

## 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?**

-Students can engage in research and potentially observe faculty, which can help students determine if Orthopaedic surgery is the right field for me.

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

-While there are no absolutes in our application process, it would be highly unlikely.

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

-Ask for letters of recommendations primarily from orthopaedic surgery faculty members, who can attest to your clinical skills. If you perform a year-long research fellowship, then you may consider requesting a letter of recommendation from your research faculty.

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

-Sub-internships (or audition rotations) are critical for matching into orthopaedic surgery.

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

-Research, publications, and presentations can help elevate a student's application and make it stand out. While research is typically an important aspect of a student's application, it is possible for a student to match into orthopaedics without research.

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

-It is not needed; however, with Step 1 now pass/fail, a strong Step 2CK score will likely be a stronger factor for students to match into orthopaedic surgery than in the past.

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

-An individual with strong problem-solving skills, teamwork, integrity, reliability, focus, and grit. We utilize the student's application including, Step 2 CK score, prior work experience, letters of recommendation, personal statement, medical school transcripts, clinical rotation evaluations, and sub-internships in orthopaedic surgery to gauge these qualities.

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

-Not necessarily if the student's application is otherwise strong; however, we closely review the student's core clinical rotations, particularly for 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?**

-Orthopaedic surgery and any other fields the student is interested in potentially pursuing.

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

-Surgical subspecialties

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

-The sub-internship (audition rotation) and interview are critically important to matching into orthopaedic surgery.