

College of Osteopathic Medicine

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As health care grows more complicated, primary care physicians will be needed more than ever. The 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.

Most graduates of OSU-College of Osteopathic Medicine practice in the primary care fields—family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine and obstetrics/gynecology. Others continue their training in 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 medicine.

The College was founded in 1972 in response to a physician shortage in the small towns and rural areas in the 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 continues 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 and graduate programs in biomedical and forensic sciences.

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 south campus, a half-mile away, 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. Additionally, three satellite OSU physician health care centers are located in Tulsa, serving more than 70,000 patient visits annually.

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. They 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 illness and treat patients.

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 preprofessional 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 prior to applying. 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, including laboratory, with no grade below a "C" (2.00 on a 4.00 scale):
 - English (six to eight semester hours)
 - Biology (eight to 10 semester hours)
 - Physics (eight to 10 semester hours)
 - General chemistry (eight to 10 semester hours)
 - Organic chemistry (eight to 10 semester hours)
3. Applicants must have taken at least one of the following undergraduate courses: biochemistry, comparative anatomy or cellular biology, embryology, microbiology or molecular biology, histology, physiology, genetics.

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 88 students. Non-U.S. citizens must have a permanent resident visa ("green card") at the time of application in order to be considered for admission.

The annual application deadline is February 15.

College Curriculum

Divided into Basic Sciences and Clinical Sciences, the curriculum at the College emphasizes primary care. The four-year program uses a coordinated, spiraling systems approach in which subject matter is continuously re-introduced in greater depth and complexity.

During the first year students are introduced to core concepts in anatomy, physiology, biochemistry and microbiology. Students begin to develop competence in osteopathic clinical skills including physical examination, diagnosis and patient interviewing and recognition of normal and abnormal patterns of physical conditions and disease.

The second year emphasizes 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 and independent study are keys to students' development of the critical thinking for the clinical context. Students' clinical skills are honed through interactive lab sessions and simulated clinical experiences. Behavioral science courses provide students with an appreciation of the importance of preventative medicine, cultural sensitivity and mental health issues.

The final 22 months are clinically oriented and community based, consisting of clerkship experiences in hospitals and clinics where students observe patients on a daily basis 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 elective locations.

Students graduate from the four-year program with the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degree. Following graduation, students complete a one-year internship and then enter a residency program.

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).

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Graduate Medical Education

The College administers internship and residency programs in Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Durant and Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

The College maintains close contact with its graduates and can offer assistance in setting up a practice following the graduate's internship and residency training.

The College offers M.S., Ph.D., and D.O./Ph.D. graduate degree programs in biomedical sciences. The programs are an excellent option for students who wish to pursue careers in medical research or academic medicine.

The M.S. program is designed to be accomplished in two years, with a minimum of 30 semester credit hours. The Ph.D. program is designed to be accomplished in four years, with a minimum of 90 semester credit hours.

The D.O./Ph.D. program is designed to be accomplished in six to seven years. The first two years are the basic science years of the program. The middle two years are graduate study, research and dissertation of the Ph.D. program. The final two years are the clinical sciences years of the D.O. program.

Two master's programs in forensic science were recently added at the College. Students can pursue either a Master of Science in forensic science or a Master of Forensic Science Administration. Both courses offer an on-line curriculum with research emphasis conducted on the medical school campus.

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 have obtained permanent resident status to be considered.

Accreditation

The College is accredited by the Bureau of Professional Education 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

A financial aid officer works to ensure that students are not prevented from attending the College because of their financial situations. The primary purpose of the College's aid program is to provide financial assistance to students who would otherwise be unable to afford tuition. A computer search program allows students to systematically find available loans, grants and scholarships for which they may be eligible.

Tuition at the College of Osteopathic Medicine (for the 2003-2004 school year) totals \$13,774.00 per year for Oklahoma residents and \$30,144.30 per year for out-of-state residents.

Although the principal responsibility for financing an education remains with the student and his or her family, the College will work to offer campus-based aid to supplement that contribution.

Because the number of applicants and their total requests each year exceed the resources available, a selection process is necessary to see that the most deserving and best qualified students have first claim on available resources. Financial aid options include loans, scholarships, and grants, as well as work-study programs and return service agreements.

A Family Financial Statement and other required applications are available from the College.

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 Run. Listed below are official student organizations.

American College of Osteopathic Emergency Physicians

American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians

American College of Osteopathic Family Practitioners—Undergraduate Chapter

American Medical Women's Association

Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons

Atlas Fraternity (social)
Christian Medical and Dental Society
Delta Omega (national osteopathic
sorority)
Inter-Club Council
Osteopathic Sports Medicine Society
Sigma Sigma Phi (honor society)
Student Associate Auxilliary
Student National Medical Association
Student Osteopathic Association of Radi-
ology
Student Osteopathic Internal Medicine
Association
Student Osteopathic Medical Association
Student Osteopathic Surgical Association
Student Senate
Undergraduate American Academy
of Osteopathic Medicine