



RUN A MATCH

Five applicants are applying to three programs. After considering the relative desirability of each program, the applicants submit the following ROLs to the NRMP:

Applicants' Rank Order Lists

Anderson	Chen	Ford	Davis	Eastman
1. City	1. City	1. City	1. Mercy	1. City
	2. Mercy	2. General	2. City	2. Mercy
		3. Mercy	3. General	3. General

- **Applicant Anderson** makes only a single choice, City, because he believes that he will be ranked highly at City and has assured the program director that he would rank City number one.
- **Applicant Chen** ranks City, which she prefers, and Mercy. She believes Mercy will rank her first, and so she reasons that there is no risk of her being left unmatched, even if she does not rank additional programs.
- **Applicant Ford** would be pleased to end up at Mercy, where he had a good clerkship, and believes they will rank him high on their list. Although, he does not think he has much of a chance, he prefers City and General and so ranks them higher than Mercy.
- **Applicants Davis and Eastman** have interviewed at the same programs. Like the other applicants, they desire a position at City or Mercy and rank those programs either first or second, depending on preference. In addition to those desirable programs, those applicants also list General lower on their rank order lists.

Two positions are available at each program, and they submit the following ROLs to the NRMP:

Programs' Rank Order Lists

Mercy	City	General
1. Chen	1. Eastman	1. Eastman
2. Ford	2. Anderson	2. Anderson
	3. Chen	3. Ford
	4. Davis	4. Davis
	5. Ford	

- **The program director at Mercy Hospital** ranks only two applicants, Chen and Ford, for his two positions, although several more are acceptable. He has insisted that all applicants tell him exactly how they will rank his program, and both of those applicants have assured him that they will rank his program highly.
- **The program director at City** includes all acceptable applicants on his rank order list, with the most preferred ranked highest. He prefers to try to match with the strongest, most desirable candidates.
- **The program director at General** thinks her program is not the most desirable to many of the applicants, but believes she has a good chance of matching Ford and Davis. Instead of ranking those two applicants at the top of her list, however, she ranks more desired applicants higher.

Applicant	Rank	Program Status	Match
Anderson	1. City	City has 2 unfilled positions	Tentatively match Anderson with City
Chen	1. City	City has 1 unfilled position	Tentatively match Chen with City
Ford	1. City	City has no unfilled positions and tentatively has matched with more preferred applicants	
	2. General	General has 2 unfilled positions	Tentatively match Ford with General
Davis	1. Mercy	Mercy did not rank Davis	
	2. City	City has no unfilled positions and tentatively has matched with more preferred applicants	
	3. General	General has 1 unfilled position	Tentatively match Davis with General
Eastman	1. City	City already has 2 tentative matches but prefers Eastman the most	Chen is removed from City to make room for Eastman; tentatively match Eastman with City
Chen	2. Mercy	Mercy has 1 unfilled position	Tentatively match Chen with Mercy. Mercy has 1 unfilled position.

The process is now complete: each applicant has either been tentatively matched to the most preferred choice possible, or all choices submitted by the applicant have been considered. **Tentative matches now are final.**

Results:

- Mercy ranked only two applicants and matched only to Chen, leaving one unfilled position.
- City matched to applicants Anderson and Eastman.
- General, which ranked four out of five applicants, filled all its positions.

Mercy	City	General
1. Chen	1. Eastman	1. Eastman
2. Ford	2. Anderson	2. Anderson
	3. Chen (displaced for Eastman)	3. Ford
	4. Davis	4. Davis
	5. Ford	

CONSIDERATIONS

- Ford, Davis, and Eastman used the Match to their advantage by ranking all acceptable programs to maximize their chances for a match. They, in addition to Chen, were smart to rank programs in order of preference and not based on where they believed they might match.
 - Anderson took a real risk by ranking only one program. Unmatched applicants have shorter lists on the average than matched applicants (click [here](#) for Impact of Length of ROL on Match Results). Short lists increase the likelihood of being unmatched.
 - The program director at Mercy violated the rules of the Match by insisting applicants inform him how they intended to rank the program, and his program ultimately went unfilled. Ranking decisions should be made in private and without pressure. Both applicants and program directors may try to influence decisions in their favor, but neither can force the other to make a binding commitment before a Match.
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