

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) has been asked to consider whether student placement in an internship, practicum, or residency site in Maryland through National Matching Services, Inc. (NMS) triggers “physical presence” of the student’s home institution, thereby necessitating a certificate of approval for that institution to operate in Maryland. Education Article § 11-202 (a); COMAR 13B.02.01.03B(12). MHEC has determined that NMS placements in Maryland do not trigger physical presence. While out-of-state institutions may be required to register or seek approval in Maryland for other reasons (e.g., enrolling Maryland residents in fully online programs or administering practicum sites in Maryland), out-of-state institutions are not required to do so specifically for having a current student or recent graduate matched to a site in Maryland through NMS. Since NMS uses a matching algorithm to place applicants into positions based on lists of preferred choices submitted by both applicants and recruiters, the student’s home institution is not part of the decision-making or placement process.

The matching programs administered by NMS include the following:

**Psychology Internships:** Matches are sponsored and supervised by the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). Matches are administered by NMS on behalf of APPIC.

**Pharmacy Residencies:** Matches are sponsored and supervised by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP). Matches are administered by NMS on behalf of ASHP.

**Optometry Residencies:** “ORMatch” is a program of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) and is supervised by the ORMatch Committee. Matches are administered by NMS on behalf of ORMatch.

**Postdoctoral Dental Residencies:** Matches are sponsored and supervised by a Steering Committee representing the following sponsoring organizations: American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, Special Care Dentistry Association Council of Hospital Dentistry, American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, American Association of Orthodontists, American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists, and American Student Dental Association. Matches are administered by NMS on behalf of these sponsoring organizations.

**Neuropsychology Residencies:** Matches are sponsored and supervised by the Association of Postdoctoral Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology (APPCN). Matches are administered by NMS on behalf of APPCN.

**Osteopathic Internships and Residencies:** Matches are sponsored and supervised by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). Matches are administered by NMS on behalf of AOA.

**Medical Residencies:** NMS has a close working relationship with the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) through maintenance and support of matching software, but does not directly administer matches for NRMP. However, for the purposes of physical presence determination in Maryland, MHEC would treat matches under NRMP as identical to those under NMS.