

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, a medical bookstore, and a newly opened 156,000 square foot forensics science and medical research facility. The primary outpatient training clinic located a half-mile south, is known as the OSU Medical 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 Medical 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. The college has a 50-year, long-term agreement with OSU Medical Center that insures a long term training relationship between the two partners. The agreement secures OSU's residency programs at the hospital, which are operated under a City of Tulsa trust and managed by St. John Health Systems.

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:

- 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;
- 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
- 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).

OSU-COM seeks to admit students who want to become primary care physicians in rural and underserved Oklahoma. The Rural and Underserved Primary Care Early Admissions Program allows students who want to become dedicated primary care physicians practicing in rural and underserved Oklahoma to complete undergraduate and pre-doctoral training in seven years. For more information on early admissions please visit www.healthsciences.okstate.edu/com/admissions/options.php

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

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, and 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 a 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
- 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