AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL EDUCATION

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*1) WHAT IS OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE**

Osteopathic medicine is a distinctive form of medicine practiced in North America. Osteopathic physicians use all of the knowledge, skills, tools and technology available to modern physicians, with the added benefits of a holistic philosophy and a system of hands-on diagnosis and treatment known as osteopathic manipulative medicine.

DOs are licensed to practice the full scope of medicine in Canada, all 50 American states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and other territories of the United States. They practice in all types of environments, including the military, and in all specialties, from family medicine to obstetrics to surgery to cardiology.

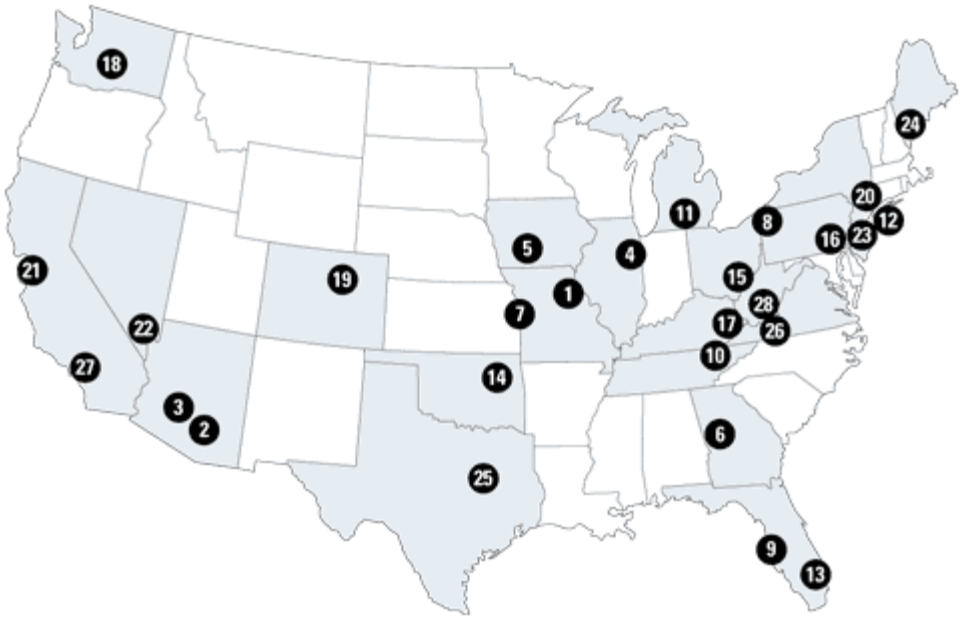
From their first day of medical school, DOs are trained to look at the whole person, which means they see each person as more than just a collection of body parts that may become injured or diseased. Because of the whole-person approach to medicine, approximately 59 percent of all DOs choose to practice in the primary care disciplines of family practice, general internal medicine and pediatrics. The remaining 41 percent go on to specialize in one of any number of practice areas. If a medical specialty exists, you will find DOs practicing it. While America's 53,000 active DOs account for only 6 percent of the country's physicians, they handle over 9 percent of all office visits in rural areas, and 7 percent of all office visits in urban areas.

DOs also boast a strong history of serving rural and underserved areas, often providing their unique brand of patient-centered care to some of the most economically disadvantaged members of our society. In addition to studying all of the typical subjects you would expect student physicians to master, osteopathic medical students complete additional training in osteopathic manipulative medicine. This system of hands-on diagnosis and treatment helps alleviate pain, restore motion, and support the body's natural structure to help it function more efficiently. A key concept that osteopathic medical students learn is that structure influences function. Thus, if there is a problem in one part of the body's structure, function in that area and in other areas may be affected.

