



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
COLLEGES OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

**5550 Friendship Boulevard
Suite 310
Chevy Chase, MD
www.aacom.org**

About AACOM

The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), founded in 1898, exists to lend support and assistance to all the nation's osteopathic medical schools. Having grown from a handful of college administrators a century ago, the organization today represents the administration, faculty and students of the 26 colleges of osteopathic medicine, and three branch campuses that offer the doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.) degree in the United States. The association, guided by its Board of Deans, Assembly of Presidents, and various other councils and committees, is actively involved in all areas of osteopathic medical education.

National-Level Services Provided by AACOM:

- **A Unified Voice**
Serves as the unified voice and proactive advocacy at the federal government level for the colleges of osteopathic medicine in the United States, which it has done for more than a century.
- **Innovation and Collaboration**
Works with its member colleges to foster collaboration and innovation across numerous areas of osteopathic medical education including research.
- **Centralized Services**
Provides centralized services including data collection and analysis and operation of the online application service for students applying to osteopathic medical schools.
- **Enhanced Awareness**
Develops national initiatives to promote and raise awareness of osteopathic medical education and osteopathic medicine.

Organizational Updates:

Legislative initiatives:

AACOM informs Congress and other federal policymakers of developments in osteopathic medical education and osteopathic medicine and seeks to sensitize policymakers to the needs of osteopathic medical students and educators. AACOM works in concert with various national coalitions to influence both legislative and regulatory activities associated with medical education and related issues, represent the needs of its members before Congress, federal agencies, and other policy-making bodies, and promote understanding of policy-related medical education issues in the nation's capital and beyond.

AACOM strongly advocated for a number of important issues, including fiscal years 2010 and 2011 funding of Title VII of the Public Health Service Act health professions education and

training programs, the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) scholarship and loan repayment programs, comparative effectiveness research, and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM). AACOM also strongly advocated for the reauthorization of Title VII programs and closely monitored developments on health reform, including provisions in the bills for payments to teaching health centers (THCs) for the direct and indirect costs of graduate medical education and THC development grants and funding for new medical schools. AACOM launched an effort to ask members of the House of Representatives representing COMs to join the Congressional Academic Medicine Caucus (CAMC). Only two of the 48-member CAMC represent COMs, and AACOM will continue its efforts encouraging members of the House that represent COMs to join the CAMC.

Key leadership changes:

Ms. Aria Kemp joined AACOM as the AACOMAS manager.

Diversity efforts:

AACOM awards the Sherry R. Arnstein Minority Student Scholarship program each year to recognize underrepresented minority students at AACOM's member colleges of osteopathic medicine. This year, two scholarships (totaling \$7,000) will be awarded to at least one newly accepted and at least one continuing underrepresented minority student. To be eligible, an applicant must be an underrepresented minority (***African-American; Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian; mainland Puerto Rican, or Hispanic***) student in good academic standing and currently enrolled in his or her first, second, or third year at an AACOM member college of osteopathic medicine OR an underrepresented minority student who has been accepted and is planning to matriculate at one of the AACOM member colleges. Previous Arnstein Scholarship awardees are ineligible.

AACOM also continues to advocate for sufficient funding for Health Professions Education Programs under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act, which includes Health Careers Opportunity Programs (HCOP) and Centers of Excellence (COE) that target underrepresented minority students, as well as loan repayment programs for minority faculty. As AACOM increases its activities in the diversity area, we will be working with the colleges of osteopathic medicine to explore initiatives that will expand the post baccalaureate programs offered to underrepresented minority students to prepare them for medical school. We also will be exploring initiatives to assist the colleges of osteopathic medicine in expanding their cadre of minority faculty and increasing programming on diversity issues.

Recruiting initiatives:

AACOM participated in all four of the regional National Association of Health Professions Advisors meetings held in April 2009 and will be active at the national NAAHP meeting in Atlanta in June 2010.

AACOM continues to play an active role in recruiting students with the help of pre-health advisors. Throughout the application season AACOM coordinated a number of Osteopathic Medicine recruiting events bringing together many colleges to one site. These activities are quite exciting and allow all of the COMs to build on the energy of multiple college activities whereby students and advisors can meet many of them at one event.

