

OSA S.T.E.P.S. to Success



February: Pay it Forward

How far have you come in a year? A year ago, many of you were still deciding your specialty ... we were meeting with you about specialty choice, away applications, and scheduling for fourth year. Now you are wrapping up interviews in your specialty of choice and considering your rank lists. We hope along the way that you benefited from the sage advice of senior students and from the data they shared with us regarding interviews and match. Can we believe, we are already having these conversations with the Class of 2027? They are already so grateful for your experience and advice and hope to continue to benefit from that throughout the season. **Here's what you can do now to Pay It Forward:**

Update **MedScope Interview Tracker** and help OSA support future applicants, providing them with the same data you received.

Sign up for the **SOM Alumni Network** to mentor future generations (sign up through your Career Tab on MedScope, "Alumni Mentor"/"New"

Coming March 4 – Please watch out for a brief **Career Advising Survey** – we take your feedback seriously to help make improvements for the upcoming cycles.

Save the Date: Match Day 2026

Good luck to our early matches! (Ophthalmology Jan 29 and Urology Feb 2)

Save the date for the **2026 Match Day Celebration!** Join us for a festive reception celebrating Match Day on **Friday, March 20, 2026** from **10:30 am – 1:00 pm** at the **M&T Bank Exchange** at the France-Merrick Performing Arts Center (401 W. Fayette St). Information on registration is coming soon.

Office of Student Affairs

Studentaffairs@som.umaryland.edu

OSA STEPS to Success

S. Self-Assessment
T. Target Specialty
E. Experience
P. Preparation & Planning
S. Strategy Execution

NRMP

[Registration](#)
[Match Timeline](#)
[Match Process](#)
[Ranking Programs](#)

Key Dates

Feb 2 AUA Match Results
[Match Week/SOAP calendar](#)
Feb 2 Ranking Opens
Mar 4 ROL Certification deadline
Mar 9 SOM Match Wk Workshop
Mar 20 Match Day!

OSA Insider Podcasts

[Apple Podcasts](#)

E38: Making Hard Decisions

Rank Order Lists

Creating Your Rank Order Lists – Tips and Reminders

ROL must be CERTIFIED by 3/4/26 at 9 PM – we highly recommend certifying no later than Mon 3/2 to avoid local server traffic issues in the final days.

- Understand the [Match process](#) and how the algorithm works for you!
- Rank programs in your true order of preference
- Rank all programs where you interviewed (unless you would rather go unmatched than be a particular program)
- Do NOT rank programs where you did not interview
- Confirm that your NRMP ID is linked to ERAS or ResidencyCAS
- **Come by OSA – we would be happy to talk through your list with you!**

Additional Resources:

[SOM RAM – The Match/Rank Order Lists](#)

[SOM RAM – Couples in the Match](#) and [NRMP Resources for Couples](#)

Should you Send a Letter of Intent (LOI)? While not required, some students send a note or LOI to their top program to let them know they plan to rank them first. Do not send an LOI if it was discouraged by the program. Only send an LOI if you are certain of your ranking. An LOI is not a guarantee but may help programs understand your intent when creating their rank list.

Supplemental Rank Order Lists

If your application includes PGY-1 programs, be sure you understand how to create a [supplemental rank order list](#). Supplemental lists are only used for **Advanced (“A”) programs**. For each Advanced program on your primary rank order list, you’ll rank the corresponding PGY-1 programs on a supplemental list.

Note: If you are ranking preliminary programs as a backup plan, include them on your primary rank order list. Please discuss this approach with an OSA Dean.

Additional Resources:

[NRMP Supplemental Rank Order Lists](#)

[RAM: Preliminary and TY Programs](#)

Graduation Requirements

At this point your schedule should be complete, ensuring all graduation requirements are met. **Degree Works** is a comprehensive, user-friendly dashboard to track your academic progress and plan remaining coursework.

Note: The *MedScope Graduation Tracker* is not accurate or up to date.

Resources: [Degree Works Dashboard](#)

[CO2026 graduation requirements](#)

Affirmations

I am smart, creative and resilient
I am committed to my purpose
I know myself best and am confident in my choices
I am ready for what comes next
I was meant to become a doctor



How Can OSA Help You?

Match/Graduation Events

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Registration & Degree Works

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OSA Advisors/MSPE Questions

[OSA Deans](#)

Kerri Thom, MD

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