

## FAQs: (Orthopedics)

**Given Step 1 is now Pass/Fail, what advice would you give to a first-year medical student about what they can or should be doing early on to be competitive in your specialty?**

-Find other ways to separate yourself. Not utilizing that number doesn't make it any less competitive.

**Would you ever take someone with a Step 1 failure?**

-No

**What advice would you give about getting letters of recommendation in your specialty?**

-Get letters in orthopedics before anything else. Strong letters from a mentor outside orthopedics are also supportive.

**What is the value of doing audition rotations in your specialty?**

-Critical

**To what extent does research, publications, or presentations affect one's ability to match in your specialty?**

-Very important. Publication is not required, but it is certainly a separator.

**Is a Step 2CK score needed before you will invite someone for an interview?**

-No, but encouraged. We will not rank until we have seen it.

**What does the perfect applicant look like in your specialty?**

-Nice, happy, friendly, tireless worker with an unquenchable thirst for everything orthopedic, with a history of mechanical experience, having already displayed the ability to get through the training by being ranked in the top of their class, having excelled in the clinical rotations, and having performed well on what testing is measurable.

**Does a student need to Honor in your specialty to match?**

-No, but we do look at their evaluations in the Core clinical rotations and we pay special attention to their performance on the surgical disciplines.

**The students have significant elective time during their 3<sup>rd</sup> year for career exploration.**

**a. What electives would you recommend to a student who knows they are interested in your specialty?**

-Musculoskeletal radiology, SICU, anesthesia injection clinics, neurology, ED, PM&R

**b. What electives would you recommend to a student who is undecided but considering your specialty?**

-Ortho

**Is there anything else I haven't asked that you feel an applicant to your specialty ought to know?**

-Ortho is more competitive than most other specialties. We have seen an increasing rate of failure to match. It is imperative to separate yourselves out, have strong relationships with residents, and never look tired. When rotating on orthopedic surgery, work for the residents first, the faculty will see that. It is a critical error of judgement to overlook teambuilding with the residents in order to focus on impressing staff. And if you don't love it with every fiber of your being, don't do it. There are much easier ways to make a living.