Among the multi-college events this year were:

- Participation in the Alabama Connection, a five-day swing through the state of Alabama at which medical school recruiters met with prospective applicants from 19 undergraduate colleges. (to see the list of colleges see: <http://www.alabamaconnection.org>)
- Southern Idaho Universities included visits to Boise State University, Idaho State University, and Brigham Young University – Idaho.
- Memphis included visits to Christian Brothers University, Rhodes College, and the University of Memphis.
- Recruiting linked to the AOA convention in New Orleans included visits to Louisiana State University, Tulane University and two HBCUs – Southern University and Xavier University of Louisiana.
- Utah Graduate School Fair week included Utah State University, Weber State University, Brigham Young University, and Utah Valley State University.
- University of Michigan.
- Pacific Northwest included visits to Western Washington University, Seattle Pacific University, University of Washington, Seattle Pacific University, University of Puget Sound, and Northwest University.

Other recruiting activities include:

AACOM representation in the exhibit hall or in presentations at meetings of the American Public Health Association (APHA), where we see many MPH candidates who are planning to attend medical school, the National Association of Minority Medical Educators (NAMME), the Student National Medical Association (SNMA), the National Institute of Health Graduate and Professional School Fair, Alpha Epsilon Delta (the undergraduate education pre-med honorary society), National Institute of Science/Beta Kappa Xi (the science faculty organization and science honorary society of the HBCUs), and pre-med recruiting activities of AMSA.

Local area visits included Georgetown University, Loyola University, Howard University, University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins, George Mason University, Old Dominion, Hampton University, Norfolk State, Christopher Newport University, and College of William and Mary.

If your college is interested in hosting a multi-medical school recruitment event, contact Gina Moses; gmoses@acom.org; Tel: 301-968-4184

Key admissions updates:

AACOMAS Applications Reach Record Highs for Fourth Year

AACOMAS staff processed over 100,000 applications for more than 13,000 applicants in the 2010 cycle – continuing a trend over the previous 2009 cycle. This is an increase of 4.2% in the number of applicants and 5.8% in the number of applications over the 2009 cycle.

The mean number of application per applicant for the 2010 cycle is 7.5 compared to 7.3 in 2009.

Note: The University of North Texas Health Science Center College of Osteopathic Medicine is not part of the AACOMAS application service.

Admissions Update

Entering Class 2009: Academic profile

Mean Overall GPA: 3.48 Mean Science 3.35 Mean Non-Science 3.58

MCAT: BS 9.22 PS 8.38 VR 8.59 Overall (mean) MCAT 8.73

Total Applications: 94,243 First Year Matriculants: 4,872 Total Enrollment: 16,893* (estimated)
At the close of the 2009 application cycle, there was an 8.6% increase of applicants over the 2008 cycle. The 2010 application cycle saw a 4.2% increase in the number of applicants and 5.8% in the number of applications over the 2009 cycle. Total applications: 100,591
Total applicants: 13,386

Future planning:

The **2011 Annual AACOM Meeting** will take place at the Marriott Baltimore Waterfront in Baltimore, Maryland, April 13-16. Advisors and their students are welcome to register to attend.

AACOMAS 2011 application launched on May 3, 2010. The **AACOMAS Application URL:**
<https://aacomas.aacom.org>

The **2011 College Information Book (CIB)** is the official guide for prospective students, applicants, pre-health advisors and others interested in gaining information about or applying to the nation's osteopathic medical colleges. The publication has been expanded to cover a wealth of important, timely topics, including joint-degree programs, international practice rights, residency and matches, board examinations, licensure and much more.
To order additional copies of the 2011 CIB, visit the online AACOM Bookstore at:
<http://www.aacom.org/resources/bookstore/cib/Pages/default.aspx>

The **Advisor Information Center (AIC) portal**, which launched in September 2007, has met with enthusiastic response from Advisors. Matriculation data from 2002-2009 is available in the AIC on behalf of all member colleges. Current admission cycle data is uploaded on a regular basis throughout the application cycle. Advisors wishing to register for an account may do so at: <http://aic.aacom.org/>

AACOM's website, www.aacom.org, was launched in November 2007. It has been significantly enhanced for quality content and ease of navigation.

A **Recruitment Events Calendar** is available for Advisors and their students to view Open Houses and related admissions events:
<http://www.aacom.org/events/calendar/recruiting/Pages/default.aspx>

Planning is underway by existing colleges and others for over 400 additional first-year places in Osteopathic Medical Schools by 2011.

Contact information for further information and questions regarding AACOM or AACOMAS:

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AACOMAS Application: <https://aacomas.aacom.org>

Social Media:



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