

## ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

Specialty: Orthopaedic Surgery

Advisor for Specialty (if you had one): Didn't have one

Did you use ERAS or SFMatch or Other: ERAS and Military(Army)

Number of programs applied to: 17(6 army) Was this number sufficient? Yes

Number of interviews attended for specialty: 5(2 army) Was this number sufficient? Yes

Interview season: July/2005 to Jan/2006

Typical structure of interview day: Breakfast, tours/interviews, dinner

Popular topics covered in the interviews: Why do you want to do ortho?, What should I know about you that makes you a good candidate? Can you handle long hours and little sleep?, Tell me a good joke., What are 3 important innovations in ortho in the past 20 years?, Tell me about compartment syndrome., What questions do you have for me?

Some difficult questions/unusual tasks (tying knots, etc.): Covered above

How did you prepare for your interviews? I didn't.

Did you do an away rotation in your specialty field? Yes Did you find this helpful as an applicant? Yes

Additional comments/advice: You won't usually need it, but take a CV and Personal statement and picture to each interview just in case. Make sure you get there in plenty of time and have good directions and know exactly where to go.

May future applicants in your specialty contact you for advice? Email: toddfeathers@aol.com.

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Specialty: Orthopaedic Surgery

Did you use: ERAS or SFMatch or Other: ERAS

Number of programs applied to: 45 Was this number sufficient? Yes, too many actually

Number of interviews attended for specialty: 17/42 offered Was this number sufficient? Yes

Interview season (month/year): 12/05 to 01/06

Typical structure of interview day: Usually programs hosted an informal social get together the night before for applicants to meet residents and sometimes attendings. I felt this was a great way to get to know the program and the people before the actual interview day in a relaxed atmosphere. The interview days started very early (anywhere from 6 am to 8am). Half of the day was spent interviewing and the other half was touring the facilities. Most of the interviews were 1 on 1. A few programs were panel interviews with 4-8 attendings and 1 applicant and others were 2-3 attendings and one applicant. The actual interview lasted anywhere from 10-30 minutes, average was 20. The number of interviews in a day varied from 2-3 to 10. The average was about 6 interviews.

Popular topics covered in the interviews: The standard interview questions included: why ortho?, strengths/weaknesses?, why our program?, what are you looking for in a program?, tell me about yourself?, discuss your research, what would you change about it?, what did you find?...Know your research!

Some difficult questions/unusual tasks (tying knots, etc.): Only unusual situations were reading xrays, some clinical questions (compartment syndrome, etc.). Difficult questions were ethical situations and how you would handle them, because there really is not a right answer. One program gave me a model of the spine and asked me what level it was. Some programs that I did not interview at had applicants sew cheese, mold things out of clay, etc. You will hear about these rumors along the interview trail and these weird things tend to be the exception, not the rule. Most places really just want to get to know you.

How did you prepare for your interviews? Just prepare answers to the typical questions. Read about the program ahead of time and have questions prepared to ask them. The more prepared you are, the less nervous you'll be and the more confident you'll seem.

Did you do an away rotation in your specialty field? Yes. I did find it extremely helpful because you get

to see how different programs can be and you learn what you like in a residency program and what you don't. Also, it's the best way to get a good look at a few programs that would be a top choice for you and a way to sell yourself to those places.

Additional comments/advice: Apply to a variety of program types. Take notes after each interview because they will all blend together in the end. The important things I looked for in a program were location, size, well-balanced experience in all subspecialties that were well covered, adequate trauma experience, strong didactic curriculum, and if I felt like I would fit in with the group of people there. In the end, location and gut feeling play a lot in the decision making.

May future applicants in your specialty contact you for advice? Email: [Amy.Herz@jefferson.edu](mailto:Amy.Herz@jefferson.edu)

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