2) LIST OF AOA ACCREDITED COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE*

1. A.T. Still University Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine
2. A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona
3. Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University
4. Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University
5. Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine
6. Georgia Campus Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
7. Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine
8. Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
9. Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine Bradenton Campus
10. Lincoln Memorial University DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine
11. Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
12. New York College of Osteopathic Medicine Of The New York Institute of Technology
13. Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine
14. Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine
15. Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine
16. Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
17. Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine
18. Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine
19. Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine
20. Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine - New York
21. Touro University - California Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine
22. Touro University - Nevada Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine
23. University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Osteopathic Medicine
24. University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine
25. University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine
26. Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine
27. Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific
28. West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

Geographic Map of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
(for entering class 2008)



3) PREREQUISTES FOR ADMISSION TO OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL SCHOOLS*

All applications to American Osteopathic Medical Schools are processed through the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM). All applicants must have completed a minimum of 8 university semester hours of credit in each of the subjects of Biology/Zoology, Inorganic Chemistry, Organic Chemistry, and Physics. Six semester hours of English are required. Biochemistry, genetics, behavioural sciences, and statistics are strongly recommended. Most applicants will have obtained a bachelors degree, and many applicants will hold masters degrees or PhDs.

The Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) is required, and the mean Grade Point Average for Entering Students is approximately 3.45 (out of 4).

Letter of recommendation must accompany university transcripts, and a preadmission interview is required of any prospective student prior to admission.

The average annual tuition for American colleges of osteopathic medicine is approximately $35,000 US and may be as high as $49,000 US at some institutions.

4) CURRICULUM*

The first two years of osteopathic medical school emphasize the basic science foundation to medicine. In addition, students learn a core set of clinical examination skills and gain an understanding of the various systems of the body. The first two years of lectures, laboratories, and other learning experiences are designed to prepare the student for the last two years of medical school, which are the clinical clerkship years. Early clinical exposure is an important part of many schools' curricula. Specific learning methods and curricular offerings vary from college to college. Below is a *general guide* to the material covered in the osteopathic medical school curriculum.

Year 1: Anatomy, Physiology, Clinical Skills, Radiology, Osteopathic Principles and Practices, Microbiology, and Immunology Neuroscience, Histology, Biochemistry, Pathology, Doctor/Patient Communication

Year 2: Gerontology, Cardiology, Gastrointestinal System, Hematopoietic System, Osteopathic Principle and Practices, Pharmacology, Endocrinology, Psychiatry, Respiratory, Ethics and Jurisprudence Family Medicine, Genitourinary System, Reproductive System, Pediatrics/Growth and Development

Core Clinical Clerkships Years 3 & 4: Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Osteopathic Principles and Practices, Pediatrics, Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, Surgery, Anesthesiology, Cardiology, Gastroenterology, Laboratory Medicine, Nephrology, Neurology, Oncology and Hematology, Orthopedics, Otorhinolaryngology, Pulmonary Medicine, Radiology

5) POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION AND LICENSURE*

Osteopathic physicians are eligible for licensure in Canada, in all 50 states of the USA, the District of Columbia, and other territories. Licensure is determined by each province or state through the appropriate licensing board. In order to be licensed as an osteopathic physician, one must:

- Graduate from an accredited U.S. college of osteopathic medicine.
- Successfully complete the Comprehensive Osteopathic Licensure Examination (COMLEX), Levels I,II, III and PE. This examination is administered by the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners(NBOME). Level I of the exam is taken after the second year of medical school prior to the last two years of clerkship training. Level II is taken at the end of the clinical clerkship years prior to graduating from osteopathic medical school. Level III is taken prior to the end of the internship year. The COMLEX-PE is an examination developed to test physical examination skills. Osteopathic medical students are also eligible to take the United States Medical Licensure Examination(USMLE), which is taken by students in allopathic(MD-granting) medical schools, as well as the Medical Council of Canada Examinations.

Osteopathic graduates are required to complete post-graduate training in family medicine or specialty residency training prior to becoming eligible for licensure and have access to all specialty programs through either AOA or MD programs.

Following residency training, the osteopathic physician takes certification examinations from the specialty board that oversees her/his particular specialty. Osteopathic physicians stay abreast of the latest medical developments related to their specialty training through continuing medical education programs. CME requirements are determined by each state's licensure board. The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) also requires its members to complete a certain number of CME credits to maintain board certification.

AOA-Approved Training Programs & Certifying Boards (from 2005-2006 data)

Internship programs	**229**
Internship positions	**2,777**
Residency programs	**649**
Residency positions	**5,787**
DOs Board Certified	**23,329**
AOA certifying Boards	**18**
Specialties and Subspecialties for AOA Certification	**85**

**Information for this document has been borrowed from the AACOM Osteopathic Medical College Information Book 2008 and the August 2006 AOA Fact Sheet.*