Osteopathic Medical Education Program Brochure

Nova Southeastern University

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A D.O., or doctor of osteopathic medicine, is a complete physician, fully trained and licensed to prescribe medication, perform surgery, and utilize manipulative therapy. Osteopathic medicine emphasizes the relationship among the body's nerves, muscles, bones and organs. The osteopathic philosophy of treating the whole person is applied to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illness, disease and injury.
Osteopathic physicians serve as family doctors to millions of people throughout the United States. They first train in general practice and many receive additional training in specialty areas such as psychiatry, pediatrics, obstetrics, surgery, ophthalmology or cardiology.

Preparing for Admission

To be considered for admission to one of 15 osteopathic medical schools, applicants typically complete four years of undergraduate work, culminating in a bachelor's degree. Most osteopathic medical schools also require one year each of English, biological sciences, physics, general chemistry and organic chemistry. Some schools have other requirements such as genetics, mathematics or psychology; these are listed in the catalogs available from each osteopathic medical school listed at the end of this brochure.

Applicants should take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) during their junior year of college. The MCAT examines knowledge and skills in areas such as biology, math, reading and problem-solving. A pre-med advisor can assist applicants in scheduling and preparing for this examination.

Most future D.O.s major in sciences, such as biology or chemistry, in their undergraduate studies. However, applicants may major in any area as long as they meet the minimum course and grade requirements, and demonstrate their potential for successfully completing an osteopathic medical curriculum.
Prospective osteopathic medical students must also exhibit a genuine concern for people. Osteopathic medicine is a people-oriented profession that demands dedicated and empathetic individuals. Osteopathic colleges require a personal interview to assess the applicant's communication skills and learn more about why that person wants to become an osteopathic physician. The applicant may wish to spend some time with a D.O. or do volunteer work in healthcare before applying.

**Continuing Medical Education**

Continuing Medical Education, as the term implies, is a lifetime commitment to learning by osteopathic physicians in full recognition of the fact that the study of medicine does not end with graduation from medical school. The American Osteopathic Association requires its members to complete a specified number of continuing medical education credits during each three-year period in order to maintain membership.
Osteopathic Medical Colleges

Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine
5200 South Ellis Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60615
(312) 947-3000
555 31st Street
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515
(708) 971-6080

College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific
College Plaza
Pomona, California 91766
(714) 623-6116

Kirkville College of Osteopathic Medicine
800 West Jefferson
Kirkville, Missouri 63501
(816) 626-2121

Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine
East Fee Hall
East Lansing, Michigan 48824
(517) 355-9611

New York College of Osteopathic Medicine
New York Institute of Technology
Box 170
Old Westbury
Long Island, New York 11568
(516) 626-6947

Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine
Grosvenor Hall
Athens, Ohio 45701
(614) 593-1800

College of Osteopathic Medicine of Oklahoma State University
1111 West 17th Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74107
(918) 582-1972

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine
4150 City Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19131
(215) 871-1000

Southeastern University of Health Sciences
College of Osteopathic Medicine
1750-60 N.E. 168th Street
North Miami Beach, Florida 33162
(305) 949-4000

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine
3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard
Fort Worth, Texas 76107
(817) 735-2000

University of Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine
2105 Independence Boulevard
Kansas City, Missouri 64124
(816) 283-2000

University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey, School of Osteopathic Medicine
40 East Laurel Road
Stratford, New Jersey 08084
(609) 346-6990

University of New England, College of Osteopathic Medicine
11 Hills Beach Road
Biddeford, Maine 04005
(207) 283-0171

University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences
College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery
3200 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa 50312
(515) 271-1400

West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine
400 North Lee Street
Lewisburg, West Virginia 24901
(304) 645-6270

Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
1858 West Grandview Boulevard
Erie, Pennsylvania 16509
(814) 866-6641
The D.O. Curriculum

The first two years of the osteopathic medical curriculum focus on basic sciences such as anatomy and physiology, often enhanced by early exposure to clinical work. The third and fourth years emphasize the clinical work and much of the teaching takes place in community hospitals, major medical centers and doctors' offices.

During these clinical years, students study areas such as general practice, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, surgery and pediatrics. Students rotate through urban, suburban and rural settings, experiencing all areas of medicine.

Osteopathic principles and practices are integrated throughout the four-year curriculum. Students learn to use osteopathic techniques for diagnosis and treatment of disease, as well as for disease prevention. The curriculum emphasizes the relationship of body systems and holistic patient care.

Postdoctoral Training & Licensure

Following graduation, D.O.s must complete an approved 12-month internship. Interns rotate through major hospital departments such as internal medicine, general practice and surgery. Many D.O.s then choose to take a residency program in a specialty area, requiring two to six years of additional training.

D.O.s are licensed for the full practice of medicine and surgery in each of the 50 states. Each state determines the tests and procedures for licensing physicians in that state. In some states, the same tests are given to D.O.s and M.D.s; other states administer separate licensing exams.
For more information about osteopathic medicine contact the American Osteopathic Association, 142 East Ontario Street, Chicago, IL 60611 (800-621-1773). Ask for the brochures “What is a D.O.?” and “Osteopathic Medicine.”

For more information about admission to a college of osteopathic medicine, contact the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, 6110 Executive Boulevard, Suite 405, Rockville, MD 20852 (301-468-0990).

Financial assistance is offered through several state osteopathic medical associations, the National Osteopathic Foundation, the U.S. Public Health Service, the Armed Forces and the Auxiliary to the AOA.