

Center for Health Sciences

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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 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, 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 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; as well as graduate programs in biomedical and forensic sciences.

The main campus is located on 16 acres along the west bank of the Arkansas River with an impressive view of downtown Tulsa. Modern buildings house extensive conference facilities, expanded classroom space and a medical bookstore. The primary outpatient training clinic located a half-mile south, is known as the OSU Health Care Center. Serving the Tulsa and west Tulsa communities, 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. A new primary care clinic in far east Tulsa was opened in the spring of 2010. 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 the former 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 and licensed physician who selectively utilizes all accepted scientific modalities to maintain and restore health. Osteopathic physicians and surgeons are licensed in every state to practice all phases of medicine, and offer their patients the 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). All 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 106 students (in 2010).

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 places significant focus on 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 presented core concepts in anatomy, physiology, biochemistry and microbiology and diagnostic imaging and concurrently 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 spent in 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.

The student completes required rotations in 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.

Contact Us: 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.

Further detailed information on the College of Osteopathic Medicine can be found on the Internet at www.healthsciences.okstate.edu.

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 2009-2010 school year) totals \$20,071* per year for Oklahoma residents and \$37,993 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.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.

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 graduate 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 OSU 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 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
- American Medical Women's 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