

Table 4-1

APPLICATION TIMELINE FOR ORTHOPEDIC RESIDENCY PROGRAMS

THIRD YEAR

January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find an advisor in your orthopedic surgery department.
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin thinking about fourth-year electives. Decide when you will rotate at your home institution and select away rotations.
March/April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather information about the different programs and familiarize yourself with the application process. Use all of your resources: chairperson, residents, advisor, senior medical students, program Web sites, etc.
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request application materials and information from a large number and variety of programs. Make note of deadlines and any special requirements.
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start writing a draft of your personal statement.
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MyERAS Web site opens to applicants. Contact your dean's office for ERAS processing instructions and to receive your Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) token. Familiarize yourself with the content of ERAS by downloading the MyERAS application worksheet and user guide. Begin working on your application. This is also a good time to ask selected faculty members whom you have worked with closely and who know you well for letters of recommendation (remember to ask early). Keep working on that personal statement. Have your advisor or someone else you trust review your personal statement and give you suggestions and criticism.
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register with the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP) (www.nrmp.org) so that you can participate in the Match. (Note: This is a separate process from ERAS.) Have an application photograph taken if you don't already have one. Confirm that letters of recommendation have been sent. Put the finishing touches on your personal statement. If applying to non-ERAS institutions, request that transcripts, letters of recommendation, and United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) scores be sent.

FOURTH YEAR

September/ October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete, certify, and submit your ERAS application on the Internet, and submit your non-ERAS applications as well. Check the status of your application by using the Applicant Document Tracking System (ADTS) and monitor the message center for information from the programs to which you applied. Continue to check ADTS to confirm that your application is complete. You have to follow-up on items such as letters of recommendation and your dean's letter that are not under your control. Verify that your non-ERAS applications are complete. Keep your profile up to date, as programs will contact you based on the information (email, address, phone) on your ERAS application.
October/ November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programs begin to extend invitations to interview. Schedule your interviews as soon as you are invited, as spots are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. Dean's letter is typically sent in the beginning of November.