

Center for Health Sciences

College Administration

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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 of the OSU-College of Osteopathic Medicine practice in the primary care fields—family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine and obstetrics/gynecology. The remaining graduates do their postdoctoral training in other specialties and subspecialties—esthesiology, 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 legislature added another designation by creating the OSU Center for Health Sciences – the umbrella organization for the College of Osteopathic Medicine; and graduate programs in biomedical and forensic sciences. OSU-CHS also houses the School of Health Care Administration.

OSU Center for Health Sciences is located on 16 acres along the west bank of the Arkansas River with an impressive view of downtown Tulsa. Modern buildings house conference facilities, expanded classroom space, a medical bookstore and a forensic sciences and biomedical research facility. The OSU Medical Center, located a half-mile north of campus, is the primary teaching hospital for the college. The medical center serves Tulsa and the surrounding communities, and serves as both a teaching clinic for medical students, interns and residents, and a health care resource for residents of Tulsa and the surrounding area. The medical center is a state entity operated by a Oklahoma State University Medical Authority, with management by Mercy. The hospital provides comprehensive and specialized health care and is staffed by licensed physicians and other health care professionals who supervise students in the care of patients. The OSU combined physician system covers a wide variety of specialties. The clinics provide essential health care to the community, with an emphasis on serving Tulsa's underserved populations. The two latest additions to our OSU clinic system are the North Regional Health and Wellness Center, a partnership with the Tulsa County Health Department, in north Tulsa and the Eastgate Clinic in east Tulsa.

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).

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 prepare 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, emergency medicine and osteopathic manipulative medicine. Many rotations are completed at OSU Medical Center in Tulsa, the largest osteopathic hospital in the United States, as well as expanded residency hospital sites across Oklahoma - INTEGRIS Southwest and Saint Anthony's Hospital in Oklahoma City; INTEGRIS Bass Baptist Medical Center in Enid; Tahlequah Medical Center in Tahlequah; Medical Center of Southeast Oklahoma in Durant; McAlester Regional Medical Center in McAlester; Choctaw Nation Medical Center in Talihina; and Comanche County Memorial Hospital in Lawton. There are additional sites utilized as third- and fourth-year students complete their supervised clinical clerkships in required rotations, such as a two-month Community Hospital Rotation, a one-month Rural Clinic Rotation, a one-month Community Clinic Rotation, a one-month Emergency Medicine Rotation or a Specialty Selective or Sub-Internship for a month as well. Also students rotate in electives both within Oklahoma and in states throughout the nation.

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 2015-2016 school year) totals \$23,534* per year for Oklahoma residents and \$45,665* 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 graduate degree programs in Biomedical Sciences, Forensic Sciences and Health Care Administration.

The Biomedical Sciences Graduate Program offers PhD, MS, DO/MS and DO/PhD degree programs. These programs provides students with a foundation in biomedical sciences that is broadly applicable to many disciplines, including anatomy, biochemistry, cell biology, microbiology, pathology, pharmacology and physiology.

The Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences offers a thesis and non-thesis option, with both programs designed to be completed in two years with a minimum of 32 credit hours. The PhD program is designed to be completed in four years with a minimum of 90 credit hours. The DO/PhD program is designed to be completed 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 completed 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.

The Master of Science in Forensic Sciences requires a minimum of 39 credit hours with the thesis program typically completed in two full years. The MS/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. Full-time thesis students complete first-year classes online and complete laboratory courses and research. Non-thesis options in forensic science administration and forensic document examination are designed for practitioners with related professional experience, who complete the degree online, usually over three to four years while maintaining full-time careers. This degree is designed for individuals pursuing careers in crime labs, investigative agencies or research institutions.

The Master of Science in Health Care Administration consists of 32 total hours with a creative component or thesis including six hours of general graduate level electives. The program has an option in healthcare leadership and entrepreneurship or an option in administration. The curriculum provides exposure to management concepts, processes and techniques associated with administration and entrepreneurship functions in a variety of health care organizations. This degree is ideal for those individuals working in health care who wish to move into management or executive positions; however, healthcare experience is not required. This degree offers on-site courses at OSU-Stillwater and OSU-Tulsa as well as distance learning opportunities. This degree can be completed in-class or fully online. The DO/MS program is designed to be completed in five years. The first year is the graduate portion of the program and the last four years consist of the medical portion of the degree.

The DO/MBA is an accelerated program that allows DO students to gain their MBA through the Spears School of Business in a single year. 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 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
- American Medical Student Association
- American Medical Women's Association
- Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons
- Association of Native American Medical Students
- American Osteopathic College of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Atlas Fraternity (social)
- Biomedical Science Graduate Student Association
- Christian Medical Association
- Club S.P.I.N.E.
- Forensic Science Student Organization
- International Medicine Club
- Neurology
- Oklahoma Osteopathic Obstetrics and Gynecology Student Association
- Pathology and Lab Medicine
- Pros for Africa
- Sigma Sigma Phi (honor society)
- Student Advocacy Association
- Student American Academy of Osteopathy
- Student American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopedics
- Student Interest Group in Neurology
- Student National Medical Association
- Student Osteopathic Academy of Sports Medicine
- 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 Government Association (SGA)
- Student Political Action Committee
- Wilderness Medical Association