

General Admission Requirements

You've made the decision to apply to osteopathic medical school. Just what are the admissions committees and interviewers looking for in a prospective student?

Admission to osteopathic medical school is competitive. Of those *applying* for 2010 admission, the average (mean) MCAT scores were 8.46 verbal, 8.28 physical sciences and 8.93 biological sciences. The average (mean) overall grade point average was 3.44 and the average science grade point average was 3.27. Generally, MCAT scores and grade point averages are slightly higher for matriculating students than scores reported for the overall applicant pool (see tables).

In terms of academics, osteopathic medical schools are looking for an academic record that indicates the aptitude and the knowledge base needed to successfully complete the medical school curriculum.

Just as important are personal qualities. Osteopathic medical schools are looking for students who:

- Are well-rounded
- Have good communication and interpersonal skills
- Have a record of community service
- Have a record of leadership

- Have some clinical experience
- Have participated in a variety of extracurricular activities
- Come from diverse backgrounds
- Are motivated to pursue a career in osteopathic medicine
- Have knowledge of osteopathic medicine
- Have shadowed an osteopathic physician

Osteopathic medical schools also have a long tradition of accepting nontraditional students who may be looking at osteopathic medicine as a new career later in life.

Nearly all students who apply to osteopathic medical school have a bachelor's degree. There are a few exceptions for students in special programs that have prior arrangements with osteopathic medical schools. Many applicants have earned a master's degree or doctorate before applying to osteopathic medical school.

Many public osteopathic medical schools are mandated by state legislature to admit a certain percentage of in-state residents to each entering class. Contact the colleges in which you are interested for more information.



Grade Point Averages for Entering Students

Group	GPA		
	2008	2009	2010
Science	3.39	3.35	3.36
Non-Science	3.58	3.58	3.57
Mean GPA	3.48	3.48	3.47

Average (Mean) Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) Scores for Entering Students

Mean MCAT	2008	2009	2010
Biological Science	9.13	9.22	9.29
Physical Science	8.40	8.38	8.51
Verbal Reasoning	8.59	8.59	8.69
Writing Sample			
J (Lowest)	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
K	1.7%	1.8%	1.7%
L	5.9%	6.2%	4.9%
M	23.8%	23.9%	22.7%
N	11.3%	10.6%	10.9%
O	16.4%	15.0%	13.6%
P	11.7%	11.0%	11.5%
Q	17.7%	19.8%	21.0%
R	8.0%	8.2%	9.5%
S	2.9%	3.0%	3.7%
T (Highest)	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%
Unknown	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Number of Scores Reported	4,360	4,771	4,936

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
Source: American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

Criminal Background Checks

Some state legislatures have considered or enacted legislation requiring criminal background checks for all medical students. Additionally, affiliated hospitals and clinical institutions of many medical schools have policies requiring criminal background checks for medical students completing clinical rotations at their facilities. Currently, the Department of Veterans Affairs mandates that all medical students involved in patient care at its hospitals undergo criminal background checks.

In large part, the movement toward criminal background checks across the health professions is based on strengthening the public's trust in the medical profession. In addition, criminal background checks enhance the safety and well-being of patients; aid in the applicants' and enrolled medical students' ability to eventually become licensed as physicians, and minimize the liability of medical schools and their affiliated clinical facilities.

While a criminal background check is not part of the AACOMAS application for the 2012 cycle, many medical schools are requiring criminal background checks of all matriculating students, prior to the start of clinical rotations, or at some other specified time. It is your responsibility to become aware and informed of what will be required of you during the application process.

When an individual applies through the AACOMAS application process, the applicant will be asked to disclose information regarding prior criminal offenses. Failure to accurately and truthfully disclose such offenses on the AACOMAS application may result in an offer of admission being rescinded or, if the omission is discovered after enrollment in medical school, in dismissal.

College All colleges will require criminal background checks prior to rotation - and all students should expect a drug test sometime during their medical education.	◆= Required prior to matriculation*	
	Criminal Background Check	Drug Testing
A.T. Still University Kirksville COM (ATSU-KCOM)	◆	
A.T. Still University SOM–Arizona (ATSU-SOMA)	◆	
Arizona COM of Midwestern University (AZCOM/MWU)	◆	
Chicago COM of Midwestern University (CCOM/MWU)	◆	
Des Moines University COM (DMU-COM)	◆	
Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences COM (KCUMB-COM)	◆	
Lake Erie COM–Erie/Seton Hill (LECOM)	◆	◆
Lake Erie COM–Bradenton (LECOM Bradenton)	◆	◆
Lincoln Memorial University–DeBusk COM (LMU-DCOM)	◆	◆
Michigan State University COM (MSUCOM)	◆	◆
New York COM of NYIT (NYCOM/NYIT)	◆	
Nova Southeastern University COM (NSU-COM)	◆	
Ohio University Heritage COM (OU-HCOM)	◆	
Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences COM (OSU-COM)		
Pacific NW University of Health Sciences COM (PNWU-COM)	◆	◆
Philadelphia COM (PCOM)	◆	
Georgia Campus-Philadelphia COM (GA-PCOM)	◆	
Rocky Vista University COM (RVUCOM)	◆	◆
Touro COM (TouroCOM-NY)	◆	◆
Touro University COM–CA (TUCOM-CA)	◆	◆
Touro University Nevada COM (TUNCOM)	◆	
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey–SOM (UMDNJ-SOM)	◆	
University of New England COM (UNE-COM)	◆	
University of North Texas Health Science Center/Texas COM (UNTHSC/TCOM)	◆	
University of Pikeville Kentucky COM (UP-KYCOM)	◆	◆
Edward Via COM–Carolinas Campus (VCOM-CC)	◆	
Edward Via COM– Virginia Campus (VCOM-VC)	◆	
West Virginia SOM (WVSOM)	◆	
Western University of Health Sciences–COM of the Pacific (WesternU/COMP)	◆	
William Carey University COM (WCU-COM)	◆	◆

*subject to change by college