**Beyond SOAP**

With so many variables in play, the Match/SOAP process can be disappointing. If you do not find a suitable position, one of these alternatives may be your next step.

**Advanced Degree Option**

You may choose to pursue a master’s degree. You can then go through the Match again next year with an embellished resume. Of course, you would need to apply to these programs like anyone else and acceptance is not guaranteed.

- Every year we have a few students who decide to enter the **MBA program**. Information about the MD/MBA and other combined degrees is available at the [IUSM Graduate Division website](https://graduate.iu.edu/).  
- For those with a research interest, the Indiana Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute’s new **MS in Translational Science** may be a good fit. The MSTS is a 30-credit hour interdisciplinary program that targets individuals, including clinical fellows and junior faculty, who've completed a terminal degree or equivalent in a clinical science area (MD, DNS, DDS, DVM). For details, see the [Indiana CTSI website](https://www.ctsi.indiana.edu/).

**Other Approaches**

Rather than entering a formal degree program, some IUSM students have had success with these paths:

- Find a research mentor willing to provide funding and spend year working in the lab. This may enhance your marketability for next year’s Match, especially if publications result.

- Find a residency position outside the Match. For more about this options, see [https://services.aamc.org/findaresident/](https://services.aamc.org/findaresident/).