

Dear Osteopathic Medical Students,

As you may have heard, this week AACOM and the AAMC jointly announced a shared services agreement to provide access to some of the AAMC's important student resources for our Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (COMs), our osteopathic medical education community, and our osteopathic medical students. The agreement includes access to three services for the student community: Careers in Medicine(R) (CiM), Financial Information, Resources, Services, and Tools (FIRST) - including the Medloans[®] Organizer and Calculator (MLOC), and the Visiting Student Learning Opportunities™ (VSLO[®]) program.

Visiting Student Learning Opportunities (VSLO)

Many of our member COMs and their students are already accessing VSLO and the VSAS[®] application service to explore, apply to and schedule away and audition rotations. Your access to this service will not change, and is dependent on whether your COM chooses to participate in the VSLO program. The only change is that your COMs will now have additional access to the service if they wish to serve as a host institution or join the global network.

Careers in Medicine[®] (CiM)

Many of our COMs currently provide access to Careers in Medicine for all or some of their students. Please note that the agreement includes access only for matriculating OMS I students. However, if you already have access through your COM (or access that you have purchased individually), your access will not change and will not be interrupted. It is also possible that your COM is enrolling students in addition to their matriculating class. You can find more information about this from your Student Advising office. Whether you are a new matriculant (OMS I) or a student whose COM is newly providing CiM to you, you will have access to this service by the end of August 2020. This delay is due to requirements that COMs and AACOM must follow in collecting your data to provide to the AAMC so that you can be registered for this service, at which time you will be notified with an email from CiM.

Financial Information, Resources, Services, and Tools (FIRST)

In addition, all osteopathic medical students attending a member COM will have access to FIRST resources, including the Medloans[®] Organizer and Calculator (MLOC) and the AAMC Financial Wellness program. Again, we must collect contact information for all students so that each of you can be accurately enrolled in this service. Like CiM, we expect this process to take until the end of August, at which time you will be notified by email from the FIRST service.

The Deans are selecting individuals on each campus to be your key contacts for each of these new services. In the meantime, if you have questions about this information or these services, I urge you to reach out to Abhishek Bhandari at abhandari@aacom.org. Thank you for your patience, and I look forward to hearing from you about how these tools are helping your medical school career, and how we can continue to support you in the future.

Regards,



Mark Speicher, PhD, MH
AACOM Senior Vice President for Medical Education and Research