

Center for Health Sciences

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College of Osteopathic Medicine

As health care grows more complicated, primary care physicians will be needed more than ever. The OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine is helping to fulfill a critical need by training physicians who are able to treat every member of the family and can simplify the health care process by applying his or her knowledge to treat the whole person.

The majority of graduates (59%) of the OSU-College of Osteopathic Medicine practice in the primary care fields—family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine and obstetrics/gynecology. Others do their postdoctoral 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, students are trained to be excellent physicians, starting 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 our state. 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 reemphasized its mission to prepare students to be primary care physicians with emphasis in rural medicine. In 2001, the Oklahoma State legislature added another designation by creating the OSU Center for Health Sciences – the umbrella organization for the College of Osteopathic Medicine: graduate programs in biomedical and forensic sciences were added to the curriculum.

The main campus is located on 16 acres along the west bank of the Arkansas River with a full view of downtown Tulsa. It houses extensive conference facilities, expanded classroom space and a medical bookstore. On the clinical campus, a half-mile south, is the OSU Health Care Center. First opened in 1981, this clinical teaching facility can accommodate up to 3,000 patient visits a month. It is both a teaching clinic for medical students, interns and residents, and a health care resource for residents of the west Tulsa area. The Health Care Center provides comprehensive health care and is staffed by licensed physicians and other health care professionals who supervise students in the care of patients. Three satellite OSU Physician health care centers are also located in downtown Tulsa, serving more than 100,000 patient visits annually. Additionally, in 2006, Senate Bill 1771 was passed which created the OSU Medical Authority and Trust, allowing for a 50 year Academic Affiliation Agreement between OSU-CHS and Tulsa Regional Medical Center. The agreement secures OSU's residency programs at the hospital, which is operated under a City of Tulsa trust and managed by St. John Health Systems; the facility is known as OSU Medical Center.

Osteopathic Medicine

Promoting a patient-centered approach to health care, osteopathic physicians are concerned with the entire patient and traditionally have excelled in general and family health care. The doctor of osteopathic medicine is a fully-trained physician who selectively utilizes all accepted scientific modalities to maintain and restore health. Osteopathic physicians and surgeons are licensed to practice all phases of medicine, and offer their patients an added dimension of health care through osteopathic manipulation, a hands-on technique that uses palpation and manipulative procedures of the musculoskeletal system to diagnose and treat illness.

Minimum Admission Requirements

At the time of application, the applicant must have an overall grade-point average of at least 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale), a pre-professional science GPA of at least 2.75, and a minimum of 7 average score on the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). Applicants must take the MCAT. They are encouraged to take the examination in the spring of the year prior to making application. Under special circumstances, the College may use discretion to admit students who do not meet these minimum requirements.

At the time of entry, the applicant must have completed:

1. At least 90 semester hours and not less than 75 percent of the courses required for the baccalaureate degree at a regionally-accredited college or university;
2. Satisfactory completion of the following courses, with no grade below a "C" (2.00 on a 4.00 scale):
 - English (six semester hours)
 - Biology (eight semester hours), including laboratory
 - Physics (eight semester hours), including laboratory
 - General chemistry (eight semester hours), including laboratory
 - Organic chemistry (eight semester hours), including laboratory
3. Applicants must have taken at least one upper-division (3000-4000 level) science course, including laboratory. Examples include, but are not limited to: biochemistry, comparative anatomy, cellular biology, embryology, microbiology or molecular biology, histology, physiology, and genetics.

The annual application deadline is February 1. The deadline for supplemental application materials is March 1.

An on-campus interview with the Applicant Interview Committee is by invitation only. Interviews are conducted by clinical and basic science faculty members, as well as alumni. Applicants must participate in the interview to qualify for further consideration. Interview results and other data submitted will be considered when determining which applicants have demonstrated appropriate levels of scholarship, aptitude and motivation for admission to the program. Class size is limited to 115 students.

Selection Factors

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

Through an integrated model of Biomedical and Clinical Sciences, the curriculum at the College emphasizes primary care. The four-year program emphasizes the integration of biomedical and clinical systems in which subject matter areas are coordinated and clinical problems are continuously introduced in greater depth and complexity.

During the first year students are introduced to core concepts in anatomy, physiology, biochemistry and microbiology and diagnostic imaging. Students begin to develop competence in osteopathic clinical skills such as history taking, physical examination, diagnosis and patient interviewing.

Biomedical Science courses such as pathology and pharmacology are emphasized in the second year, along with transitions into clinical medicine through case-based learning, clinical problem-solving strategies and recognition and understanding of common diseases and conditions frequently seen in primary care settings. Small group learning sessions permit the students to develop critical thinking skills in the clinical context. Students' clinical skills are honed through interactive lab sessions and simulated clinical experiences. Preventive medicine, management of psychiatric disorders in primary care, and multicultural issues in health care are among other topics taught during the second year.

The final 22 months are clinically oriented and 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.

The student has rotations through primary care services including surgery, obstetrics-gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry, internal medicine, family medicine and emergency medicine. The balance of the clerkship program consists of supervised patient contact in small towns and rural areas throughout Oklahoma. The student spends at least one month at each of several locations including a community hospital, family medicine clinic, family practice clinic, rural and urban family practice, and also several elective opportunities.

Students graduate from the four-year program with the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree. Following graduation, students will enter a residency training program in one of a large number of specialty areas. This training period lasts a minimum of three years with several specialties requiring up to five years of postgraduate education.

The Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine is located at 1111 West 17th Street, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74107-1898. The phone number is (918) 582-1972 or call toll-free, (800) 677-1972.

Detailed information on the College of Osteopathic Medicine can be found in the College's academic catalog or on the Internet www.healthsciences.okstate.edu.

Accreditation

The College is accredited by the Council on 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 at the College of Osteopathic Medicine (for the 2008-2009 school year) totals \$19,971 per year for Oklahoma residents and \$37,893 per year for out-of-state residents. The tuition amounts do not include additional fees that are required.

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.ed.gov/
(School code is G11282).

Graduate Medical Education

The College administers internship and residency programs in Tulsa; Oklahoma City; Durant; Tahlequah; Enid; Joplin, Missouri and Pine Bluff, Arkansas and maintains close contact with its graduates, offering assistance in setting up a practice following the graduate's internship and residency training.

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.

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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 Graduate Program in Forensic Sciences develops skills for research, management, and practice in the forensic sciences. The College offers a Master of Science (MS), a Master of Forensic Science Administration (MFSA), and Graduate Certificate in Questioned Documents. All programs offer an online curriculum, with the MS research emphasis conducted on the Center for Health Sciences campus.

A DO/MBA program was added in 2004, offering accelerated studies for admitted and current DO students to gain their MBA in a single year through the William S. Spears School of Business. The 36-hour program includes 30 hours of the MBA course work in the fall and spring semesters with six selective MBA hours taken in the summer.

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 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

American Medical Women's Association

Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons

Association of Native American Medical Students

Atlas Fraternity (social)

Christian Medical and Dental Society

Delta Omega (national osteopathic sorority)

Inter-Club Council

International Medical Club

Osteopathic Sports Medicine Society

Sigma Sigma Phi (honor society)

Student Associate Auxiliary

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 Surgical Association

Student Senate

Undergraduate American Academy of Osteopathic Medicine

Wilderness Medical Association