

Ophthalmology Match

To apply to an Ophthalmology residency, you must register and apply through [San Francisco Matching Program](http://sfmatch.org) (sfmatch.org). For a comprehensive timeline and guidelines, also go to sfmatch.org.

This matching process happens earlier than other residency matches, so you must follow the deadlines provided on the SF Match website.

OVERVIEW OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR PGY-2 OPHTHALMOLOGY RESIDENCY

The following documents are required in order for a PGY-2 Ophthalmology Residency application to be considered complete:

1. CAS application form **(to be completed and submitted online by applicant)**
2. College transcript (s) **(upload by applicant)**
3. USMLE Step 1/COMLEX 1 **(upload by applicant)**
4. Medical school transcript(s) (upload by medical school)
5. Letter of reference #1 (upload by medical school)
6. Letter of reference #2 (upload by medical school)
7. Letter of reference #3 (upload by medical school)
8. MSPE letter (upload by medical school)

Although SF Match provides a target date for application submission in early September, it is important to recognize that some programs set deadlines that occur before this target date. In addition, many programs begin reviewing applications in late August, and some even start offering interviews at this time. Therefore, it is highly recommended that you submit all application materials no later than the 1st week of August.

CAS Application and payment

You can find the application on the SF Match website.

Transcripts

Transcript review is the week of August 7. It is recommended you review as soon as possible that week so we can upload it to SF Match by August 15. You can also request an updated version to be uploaded at any time.

Letters of recommendation

Letters should be submitted to the Office of Student Affairs by **August 1, 2017** to student.affairs@mssm.edu. It is recommended by SF Match (and other sources close to the application process) that you provide one letter from a core rotation (medicine or surgery strongly preferred) out of the three.

The authors of the letters will need to submit a waiver form with the letter of recommendation. You can find a copy of this waiver on Blackboard, [Blackboard>2018 org>RAP Documents>Early/Special Match Info](#).

Tips

- Look up each program individually to find out if the programs are amenable to be contacted or receive updates/additional LORs. Additional letters or updates will not be distributed by SF Match.
- Check to see if programs require an additional secondary application. Some programs may also request that you apply to their preliminary programs to be considered for an ophthalmology position.

- Keep a schedule of projected interview dates and prioritize ahead of time potential interviews, so you can schedule interviews easily and quickly when they arrive. Projected interview dates can be aggregated on the SF Match website, but should be double-checked with program websites.
- Interview invites will be sent out as early as late August and as late as early November. Most will be email invites, although a handful will call. Set your phone to receive email notifications so you can respond to programs as soon as possible to ensure that you will get a spot to interview. Be certain to follow all directions in the invite email regarding preferred dates and times and additional materials (i.e., photo) to submit. If you do not get your preferred date, always be courteous to the program coordinator and request to be placed on a waiting list in the event that a spot becomes available.
- Take every interview you are offered early on. If you are in the position to turn down interviews at a later date, make sure to provide the program with ample notice (at least 2 weeks).
- Ask an ophthalmology attending you know to have another attending give you a mock interview that is ophthalmology specific
- You can check the Student Doctor Network (<http://studentdoctor.net/>) to find out when programs offer interviews. Match Applicant (www.matchapplicants.com) is a website that was sometimes helpful to find out about interview day questions. Keep in mind: some programs offer interviews at different times from years past and some programs may offer multiple waves of interviews.
- Contact programs that you haven't heard from to express interest for interviews or send updates. If a program that really interests you has already sent out interview invites, do not hesitate to reach out to the program director to express interest in his or her program. It may be viewed favorably if the program offers subsequent waves of invites or has cancellations later in the season.