

**W**hile the path to medical school is a challenging one, it also can be very rewarding! The students profiled here have all made journeys similar to yours. They have completed all their pre-medical coursework, taken the MCAT, volunteered, shadowed a DO, and worked with their pre-health advisors to ensure a smooth transition to medical school.

Read these student's stories--they may inspire and encourage you as you continue your journey toward a career in medicine.

## Brian Park

Undergraduate Studies: Major in Chemistry; minor in Biochemistry, Knox College



"While working closely with patients in a Chicago clinic, I developed a firm belief that true healing occurs when the mind, body, and spirit are led into healthy confines. I chose osteopathic medicine so that I can provide true healing to my patients. Thus far, osteopathic medical school has been a perfect fit for me. The academic curriculum accommodates all learning styles. Because I am a visual learner, this feature has been critical to my success as a student. In addition, there are many opportunities to apply my textbook knowledge to clinical situations, and this has contributed greatly to my education. I know the valuable lessons I learn here will make me a compassionate physician."

## Robert "Brad" Abrahams

Undergraduate Studies: Major in Art, Wake Forest University  
Honors: Presidential Scholarship, Phi Beta Kappa



"Like many entering the medical field, I always knew that I wanted to work in health care. It was not until I began my pre-medical courses at Wake Forest University that I learned about osteopathic medicine and fell in love with the DO philosophy. As a studio art major with a liberal arts background, I found the concept of treating the mind, body, and spirit quite attractive. My osteopathic medical education has been outstanding. After

completing my training I plan to return to my medical college as a visiting lecturer."

## Heather Preissler

Undergraduate Studies: Major in Biology, Central Washington University



"Having a background in dentistry and biology, I explored many options before deciding to study osteopathic medicine. The philosophy of treating patients with a hands-on approach along with the profession's desire to find unique, well rounded leaders was why I chose to study osteopathic medicine. My medical college not only lives by this philosophy, but values listening to patients, being compassionate and serving in rural areas, while striving to set the highest educational standards. The faculty is like a family that embraces you upon arrival and guides your path. As a future osteopathic physician, my mission is to bring aid and education to underserved areas in the Pacific Northwest and globally to those in need."

## Roger A. Alvarez

Undergraduate Studies: Major in Biology, University of Miami  
Graduate Studies: MS in Physiology and Biophysics, Georgetown University



"Before medical school, I attended a lecture by an osteopathic physician. After the lecture, I shadowed him in his office, where I was impressed with his personal approach to patients and his ready utilization of different modalities of treatment in each case including pharmacological, psychosocial, and musculoskeletal. He spent time with each patient, and he touched each and every patient. I immediately knew that this type of practice resonated with my personal views of health care, and decided to apply to osteopathic medical schools. To me, osteopathic medicine is the practice of medicine based on the recognition of the person's innate ability to heal and the importance of the person functioning as a unit greater than the sum of his or her parts."

## Isaac Spence

Undergraduate Studies: Major in Biology, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University



"My medical school's mission is to produce primary care physicians to serve rural and medically underserved areas. Having grown up in a rural area, this mission resonates with my own goals as a future physician. I love my school because I am acquiring the skills I will need to return to a rural community and assist the medically underserved. I also aspire to serve as a medical missionary, and my college provides ample opportunities to participate in medical missions. Additionally, my school is located near my hometown. As such, I believe it will enhance health care in the area, and I would love to contribute to that endeavor. I love my college because it has a family-like atmosphere, a student camaraderie that is rare in medical school, and faculty who sincerely want their students to succeed."

## Anne C. Jones, DO

Undergraduate Studies: Major in Neurobiology & Behavior, Cornell University



"Within 5 minutes of stepping onto my medical school campus, I felt at home. The most special thing about being an osteopathic medical student was that I felt like a member of the family. The support from students, faculty and administration nurtured me as a student to succeed with my dreams.

"I am excited to be starting my residency training at the Maine Dartmouth Family Medicine Residency in Augusta, Maine, where I hope to develop a primary care practice. I also plan to remain active in medical education and health policy by pursuing an MPH degree and by continually being involved in the osteopathic profession. My ultimate dream? To be a well-rounded, full-spectrum osteopathic family physician, a faculty member at a medical school, and an advocate for physicians and patients, and to effect positive change in our nation's healthcare system."