

Fellowship Grants

COTA, the Center for Orthopaedic Trauma Advancement, was established in 2009 to ensure the continued financial support of Orthopaedic Trauma Fellowships in North America, through a stringent merit-based award process. COTA has emerged as one of the leading sources of Orthopaedic Trauma Fellowship funding, helping to ensure fellowship programs have adequate resources for continued excellence in education. COTA grants (highest award level is \$75,000) can be used to fund fellow salary, benefits and educational expenses.

CRITERIA

- 100% of the COTA programs participate in the Fellowship Match Process and be an approved OTA trauma or fracture fellowship.
- **FACULTY/FELLOW RATIO:** Programs with a large number of fellows must demonstrate a sufficient faculty/fellow ratio to earn the highest ranking.
- **LEADERSHIP:** A longstanding history of support for trauma/fellowship training and a tradition of developing leaders in the discipline.
- **CURRICULUM:** The didactic program for a trauma fellowship should be well defined.
- **RESEARCH:** Programs with external research funding and/or an established record of publication will create opportunities for fellows to develop research interests.
- **CASE VOLUME:** Certified fellowship programs have to meet the required trauma CPT code(s) designated in their respective guidelines.

2026-2027 FELLOWSHIP FUNDING TIMELINE

November 2025 – January 26, 2026	COTA Fellowship Grant Applications for Academic Year accepted until 12:00 PM CDT
February, 2026	Blinded Applications to non-conflicted Review Committee
March, 2026	Blinded Grants Ranks and Scores to oconnell@ota.org
March, 2026	Board Meeting to Approve COTA Funding
Second week in April 2026	Programs notified of results of Review Committee
June, 2026	Acceptance forms including fellow's name deadline
June 15–August 31, 2026	Checks distributed to programs
July 15–August 31, 2026	Reports from 2025-2026 orthopaedic trauma fellows received
October 31, 2026	2025-2026 program grantees financial reports submitted



COTA decisions regarding the number of orthopaedic trauma fellowship grants will be shaped by commitments we receive from industry before selection meeting in March, 2026.