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MATCH DAY 2025: FAMILY MEDICINE SETS ANOTHER MILESTONE

Family medicine residencies offered a record number of positions in the 2025 National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) for the 16th year in a row, and the specialty is poised to enter the 2025-26 academic year with the largest intern class in its history.

More than 800 family medicine programs participating in the NRMP Main Residency Match filled 4,574 positions, according to results released March 21, 2025. That's 21 fewer than a year ago. However, when the results of the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP) are reported, this new class of family medicine residents will likely eclipse last year's record-setting total of 5,189.

"I'm confident we'll have virtually all unfilled positions filled by the time the new residency class starts on July 1," said AAFP Vice President of Student and Resident Initiatives Karen Mitchell, MD, FAAFP, a former program director and past president of the Association of Family Medicine Residency Directors.

Family medicine had 805 unfilled positions, up 169 from 2024. The SOAP process concluded March 21, but official numbers will not be available for months. For perspective, there were 636 family medicine positions unfilled in last year's main residency Match, and 594 of those filled through the SOAP.

Family Medicine Match by the Numbers

Family medicine categorical and combined programs offered a record 5,379 positions, up 148 compared with a year ago. A record 817 family medicine programs offered positions this year, with a fill rate of 85%. Family medicine accounted for

86% of the primary care positions offered and 84% of primary care positions filled. The United States is projected to need up to 48,000 more primary care physicians by 2034.

"I'm excited to see that the main Match numbers are relatively steady," Mitchell said, "and we're showing overall growth in family medicine. That's important. The number of positions offered is going in the right direction to meet our country's primary care needs."

Of the students and graduates who filled family medicine slots in the main Match reported by the NRMP:

- US seniors from allopathic medical schools accounted for 1,519 positions, down from 1,535 in 2024
- Seniors from osteopathic medical schools accounted for 1,486 positions, down from 1,493
- International medical students and graduates (including 626 US citizens) accounted for 1,427 positions, down from 1,455
- Previous graduates of US allopathic schools and osteopathic schools accounted for a total of 142 positions, up from 112

A more in-depth look at the 2025 numbers is available in the AAFP's Match results analysis at <https://www.aafp.org/students-residents/residency-program-directors/national-resident-matching-program-results.html>.

AAFP Advocacy

The Academy's advocacy has helped increase the number of family medicine positions offered by more than 100 in 4 of the past 5 years.

The AAFP's Board of Directors continued this effort on Capitol Hill on Feb. 26, meeting with more than 40 congressional and Senate offices on workforce and other issues vital to family medicine. In March, Board Chair Steven Furr, MD, FAAFP; President Jen Brull, MD, FAAFP; and President-elect Sarah Nosal, MD, FAAFP, were back in Washington, DC, to talk with members of Congress and congressional staff about topics including permanently authorizing—and funding—the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education program, which is vital to building the primary care workforce.

Family Medicine Champions Program

To help drive higher fill rates for family medicine in the main Match—an outcome that family medicine program directors, the Academy, and other stakeholders are working toward—Mitchell encouraged family physicians to participate in the Family Medicine Champions program. The AAFP launched this free, self-paced certificate program 2 years ago to support those who influence students to choose family medicine.

The program trains participants to be ambassadors for family medicine and to educate aspiring health care workers about the opportunities available in the specialty. Information, including a link to register by July 31 for the class that starts in August, is available at <https://www.aafp.org/fmchampions>.

"Students need to see the joy of family medicine through relationships with family physicians," Mitchell said. "One way to get involved is to be a Family Medicine Champion, reach

out to students, at any stage of their career pathway, in your communities and learn skills to help put more students on a path to join our specialty."

The AAFP recently launched a campaign, with a hub at <https://info.aafp.org/aafp-student-recruitment>, to show 1st- and 2nd-year medical students how they can transform communities and create meaningful, long-term doctor-patient relationships in family medicine. The Academy also supports a nationwide network of family medicine interest groups and has created a partnership to expose students to the specialty as early as high school.

The AAFP, in collaboration with the Association of Departments of Family Medicine and the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, also offers a best practices guide at https://www.aafp.org/dam/AAFP/documents/medical_education_residency/general/Best%20Practice%20Guide%20Strategic%20Planning%20to%20Increase%20Student%20Choice%20of%20Family%20Medicine.pdf for medical schools with evidence-based strategies to increase their rate of graduating family physicians.

What's Next

Free Match Guidebook

Students can get a free, step-by-step guide to the process in [Strolling Through the Match](#). The resource, which already has been updated for the 2025-26 Match cycle, offers tips for every stage of the Match, from choosing a specialty to applying, interviewing and ranking residency programs.

FUTURE 2025

The AAFP's FUTURE 2025 (formerly the National Conference of Family Medicine Residents and Medical Students) is July 31-Aug, 2025 in Kansas City, Missouri. This event offers live workshops, procedural courses, leadership opportunities, student and resident congresses, and an expo hall showcasing hundreds of residency programs.

"We're excited about the opportunities FUTURE gives students to explore family medicine and find their people," Mitchell said.

— David Mitchell, AAFP News



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STFM LAUNCHES PROFESSIONALISM IN FAMILY MEDICINE EDUCATION INITIATIVE

The Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM) has launched a 2-year initiative to support family medicine faculty as they teach and model professionalism.

The initiative is being led by STFM President Joseph Gravel, MD, chair of Family and Community Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin. It is supported by a grant from the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) Foundation.

"Professionalism is a term that has taken on negative connotations," Dr Gravel explains. "... this initiative is intended to update the concept of professionalism training with new expectations and tools..."¹

STFM's professionalism initiative aligns with current ABFM projects to update guidelines on professional and personal conduct.

It addresses the following objectives and tactics in STFM's 2025-2029 strategic plan:

1.1 Provide family medicine faculty with the skills needed to train students, residents, and health care teams to achieve better health, quality care, value, and improved work life of clinicians and staff.

1.1.1 Provide residency programs and faculty with resources and training to implement competency-based medical education and assessment.

1.1.4 Develop curriculum for teaching and assessing professionalism that is challenged by changes in technology, market forces, and health care delivery systems.

The new STFM Professionalism in Medical Education Task Force will:

- Convene a Professionalism in Family Medicine Summit, co-sponsored by the American Medical Association, to create and/or endorse an updated definition of professionalism, engage family medicine organizations, and get consensus on next steps on teaching and assessing professionalism
- Develop and release professionalism curriculum for residents and third- and fourth-year medical students
- Identify or create competency-based tools to assess resident professionalism
- Deliver faculty development through conference presentations and virtual training sessions

Task force members include Joseph Gravel, MD, Medical College of Wisconsin; John Brady, MD, VCU-Riverside Family Medicine Residency; Daniel Casey, MD, JPS Family Medicine Residency; Amy Clithero, PhD, MBA, University of New Mexico School of Medicine; Roger Garvin, MD, Oregon Health & Science University; Lauren E. Gibson-Oliver, MD, MBA, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, (UAMS) Family Medicine Residency Program; Lynne Havsy, PhD, St Luke's Family Medicine Residency – Anderson; Timothy Hoff, PhD, Northeastern University; Natalie Long, MD, University of Missouri – Columbia; Adam Saperstein, MD, CAPT, MC, USN, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences; Takudzwa Shumba, MD, MPH, Stanford University School of Medicine; Mary Theobald, MBA, Society of Teachers of Family Medicine; Maria Montanez Villacampa, MD, University of Texas Health Science Center – San Antonio.

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