

**ACFAS 2023
Meet the Fellow Questionnaire**



**American College of
Foot and Ankle Surgeons®**

Fellow Name:

Steven Tocci

Fellowship Program:

The CORE Institute Advanced Foot and Ankle Reconstructive Fellowship

City/State:

Phoenix, AZ

Program Director:

Ryan Scott, DPM FACFAS

How many Attendings do you work with regularly?

We typically work with 4 attendings

Describe the diversity of your cases so far in fellowship. (For example, has your experience included TAR? Is there an emphasis on: Pediatrics? Sports Medicine? Deformity correction? Complex reconstruction? What percentage of your cases are trauma? Rearfoot/ankle? Forefoot? Please be as descriptive as you'd like.

There is a huge diversity of cases here. Main emphasis is placed on sports medicine, trauma, hindfoot/ankle reconstruction and primary and revision TAR. We also get heavy exposure to revision work. Approximately 25% of our cases are trauma, and ratio of rearfoot/ankle to forefoot around 65/35.

How many days per week do you typically spend in the OR? In clinic? Do you have your own "fellow" clinic?

We typically spend 3 days in the OR and 2 full days in the clinic per week. We recently started having a fellow clinic one day per week alongside one of our attendings. Other than this day, we are in clinic with our attending and their patients.



How many surgical cases do you typically scrub per month?

We typically scrub around 60 cases per month.

What conferences have you attended/are you encouraged to attend?

We are required to attend ACFAS each year. We are also free to attend any industry courses/fellows courses throughout the year. It is always highly encouraged.

How would you describe your director's teaching style?

Our director has very high expectations for the fellows. We are treated as attendings from the beginning. We are expected to be prepared and we are extremely hands on in the OR.

How is research incorporated into your experience? What resources are provided/available?

We are required to do at least one project during the year. There are typically projects started from previous years handed down, and new ones started each year.

Do you take any "call"? If so, how often? What type of call? (general vs. trauma, hospital vs. private practice?)

We do not take any hospital call. We do take office call one week per month which entails answering patient questions, prescriptions, etc. No hospital call.

How many hospitals/surgery centers are you credentialed at?

We are credentialed at 3 hospitals, 1 orthopedic surgical hospital and 1 surgery center.

What is your didactic schedule like? What academic opportunities are available to you during fellowship? (Cadaver labs, journal club, radiology conference, etc.)

We have weekly radiology rounds on Wednesday night to go over the cases for each week. This is done via Zoom. There are multiple industry sponsored cadaver labs throughout the year.

Is your fellowship affiliated with a residency program? If yes, what are your responsibilities? How often are you interacting with residents (What % of cases?)

We are not affiliated with a residency program.



Are you able to collect cases for board certification?

Essentially no. We do perform some trauma cases on our own, however, they usually do not meet the preoperative and postoperative qualifications for board certification.

When should interested applicants visit? What does a visit look like?

We no longer do applicant visits.

What is the interview process like at your program?

The interview has both an academic and social component. We also have a social event the night of interviews where the attendings, fellows and applicants go to Top Golf.

Do you have a co-fellow? What percentage of your cases are scrubbed with them?

There are 2 fellows here. We may scrub 1 or 2 cases together throughout the year if it is something very unique. Otherwise, we are always separate.

What support is available for finding post-fellowship employment?

Our attendings are very well connected and will reach out to help on your behalf. The majority of the work is on you, but they are more than willing to go to bat for you.

What qualities make an applicant a good fit for your program?

Very hard-working, responsible, confident and personable. The training is very intense with high expectations but our attendings are also great, personable people who care about you.

Why did you apply for fellowship? And why did you choose your fellowship program?

I wanted to achieve the highest training possible. This fellowship has unmatched volume of reconstruction. We work with amazing surgeons who are also great mentors.

Any advice for future fellowship applicants?

Know what you want out of a fellowship and pick a program that will give you that. Know



that the investment is very worth it as the experience and mentorship is invaluable.
Begin networking before you begin and form as many relationships as you can.

