



Dental Career
Services

PASS Application and the Match

Resources:
AEDA PASS:
<http://www.adea.org/passapp/>
Dental Match:
<https://www.natmatch.com/dentres/>

The PASS Application is a centralized application service that allows for efficient application to 600+ participating post graduate education programs including AEGD, GPR, and Specialty Programs. The Match is used by applicants and programs to determine the final placement of applicants into positions after the application and evaluation process is completed.

ADEA PASS is administered by the American Dental Education Association (ADEA) while Match is administered by National Matching Services Inc. (NMS). While many programs do participate in both the PASS application and the Match some participate in one or the other and others coordinate their own processes that don't involve the PASS or Match. It is important that applicants use the [ADEA PASS Program Search Engine](#) to determine program requirements and processes.

Applicants applying to programs that participate in both ADEA PASS and Match can register for the Match via their PASS Application. Applicants applying to programs that participate in ADEA PASS but not the Match (and vice versa) can complete and submit these actions separately and/or may need to follow a program specific process.

What is the PASS Application Timeline?

The application has traditionally opened in May with program deadlines beginning in August. Applying early is a good idea since it demonstrates professionalism and you will benefit from being among the first reviewed.

How do I create a PASS Application?

The PASS Application can be found here: <https://portal.passweb.org/>

Applicants will be asked to provide information and submit the following:

- **Dental School transcripts** (with spring grades included): Once you open your PASS account enter Tufts Dental School as a school attended a transcript request form will generate. You must provide the transcript request form to Kelsey Simonson on the 15th floor and request your transcripts be sent to PASS.
- **Essay**: You can create a different essay for each program. The character limit for each essay is 5200 characters.
- **Professional Evaluation Forms (PEFs)**: PEFs are similar to traditional letters of evaluation. Applicants can request an unlimited number of electronic or paper PEFs; however, applicants must send a minimum of two PEFs and a maximum of four PEFs to each program. The letters can be customized, meaning an applicant can choose to send the same evaluations or different evaluations to each program designated. *(PPI Reports will no longer be used beginning in 2017)*

- The following additional documents can also be submitted via the PASS application:
 - 1) A copy of your undergraduate transcripts
 - 2) Resume/CV

How do I register for the Match?

Again, not all programs that participate in ADEA PASS participate in the Match (and vice versa), but if you are applying to programs that participate in both you can access the Match from your ADEA PASS application.

You can also access the Match here: [https://www.natmatch.com/dentres/applanding.html](https://www.natmatch.com/dentres/appllanding.html)

Can I apply to programs that participate in the Match as well as those that do not?

Yes. However, if you accept a position at a program that does not participate in the Match you must remove yourself from the Match prior to the Rank Order List deadline.

What if I decide I no longer want to be considered by a program?

You must withdraw your application prior to the Rank Order List deadline. More information can be found here: <https://www.natmatch.com/dentres/applwithdraw.html>

When are the Match dates?

The first Match is in December and the second is in January.

What if I don't match in either round?

If you aren't matched in either round you can participate in the Scramble, which provides an opportunity for unmatched candidates to apply to programs that did not fill their spaces in either match.

What can I do now to be ready when the application process opens in May?

- 1) Use the [PASS search engine](#) to research programs and program requirements
- 2) Visit the program web sites to investigate further. They may also have Facebook, Twitter, etc. feeds that you can link into for more information.
- 3) Network! Once you identify programs you're interested contact Erin Scott, Associate Director for Career Services and Student Affairs since she can look back on graduation outcome records to identify TUSDM alumni who have participated in these programs. You might also contact the Program Director to see if they can put you in touch with a current resident or graduate to learn more about their experience in the program.
- 4) Begin drafting your essay. The essay should explain your interest in the program and should highlight your qualifications. Tailoring your essay for each program will help you show how you are a good fit candidate.
- 5) Prepare letters and other information for your recommenders. It is wise to provide them with sufficient information that will help inform their Professional Evaluation Form (PEF). ADEA has created lists of [valuable attributes for each program type](#). It would be wise to select recommenders who can speak to these things in detail and based on experience with you.