specific). https://acuityinsights.app/
Central Application Services (CAS)	☐Being applying through the Central Application Service (CAS) • CAS Opens July 1, 2025- "Applicant Registration" • Begin working on your application (demographics, experiences, supporting documents) *Resources*: [SF Match Central Application Services (CAS) Instructions](#) *Resource* [FAQs - Ophthalmology Residency - SF Match - Residency and Fellowship Matching Services](#) *Resource:* [SF Match FAQ 2025-2026](#) *Workshop: Residency Application Workshop June 3rd*
Application	☐Fine tune your CAS Application and supporting documents ☐Continue editing your Personal Statement (ensure multiple reviewers) ☐Confirm Letter Writers (recommend they submit by mid-August. No later than September 2nd) • [AUPO Letters of Recommendation Webinar](#) • [Ophthalmology Match Letters of Recommendation FAQ. 2025-2026](#) ☐Submit your Noteworthy Characteristics to OSA (June) ☐Review your MSPE for accuracy, spelling, grammar (August) ☐Choose/refine program list (using data from OSA/Specialty Advisors, Peer Advisors, National Resources) ☐Contact programs of interest (website/email) to confirm application requirements and individual deadline dates. *Resources*: [AAMC Residency Explorer](#)

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	Resources: SOM Alumni Network (Access via MedScope Portfolio Career Tab)
SEPTEMBER	

Submit Application	☐ Submit CAS Application
	      ○ 9/2/2025 CAS Target Date- this is the date that applications are released to programs
	      ○ Applicants may upload supplemental documents and additional applications as available. This is NOT a deadline. Programs can accept applications after this date. It is the applicant's responsibility to contact training programs for individual deadline dates.
	  • Double check that your application is complete
	    ☐ Release USMLE Transcripts
	    ☐ Upload your Photo
	    ☐ Apply to Programs – use all your available program signals
	    ☐ Assign documents (LoR, Personal Statement, Photo, USMLE Transcript)
	    NOTE: OSA will upload MSPE/Transcript – automatically sent to all programs
	    ☐ Certify your application
	☐ Signals: Ophthalmology will have 10 signals this year
	  • SF Ophthalmology Signaling 2025-2026
	
	Resources: SF Match - An overview of completing an application and accepting interview invitations - Zoom

SEPTEMBER to JANUARY	

NRMP / Match	☐ Register for NRMP Match Service - https://www.nrmp.org/
	  • Registration opens September; standard registration ends Jan 31st
	  • Opthalmology Applicants MUST still register for NRMP as you may need to use this in your preliminary year
	☐ Learn how the Match works -review SF Match Rules
	
	Resources: Match Rules - Ophthalmology Residency - SF Match
	Resources: SF Match Timeline 2025-2026

Interviews	☐ Schedule and attend program interviews
	  • For Opthalmology 2026, they are piloting Coordinated Release Dates
	  • These Dates will be October 15, October 22, October 29 and November 5
	  • ALL Interviews released at 12pm PST
	  • There is a 48hour window to accept or decline and interview
	  • Students can accept to a maximum of 15 interviews at a time
	  • If you want to switch a new interview offer out, you will need to release one after you have 15
	  • After November 5th, programs can invite for interviews or unfilled spots as they have in the past
	  • You will use the SF Match Interview Scheduler Queue
	  • First Day of Interviews will be October 27th
	  • Last day of interviews will be December 19th
	  • All Interviews will be VIRTUAL for 2025-2026 season
	  • Applicants should actively monitor email and interview broker programs

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	Resources: [SOM Residency Application Manual](#) – "Interviews" *Resources:* [AUPO Interview FAQ](#) *Resources*: [SF Match Interview Scheduler Demo](#) *Resources*: SOM Interview Mock Program- OSA will coordinate with Dr. Levin *Workshop*: Interview Preparedness *Workshop*: Post-Interview – Etiquette, Ranking, and More
ACP Schedule	☐ Confirm final schedule and Graduation Requirements
JANUARY-FEBRUARY	
Open House Sign Up and Visits	☐ Open House - applicant signup period Tuesday, October 28 - Tuesday, January 20, 2026 ☐ Open House Tours: Monday, January 5, 2026 - Tuesday, January 20, 2026: Attend optional program visit days *Note: Friday, January 2, 2026 @ 12:00 PM (noon) PT: Program Rank List Deadline
Ranking	☐ Submit you Rank Order List through SF Match • Deadline to submit your rank list is Thursday, January 22, 2026 @ 12:00 PM (noon) PT • We recommend submitting at least 48 hours in advance *Resources*: [FAQs - Ophthalmology Residency - SF Match Ranking](#) NRMP [Creating a ROL](#), [Supplemental ROL](#), and [Couples in the Match](#)
MATCH RESULTS	Match Results: Thursday, January 29, 2026 5:00 AM PT • Match results are made available to programs, applicants, and US medical schools through the SF Match system. A login is required to view results. Post-match vacancies: Thursday, January 29, 2026 9:00 AM PT • Any vacancies which remain after the match will be announced on the Immediate Vacancies page. Vacancy listings are managed by individual programs.
Tasks	☐ Contact your Program to see if you need to participate in the NRMP match for your preliminary or advanced program! ☐ Complete the OSA Advising Survey – available after ROL deadline ☐ Complete the AAMC Graduation Questionnaire – opens 2/14 ☐ Join the Alumni Network
MARCH	
The Match	☐ Attend Mandatory Match Week Workshop (TBD) ☐ Plan on being in Baltimore for the entirety of Match Week • Match week is the third week in March • If you are waiting on a prelim year, Monday 3/16/2024 at 10 am, students will receive notification of Match status • Unmatched students should report to OSA

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	☐Celebrate Match Day – Friday March 20th, 2025 – with Family & Friends at M&T Bank Exchange • Students should anticipate hearing from programs shortly after Match *Resources*: [Match Week Schedule](#) *Resources*: [NRMP SOAP](#)
APRIL to JUNE	
Post Match	☐Attend Transition to Residency (April) ☐Check your transcript for completion of graduation requirements ☐Order Graduation Regalia (April) ☐Complete Licensure and Verification Paperwork – OSA can assist ☐Prepare to Move ☐Join the Alumni Network ☐Complete the AAMC Graduation Questionnaire ☐Participate in Senior Year Events ☐Celebrate Commencement with Family and Friends – May 2026