

AAMC Electronic Residency Application Service® (ERAS®) 2026 Application Season Program Signaling Specialty Participation Agreement

Program signals are fully integrated into the MyERAS® application for use by applicants in signaling their interest to participating programs. Due to the complexity of program signaling, it is vital that each interested specialty explicitly agrees to participate in program signals. The AAMC seeks to ensure that specialties choosing to participate in program signaling for the 2026 ERAS season:

- Are properly trained and equipped to utilize program signals as a part of a holistic review of applicants when deciding who to invite to interview.
- Understand and have reviewed the research outcomes to date.
- Make an informed decision about the number of signals for their individual specialty together with AAMC assessment experts.
- Have ample time for early communication to applicants/advisors regarding specialty participation.
- Agree to encourage their programs to follow policies designed to ensure a fair and standardized program signaling process for applicants.

Program signals will be available only to specialties that complete this participation agreement and will be limited to the number of desired program signals per specialty. **New for this season, all programs in participating specialties will automatically be opted in at the time of registration.** Individual programs may elect to opt out of participating in program signaling by indicating their choice in the program management tab on the Program Director's WorkStation (PDWS).

Description of Program Signals:

Program signals offer *applicants* the opportunity to express genuine interest in a limited number of residency or fellowship programs that they have applied to at the time of application. Program signals offer the opportunity for *programs* to use program signals as an additional data point among many available to them to make decisions about whom to invite to interview.

Details of Program Signals

The AAMC will work with each specialty organization to achieve their goals for participation and to ensure a fair, equitable process for applicants and programs.

Important Dates:

- **March 28, 2025:** [July Cycle Fellowship and September Cycle Residency Specialties](#) need to explicitly agree to participate in giving their programs the opportunity to receive program signals by signing this participation agreement. This participation agreement is intended and designed to be signed by one specialty-approved association executive committee member (president, CEO, appointed chairman, etc.). The specialty must also provide the number and model of program signals they wish to utilize to the AAMC.
- **June 18, 2025 Deadline:** Individual **July Cycle fellowship programs** who wish to participate in program signaling within the specialty will need to consider their participation when registering for the 2026 ERAS season. Programs have from the date registration opens in April 2025 until June 18, 2025, to register with the ERAS program for participation (programs are automatically opted in to program signals upon registration; they may choose to opt out).
- **Aug. 20, 2025 Deadline:** Individual **September Cycle residency programs** who wish to participate in program signaling within the specialty will need to consider their participation when registering for the 2026 ERAS season. Programs have from the date registration opens in April 2025 until Aug. 20, 2025, to register with the ERAS program for participation (programs are automatically opted in to program signals upon registration; they may choose to opt out).
- **Aug. 29, 2025:** [December Cycle Fellowship Specialties](#) need to explicitly agree to participate in giving their programs the opportunity to receive program signals by signing this participation agreement. This participation agreement is intended and designed to be signed by one specialty-approved association executive committee member (president, CEO, appointed chairman, etc.). The specialty must also provide and communicate the number and model of program signals they wish to utilize to the AAMC.
- **Oct. 29, 2025 Deadline:** Individual **December Cycle Fellowship programs** who wish to participate in program signaling within the specialty will need to consider their participation when registering for the 2026 ERAS season. Programs have from the date registration opens in September 2025 until Oct. 29, 2025, to register with the ERAS program for participation (programs are automatically opted in to program signals upon registration; they may choose to opt out).

Key Considerations:

The AAMC requests that specialties encourage participating programs to engage in the following:

- Attend, review, and read guidance and training about best practice usage of program signals

via the AAMC and/or specialty forums.

- Provide interview and other outcome data to the AAMC for the sole purpose of evaluating program signals by utilizing Thalamus Core as an interview scheduling platform. Thalamus Core automatically captures interview data and users may provide outcome data by indicating applicants' Will Start status in the PDWS. Providing as much complete data as possible contributes to stronger analytical information at the conclusion of the recruitment season.
- Strongly consider their intent to utilize program signals as a part of their review in the PDWS.
New for this season: All programs in participating specialties will be automatically opted in to receive program signals. Individual programs may choose to opt-out of receiving program signals in the Program Management tab of the PDWS and should do so by their respective cycle's deadline outlined above.



**AAMC Electronic Residency Application Service® (ERAS®) 2026 Season Program
Signaling Specialty Participation Agreement**

Today's Date: _____

Specialty Information

Specialty Name: _____

Number of Signals: _____

Specialty Leadership Representative Information

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____