2027 ERAS® Program Director's WorkStation (PDWS) Getting Started Guide

Welcome to the 2027 ERAS recruitment season!

The AAMC Electronic Residency Application Service® (ERAS®) team will share important information throughout the recruitment season. This guide provides a summary of what is new this season and an overview of improvements to the Program Director's WorkStation (PDWS).

For answers to questions or additional information, please contact the AAMC Support Center at 202-828-0413 or (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. ET).

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Content Update

What's New for the 2027 MyERAS® Application

MyERAS® application updates are made every season based on research and community feedback. All changes are intended to improve the application process for applicants and programs and support holistic review. Several updates were made this year to streamline information in the application. Please review these changes in detail on the What You Need to Know About the 2027 ERAS Application Season webpage.

Please note: The ERAS language as it applies to applicants' training interruptions focuses on extensions and interruptions related to academic or professional performance issues and is not intended to solicit information about applicants' health, disability, or family status.

For this section, academic is specified as repeated or remediate coursework, and professional performance issues are specified as professionalism sanctions or any other adverse actions by an applicant's medical school or its parent institution.

Please note that applicants may have leaves or extensions due to factors that are not included in these two questions. More information about an applicant's extensions, gaps, or interruptions may be available in the MSPE, the MyERAS experiences section, personal statement, and programs can also seek clarification through the interview process.

Scholarly Work Section Replacing Publications

The Publication section is now called Scholarly Work. For the 2027 ERAS season, the MyERAS Publications section has been redesigned and renamed Scholarly Work. This update reflects a broader and more inclusive view of scholarly contributions and provides improved structure to help applicants present their work more clearly.

These enhancements were informed by feedback from applicants, advisors, and programs, with the goal of improving how scholarly work is organized, reviewed, and understood during the application

Specialty Questions

Residents applying to Anesthesiology, Neurological Surgery, and Plastic Surgery-Integrated will be required to provide responses to specialty-specific questions before sending applications to programs in these specialties. Find the updates for the 2027 season and the changed sections by What's New for the 2027 MyERAS Application webpage.

Specialty Documents

The specialty documents section allows Forensic Psychiatry fellowship applicants to upload the required specialty documents. Different programs may require different types of documents to be submitted. This section is located under the Documents tab in the MyERAS system. After the required documents have been uploaded, the documents will be automatically assigned to all Forensic Psychiatry programs an applicant applies to. This section is only for fellowship applicants applying to the forensic psychiatry specialty.

Geographic and Setting Preference Opt-Out

For the ERAS 2027 season, Otolaryngology, Orthopedic Surgery, and Plastic Surgery - Integrated have opted-out of receiving geographic and setting preference answers.

Continued Evaluation of MyERAS Pilot Projects

As part of the ongoing modernization of the ERAS application, the AAMC continues to evaluate several MyERAS pilot projects introduced in recent seasons. These projects are designed to provide programs with more meaningful, comparable information to support mission-aligned selection practices, while improving transparency and usability for applicants.

- Program Signal Explanations
    - For Anesthesiology and Plastic Surgery-Integrated, applicants will provide more context.
- Specialty-Specific Essay Questions
    - Residents applying to Anesthesiology, Neurological Surgery, and Plastic Surgery-Integrated will be required to provide responses to specialty-specific questions before sending applications to programs in these specialties. Find the updates for the 2027 season and the changed sections by What's New for the 2027 MyERAS Application webpage. Review the 2027 ERAS Applicant Worksheet to see the questions.

Filter Changes

The table provided below displays the Filters that have been added, updated, or removed from the PDWS. If a program has saved user-defined filter(s), it is necessary for users to remove or update any unavailable data field before using the filter. Also, remember to save the filter again after making any modifications. **Due to the scholarly work section replacing publications, the following filters have been added and/or updated.**

Added/Updated Filter(s)	Category
1. Publication Category Changed to Scholarly Work	Scholarly Work
2. First Author	Scholarly Work

Fields with the * icon have been moved to a different category.

Access the Filter Categories job aid to see the available filter categories list.

ERAS Program Management

ERAS® program registration runs from April through the end of May. To receive applications in the ERAS system, programs must register to indicate that they will have open positions and will use the ERAS program. Programs are encouraged to update their participation status for the upcoming ERAS season before the current season ends on May 31.

Program Signal Opt Out

Specialties participating in program signals will automatically have their participation status set to "yes." Programs can opt out by selecting "no." The deadline for opting out is as follows, based on program cycles:

1. July Cycle: July 1, 2026, at 9:00 AM EST
2. September Cycle: September 2, 2026, at 9:00 AM EST
3. December Cycle: November 12, 2026, at 9:00 AM EST
    a. Please note that participation status cannot be updated after the deadlines listed above for each program cycle.

Thalamus Opt In

Programs are automatically opted in to use Thalamus Cortex, Core, Itinerary Wizard, and Cerebellum when they complete registration for the 2027 ERAS season. Thalamus onboarding for participating ERAS 2027 programs will begin on June 1, 2026. Please visit https://www.thalamusgme.com/eras-collaboration for updated information as the season approaches.

Thalamus Application Programming Interface (API)

The AAMC and Thalamus API streamlines transfer of program/applicant data between the ERAS PDWS and Thalamus products. Only users with institution super user (ISU), alternate institution super user (AISU), program super user (PSU), alternate program super user (APSU), and program coordinator (PC) roles in the PDWS have access to authorize data to Thalamus. It is recommended that programs choose the Selected to Interview status to track applicants who are selected for an interview after reviewing their applications. Once the status is selected, programs can filter for this status to view the applicants who were selected for an interview. Selecting this status is optional, so programs can also choose custom statuses or filter for additional criteria.

Note: The authorize and export process can be completed multiple times to accommodate additional/new applications, and no data will be duplicated and/or deleted. Data can also be managed and/or deleted through Thalamus products.

Access the Authorize Data to Thalamus job aid webpage here.

An authorization status will be displayed on the PDWS applicant details page under the header section. This enables programs to monitor their authorization status and resend the data authorization request to Thalamus if necessary. Additionally, programs have the option to filter applicants based on their authorization status. The filters are listed above in the filter update section.

Managing Screened Data Fields

In the 2027 ERAS season, PSUs and APSUs have the option to update six screened data fields, and ISUs and AISUs can update all 14 screened data fields. Programs in specialties that are participating in geographic preferences screening will not have access to view applicant geographic preferences.

Note: Screened data fields will carry over into Thalamus.

ISU and AISU roles can **view and edit** the following fields:

ISU and AISU Data Fields	
Basis for Work Authorization	Birth Date
Current Work Authorization	Designated Pronouns
Felony Conviction	Gender
Geographic Preference	Hometown(s)
Limiting Factors	Misdemeanor Conviction
Photograph	Self Identification
Visa Sponsorship Needed	Visa Sponsorship Sought

PSU and APSU roles can **view all data fields** but can only edit the following fields:

PSU and APSU Data Fields	
Basis for Work Authorization	Current Work Authorization
Geographic Preference	Hometown(s)
Visa Sponsorship Needed	Visa Sponsorship Sought

Please refer to the Update Screened Data Fields job aid for additional information.