

Program Directors Association Guide for Residency Applicants

Academic Year: 2024-2025

Specialty: Diagnostic Radiology

Application platform: ERAS

Additional information about application platform:

Application deadline: No specialty specific deadline

Additional information about application deadline:

Recommended to have all application information submitted prior to ERAS opening for PDs. Any additional material uploaded after that date may need to be communicated to programs.

Match platform: NRMP

Additional information about Match platform:

Letters of recommendation (LORs):

Total number of LORs recommended: Some variability between programs, generally 3 or 4.

Is it recommended that all LORs come from within this specialty:

Yes

No

Is it acceptable to submit any LORs after the initial application is submitted?

Yes

No

Is a standardized letter or letter from the department chair recommended?

Yes

No

If yes, is the standardized letter or department chair letter included in the total number of LORs recommended above?

Yes

No

Recommended date by which all LORs should be submitted: Prior to ERAS opening for PDs

Additional information about LORs:

Programs are variable in their desire for standardized letters or Chair letter. Generally standardized letters are accepted but not required. Chair letter would generally be considered to be included in the total number of letters required. A general rule is to have a minimum of 1 letter from the specialty.

Away rotation expectations:

Away rotations are not generally expected in Diagnostic Radiology.

Supplemental information:

Are applicants required to complete supplemental application materials?

Yes

No

If yes, please specify:

Additional information about supplemental information:

No specialty requirement for supplemental application beyond ERAS, however, this does not guarantee that individual programs may request supplemental information.

Signal information:

Please indicate the number of signals available: 6 Gold and 6 Silver for total of 12 signals

Are applicants expected to signal their home institution? Yes

No

Are applicants expected to signal institutions where they completed away rotations?

Yes

No

Additional information about signals:

For Radiology, the signals are shared with the Interventional Radiology Integrated Programs. i.e. there are 12 total signals that can be used for Diagnostic Radiology AND Interventional Radiology. There is still some variability in how signals to a single institution with both programs is interpreted. Some consider that signals are program specific, i.e. a signal to IR is only a signal to IR, a signal to DR is only a signal to DR, however others consider any signal to either program a signal that you are interested in both/either.

Although the recommendation is to signal home institutions and away rotations, there may be instances of the home program or away rotation program directly informing a candidate whether to signal their program or not.

Use of USMLE/COMLEX scores:

What is the recommended date that a USMLE Step 2CK/COMLEX Level 2 score should be available in order for the application to be reviewed?

It is highly recommended to have scores available at the time of initial submission.

What is the recommended date that a USMLE Step 2CK/COMLEX Level 2 score should be available in order for an interviewed applicant to be ranked?

It would be a rare exception to be considered for ranking without these scores.

Are USMLE scores required or strongly recommended by the specialty even when an applicant has a COMLEX score? Yes

No

Additional information about USMLE/COMLEX scores:

There is no specialty specific requirement for USMLE, although there may be slight preference in the specialty as a whole to have USMLE.

Interview invitation process:

Universal interview release dates recommended? Yes

No

If yes, please specify the dates:

If no, during what time period are interviews typically offered?

Interview offers are still highly variable in Radiology. Interviews may be extended within a week of initial ERAS availability with most interviews offered between the 2nd week of Oct and mid Nov with some not being offered (often a second wave) in late Nov to early Dec. Some programs offer all interview slots all at once and others offer them in waves.

Additional information about interview invitations:

Recommended Interview format: Virtual
 In-person
 Hybrid

Additional information about interview format:

The specialty recommends virtual interviews and suggests that the assessment of candidates be done separately from any in-person visits to allow candidates the freedom to assess the location after being ranked by the program. Some programs may do in-person interviews.

Additional information for applicants, if relevant (e.g. applicant communication, second look/open houses):

Guidance to programs is that candidates are assessed in a standard fashion at each individual program. i.e. all candidates are interviewed and assessed using virtual interviews or all candidates are interviewed in person if that option is chosen.

If second looks are offered by the program, it is recommended that these are optional and done after ranking has been completed. This is to allow the candidates to assess a program without fear that 'not going' would impact their ranking.