Center for Health Sciences

College of Osteopathic Medicine

As health care grows more sophisticated, the supply of primary care physicians will continue to be a challenge. The OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine is helping to address that challenge and to fulfill a critical need in Oklahoma, and beyond, by training physicians who are qualified to treat every member of the family and enhance the health care process by applying his or her knowledge to treat the whole person.

The majority of graduates (nearly 60%) of the OSU-College of Osteopathic Medicine practice in the primary care fields—family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine and obstetrics/gynecology. The remaining 40% do their post-doctoral training in other specialties and subspecialties—anesthesiology, neurology, psychiatry, radiology, surgery, emergency medicine, dermatology and oncology, to name a few. Regardless of the field they pursue, our students are trained to be excellent physicians, beginning with a strong background in general osteopathic medicine.

The College was founded in 1972 in response to a physician shortage in the small towns and rural areas of Oklahoma. The College opened its doors in 1974 and graduated its first class in 1977. In 1988, the College was merged with Oklahoma State University and confirmed its mission to prepare students to become excellent physicians, beginning with a strong background in general osteopathic medicine. The College considers applications for admission from all qualified candidates without regard to age, gender, creed, race, disability, or national origin. Preference is given to Oklahoma residents. Those who have experienced unequal educational opportunities for social, cultural or racial reasons are particularly urged to apply. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. Non-U.S. citizens must have a permanent resident visa ("green card") at the time of application in order to be considered for admission.

College Curriculum

The curriculum at the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine places significant focus on primary care. The four-year program emphasizes the integration of biomedical sciences with clinical systems. The curriculum includes early hands-on clinical experiences with patients, patient models, and simulations. Instructional methods are student-centered and include traditional lecture, small group and team-based learning. Problem-solving and information retrieval skills are emphasized to produce and develop skills that support lifelong learning.

The culture of OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine encourages students to establish an academic relationship with faculty members and community-based physicians. The curriculum emphasizes integration of biomedical with clinical and behavioral sciences to permit the full comprehension of the clinician’s work and promote a holistic approach to the care of patients and their families. Students receive training in all areas of medicine, with additional emphasis on osteopathic manipulative medicine. Incorporated within the OSU-COM curriculum is the Rural Medical Track (RMT) that stresses the unique nature and characteristics of a rural practice, provides a pathway for student matriculation into a rural primary care residency, and supports residency graduates in the establishment of a practice in a rural or underserved Oklahoma location. The first semester focuses on the foundations of biomedical and clinical sciences along with an introduction to patient care. Starting in the second semester and continuing through the end of the second year, students are introduced to a
total of 11 clinical systems that systematically prepares students for addressing conditions typically seen in the primary care environment. The third and fourth years are comprised of clinical rotations, which are community based, consisting of clerkship experiences in hospitals and clinics where students observe patient care and participate in the evaluation and treatment of patients under physician faculty supervision. Required rotations include surgery, obstetrics-gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry, internal medicine, family medicine and emergency medicine. Many rotations are completed at OSU Medical Center in Tulsa, the country’s largest osteopathic hospital, as well as INTEGRIS Southwest Hospital in Oklahoma City. The balance of the supervised clinical clerkships are in communities throughout Oklahoma in which students spend two months on a Community Hospital Rotation and one month on both a Community and Rural Clinic Rotation. Students may also fulfill requirements at various medical institutions across the country.

Students graduate from the four-year program with the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree. Although 64 percent of graduates enter primary care, graduates are prepared to enter residencies in all medical specialty fields. This training period lasts a minimum of three years with several specialties requiring up to five years of postgraduate education.

Accreditation
The College is accredited by the Council on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) of the American Osteopathic Association, the recognized accrediting agency for institutions that educate osteopathic physicians. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are empowered by the Oklahoma Constitution to prescribe standards for higher education applicable to each institution in the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

Financial Aid
Financing a medical education should be seriously considered. The primary responsibility for meeting your educational costs rests with the student and his or her family; however the Office of Student Financial Aid makes every attempt to assist him or her financially.

