The journal's mission is the dissemination of knowledge to improve the care of patients with musculoskeletal disorders.

The Journal of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons was established in the fall of 1993 by the Academy in response to its membership's demand for a clinical review journal.

Each issue includes richly illustrated peer-reviewed articles focused on clinical diagnosis and management. Special features in each issue provide commentary on developments in pharmacotherapeutics, materials and techniques, and computer applications.

The editorial board selects articles that critically evaluate and synthesize current information on the diagnosis and management of musculoskeletal conditions and document the current state of orthopaedic practice. Because JAAOS is a review journal, certain types of material (e.g., original research, case studies, animal studies, or duplicative material) are not appropriate for publication.