VCU Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Program

Virginia Commonwealth University
“We are located in Central Virginia, geographically close to beaches, mountains and the nation’s capital. ...”
Thank you for your interest in the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery’s residency program at the Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center. Our training program, fully accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, has been in existence for more than 50 years and enrolls five residents per year.

As a resident, you will benefit from our program’s core strengths:

- **Location:** We are located in Central Virginia, geographically close to beaches, mountains and the nation’s capital, with easy access to the Northeast Corridor.

- **Trauma center:** We are the tertiary referral center for a population of 2 million and are the only Level I Trauma Center in Central Virginia.

- **Subspecialties:** Every subspecialty in orthopaedics is covered by one of our faculty members.

- **Development:** We are continually improving and re-designing our education program through methods such as considering the PGY-2 and PGY-5 residents as generalists, having residents in the PGY-3 and PGY-4 years participate in subspecialty rotations and creating a night float system.

- **Commitment:** Our faculty and institution are committed to producing outstanding clinical orthopaedists.

- **Research:** We have a very active research facility. Residents typically present an average of 11 papers each at national meetings during the year.

- **Experience:** The operative volume, hands-on experience and available fellowships help make this an outstanding program.

On behalf of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, we invite you to consider our residency program. We are looking for applicants who exhibit outstanding ethics, dedication and, of course, capability. Orthopaedics is among one of the most difficult fields in which to gain competency, but through your dedication and our commitment, you will complete the program ready to succeed as an orthopaedic surgeon in academics or private practice.

Thank you for your interest in our program.

W. A. Zuelzer, M.D.
Vice chairman
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
Admission

The Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Program accepts applicants for appointment only through the Electronic Residency Application Service. Students can access ERAS through the Association of American Medical Colleges or at www.aamc.org/audienceeras.htm. The deadline for submission of all materials is Nov. 30 of each year.

The following materials are required from the applicant:

- application
- curriculum vitae
- short autobiography including career goals and outside interests (personal statement)
- two letters of reference from physicians that you know well (we request that one be from a member of an orthopaedic department)

Applicants also must meet the following requirements:

- All U.S. applicants must attend or have graduated from an accredited medical school.
- All applicants must have passed Step 1 of the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination and must pass Step 2 by the end of the PGY-2 year. International applicants must have Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates certification and at least three months of clinical experience in a U.S. hospital (observer-ships are not accepted).

Curriculum

PGY-1 year is controlled by the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. You will spend three months in orthopaedics and the rest on general surgery rotations such as Neurosurgery, STICU, Burn/Plastics, General, Pediatric Surgery and Veterans Affairs Vascular.

PGY-2 and PGY-5 years are assigned to services that emphasize general orthopaedic care. PGY-3 and PGY-4 years are assigned to subspecialties in the program. There is an active basic science research program present, and at the end of the PGY-3 and PGY-4 years the residents are required to present a basic science and clinical research project.

Average night call: night float (PGY-1, 2 and 4), Sunday through Thursday, 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. PGY-2 through 5 years average seven to eight call days over a three month period, distributing Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Four months of research should be anticipated throughout residency.
Richmond, Virginia

Richmond, the historic capital of Virginia, is located on the beautiful James River. The city’s rich history is reflected in its nationally recognized historic landmarks, cobblestone streets and brick sidewalks. The city continues to expand into the future at a steady and thriving pace with its local businesses and Fortune 500 corporations. On the arts and culture scene, Richmond has more than 50 museums and art galleries, and a multitude of unique restaurants and shops.

Living in the city is a unique experience. Each of the city’s neighborhoods reflects its own distinct character. From handsome, turn-of-the-century Northside communities to the eclectic Fan area with its big-city amenities and small-town charm, there is a wide selection of neighborhoods for urban living. Rural or suburban living also is an option, with most of these neighborhoods only a 20-minute drive from the VCU Medical Center.

Whether kayaking Class IV rapids through the heart of downtown, taking in the vibrant nightlife and musical palette of Shockoe Bottom, strolling through the gardens at Maymont or catching one of the games of the Richmond Braves, the AAA affiliate of the Atlanta Braves, Richmond always has something fun to do. There also are many places to explore outside of the city, such as the Blue Ridge Mountains, Washington, D.C., and Virginia Beach, all of which are less than two hours from Richmond.
VCU Medical Center

The Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center is Virginia’s largest academic medical center, offering the entire spectrum of medical and surgical care to all demographic groups. The VCU Medical Center is the primary care medical center for the metropolitan Richmond area and a major referral center for Central Virginia and surrounding states. The center includes an 820-bed hospital; outpatient clinics; a 600-physician faculty group practice; the VCU Massey Cancer Center, Virginia’s first National Cancer Institute-designated Cancer Center; and the region’s only Level 1 Trauma Center, offering expert care in more than 200 specialty areas including organ transplantation, head and spinal cord trauma, burn healing, and cancer treatment. Also located at the center, and contributing to the enriched learning environment, are the VCU health sciences schools of Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Medicine (including the School of Public Health), Nursing and Pharmacy. Located a few blocks away is the Virginia BioTechnology Research Park, which offers state-of-the-art facilities for cutting-edge research.
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