The Office of Student Financial Aid supports the mission of the University by enabling students and families to reduce or eliminate financial barriers that might prohibit their participation in the programs offered by OSU Center for Health Sciences. The office administers need-based financial aid programs funded by federal, state, University, and private sources in the form of Federal Stafford loan, Perkins loan, Graduate PLUS loan, employment, as well as need- and merit-based scholarships. The office also administers the Federal non-need based loan programs (Unsubsidized) and provides information and support to students interested in the alternative loan options available to them.

Tuition and fees at the College of Osteopathic Medicine (for the 2010-2011 school year) totals $21,192.93* per year for Oklahoma residents and $39,830.65 per year for out-of-state residents. (*subject to change)

Most financial aid is renewable on an annual basis, provided there is adequate funding and the student remains eligible enrolled in a matriculated program in good academic standing, and with continued need for need-based aid. To qualify, each student should file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by February 15th. Students are encouraged to continue to file after this date; however, consideration for funds will be given on a first-come basis.

The FAFSA and other required applications may be obtained by contacting: Office of Financial Aid - OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine; 1111 West 17th Street, Tulsa, OK 74107-1898; Students may apply online at www.fafsa.gov/ (School code is G11282).

Graduate Education
The College offers MS, PhD, DO/MS, and DO/PhD graduate degree programs in biomedical and forensic sciences. The programs are an excellent option for students who wish to pursue careers in medical research or academic medicine.

The MS program offers a thesis and non-thesis option, with both programs designed to be accomplished in two years, with a minimum of 32 credit hours. The PhD program is designed to be accomplished in four years, with a minimum of 90 credit hours.

The DO/PhD program is designed to be accomplished in a minimum of seven years. The first two years are the basic science years of the program. The middle three years are graduate study, research and dissertation of the PhD program. The final two years are the clinical sciences years of the DO program.

The DO/MS program is designed to be accomplished in a minimum of five years. The first year is primarily the graduate portion of the program. The last four years consist of the medical portion of the degree, with any remaining graduate work completed during the first year of medical school and subsequent summers. DO/MS students are encouraged to pursue a non-thesis Master’s Degree.

The MS in Forensic Sciences is designed for individuals pursuing careers in crime labs, investigative agencies, or research institutions. The degree requires 39 credit hours and may be completed in 2 to 7 years. The thesis program offers specialization in the areas of forensic biology/DNA, forensic pathology/death scene investigation, forensic pathology/microbiology, forensic psychology, and forensic toxicology/trace evidence. Non-thesis options in forensic science administration and forensic document examination are for individuals with related professional experience. First-year classes in the MS/thesis program are online, while all classes for MS/non-thesis options are available online.

The DO/MBA is an accelerated program that allows DO students to gain their MBA through the College of Business Administration in a single year. This 36-hour program captures 30 hours of the MBA core coursework in the fall and spring semesters. Six hours of elective credit can be shared from the DO coursework or business electives of the student’s choice.

Honor and Service Organizations
The College emphasizes community service, and many students volunteer their time in giving school and athletic physicals, visiting nursing homes, working with school children, and working at College-sponsored health fairs or the annual Cassani Osteopathic Scrub Run. Listed below are official student organizations.

American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians
American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians
American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians—Undergraduate Chapter
American Medical Student Association
Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons
Association of Native American Medical Students
Atlas Fraternity (social)
Biomedical Science Graduate Student Association
Christian Medical Society
Forensic Science Student Organization
Gay and Straight Alliance in Medicine
Oklahoma Osteopathic Obstetrics and Gynecology Student Association
Osteopathic Sports Medicine Society
Sigma Sigma Phi (honor society)
Student Associate Auxiliary
Student Interest Group in Neurology
Student National Medical Association
Student Osteopathic Association of Radiology
Student Osteopathic Internal Medicine Association
Student Osteopathic Medical Association
Student Osteopathic Psychiatry Association
Student Osteopathic Research Association
Student Osteopathic Rural Medicine Club
Student Osteopathic Surgical Association
Student Senate
Undergraduate American Academy of Osteopathic Medicine
Wilderness Medical Association