

**M**any forms of financial aid are available to osteopathic medical students including scholarships and loans. Some financial aid is available directly from the colleges, and many state, local and national osteopathic organizations offer scholarships or loans to students. Osteopathic medical students also are eligible for a number of federal loan programs. Financial aid officers at colleges of osteopathic medicine will have more information.

### AACOM Financial Aid Information

<http://www.aacom.org/>. For information on financial aid and student loans, click on Information for Medical Students.

### Federal Programs

Many private scholarships have a “financial need” requirement. In most instances, you will need to file a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) with the government so that your need can be determined.

### AACOM Scholarships

The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) offers scholarships for minority students each year. The **Sherry R. Arnstein Minority Student Scholarships** are awarded to both new and continuing minority students of osteopathic medicine. The amount of the scholarship varies. For more information and application materials, visit <http://www.aacom.org/>.

### AACOMAS Fee Waivers

AACOM encourages financially disadvantaged applicants to become DOs. A limited number of fee waivers are available to those who apply early and qualify. Fee waiver requests must be received and processed prior to submitting an AACOMAS application. Applicants must take the following steps to apply:

1. Send a letter to AACOMAS indicating your intent to apply for the waiver and include specific reasons that support your application.

2. Include a copy of your FAFSA for the current school year (signed and dated).
3. If your FAFSA is not available for the current year, you may instead include a copy of your most recent tax return (and the tax returns of anyone who can claim you as a dependent).

See page 15 for more information.

## Nontraditional Students

**T**he osteopathic profession has a longstanding tradition of commitment to diversity and second-career students. Osteopathic medical schools and AACOM encourage diversity and have many recruitment programs aimed at attracting and training underrepresented minority physicians to serve our nation’s diverse populations.

### Diversity

Colleges of osteopathic medicine welcome students from all ethnic backgrounds, races and genders, including nontraditional students. The colleges adhere to all legal requirements including the American with Disabilities Act.

AACOMAS and its parent organization, AACOM, participate in events that are dedicated to promoting diversity and serving diverse populations.

For a schedule of informational events near you, please visit AACOM’s website at <http://www.aacom.org/> and click on Programs and Events.

### Financial Aid Supporting Diversity

AACOM offers two scholarships each year to students from historically underrepresented minority groups. For more information, visit the AACOM website at <http://www.aacom.org/> and look for the **Sherry R. Arnstein Scholarship for Minority Students**. Financial aid officers at each of the colleges of osteopathic medicine will be able to provide current information regarding other scholarships for minority students.

### Mentoring and Other Support Programs

Mentoring and other support programs for underrepresented minority students are available at individual schools. Examples of these types of programs include summer workshops, open houses and residence programs. For more information, visit the websites of the schools in which you are interested. Links to the web sites may be found on the AACOM website.

### Osteopathic Training for U.S.–Trained Health Professionals

#### Nurses, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physician Assistants, Chiropractors and Others Who Want to Earn a DO Degree

Many allied health professionals seek admission to osteopathic medical schools. These students must complete the entire curriculum at an accredited osteopathic medical school, and they must complete an internship and residency. Schools may award credit for certain courses or experiences on an individual basis. Contact the admissions department at a college for specific information. Residency training in the student’s specialty of choice is strongly recommended. A proven dedication to patient health and experience in a clinical setting will certainly help you in the admissions process.

### MDs Who Want Training in Osteopathic Principles and Practices

As more people begin to understand the benefits of the osteopathic approach to patient care, more MDs are expressing an interest in learning how to integrate osteopathic philosophy and osteopathic manipulative medicine into their practices. Several osteopathic medical schools offer continuing medical education (CME) courses that are open to MDs. To learn more about available CME courses, visit the osteopathic college websites. The colleges can be accessed at [www.aacom.org](http://www.aacom.org/); click on Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine. The American Academy of Osteopathy also offers continuing medical education courses that are open to MDs. For more information, visit <http://www.academyofosteopathy.org>.