

AACOM ClinEd ACCELERATOR

Hacking the Future of Osteopathic Clinical Education

September 1 - October 13, 2026



AACOM ClinEd Accelerator

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated September 23, 2026

About the AACOM ClinEd Accelerator

What is the AACOM ClinEd Accelerator?

The AACOM ClinEd Accelerator is a six-week virtual innovation challenge hosted by AACOM in partnership with BeMyApp. Students, faculty, administrators, clinical partners, and other members of the osteopathic medical education community will work together to develop practical and innovative solutions to shared clinical education challenges.

When does the Accelerator take place?

The official event runs from September 1 through October 13, 2026. Judging and the winner announcement will follow the project submission deadline. Milestones and deadlines will be posted on the event platform and shared with registered participants.

Is the Accelerator entirely virtual?

Yes. Registration, team formation, webinars, mentoring, project development, submission, and judging will take place virtually through the BeMyApp event platform and Zoom-supported sessions.

Do I need coding experience or prior hackathon experience?

No. This is not a coding-only event, and prior hackathon experience is not required. Projects may take many forms, including concepts, tools, workflow redesigns, curriculum proposals, clinical education pathways, business plans, and partnership strategies.

What are the challenge tracks?

Challenge tracks help participants focus their projects on a clinical education problem. They do not create separate participant experiences. All registered participants will have access to the same platform resources, mentors, and event support. [View the challenge tracks.](#)

Registration and Eligibility

Is there a cost to participate?

No. Participation in the AACOM ClinEd Accelerator is free for all registered participants.

Who can participate?

The Accelerator is designed for students, faculty, staff, administrators, clinical education leaders, clinical partners, and other stakeholders connected to AACOM member colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs).

Can I register if I do not have a team?

Yes. Register as an individual and indicate whether you want to work independently or be matched with a team. BeMyApp will provide team formation support through the platform and a team formation webinar.

Can I register with a pre-formed team?

Yes. Indicate your team status during registration. Once project pages are available, pre-formed teams will be able to invite teammates through their project page. Every team member must register individually.

What if my institution or organization is not listed?

Select the option for Other, when available, and enter the name and type of your institution or organization.

Will I receive communications after registering?

Yes. Registered participants will receive event-related messages, including confirmation, team formation information, webinar details, reminders, submission instructions, and other logistics. These messages may come from AACOM-approved email systems managed by BeMyApp (bemyapp@aacom.org).

When is the deadline to register for the ClinEd Accelerator?

Registration for the AACOM ClinEd Accelerator is open through September 21.

Who is eligible to receive ClinEd Accelerator prize funding?

The AACOM ClinEd Accelerator welcomes individuals from a variety of backgrounds who are interested in advancing clinical education. However, to be eligible for prize funding, submissions must demonstrate a meaningful connection to osteopathic medical education.

Eligible projects should include team members who are affiliated with or have a demonstrated connection to the osteopathic medical education community, such as a College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM), osteopathic medical students, faculty or administrators, clinical partners or preceptors, graduate medical education programs, health systems, or other organizations working in partnership with the osteopathic medical education community.

Individuals who do not currently have an osteopathic medical education affiliation are still welcome to participate in the Accelerator, engage with the community, and contribute to a team. However, to be considered for prize funding, the final project and team must demonstrate a clear connection to and relevance for osteopathic medical education.

Teams and Participant Support

Can teams include participants from different COMs or organizations?

Yes. Cross-institution and cross-role collaboration is strongly encouraged.

How large should a team be?

Teams should generally include approximately five to six participants. Every team member must register individually, and a COM may have multiple teams.

How does team formation work?

Participants who would like help joining a team should indicate their team formation interest in their platform profile. Participants can update their profile at any time, including if they originally registered under a different role or need to change their team preferences.

BeMyApp will review team formation requests once or twice a week and may assist with matching based on factors such as challenge interests, experience, affiliation, location, time zone, and available team openings.

Participants are also encouraged to use the platform's team formation features to connect with others. Team matching will remain available throughout the hackathon, but participants should expect that matching may take a few days and is not guaranteed to be immediate.

Can I still join a team if I register later?

Yes. Participants may still register, request help joining a team, join an existing team, or work independently.

If you would like BeMyApp's assistance with team matching, please update your platform profile to reflect your team formation interest. Team formation requests will be reviewed weekly, matching may not happen immediately.

Can I participate on more than one team or challenge track?

No. Each participant may officially join one team and one challenge track. This helps ensure fairness for judging and prize eligibility. Only participants listed as team members on the official project page are eligible to receive prizes. While you can only compete on one team, collaboration across teams, COMs, and organizations is highly encouraged throughout the Accelerator.

How much time should participants expect to spend each week?

Participants should generally expect to spend about one to two hours per week working on their projects, depending on the complexity of the project, during most of the Accelerator. In the final week or two before submissions are due, teams may spend closer to three to four hours per week as they refine their solution, prepare materials, and complete their submission. Actual time commitments may vary by team, project scope, and individual role.

What support will participants receive?

Support will include a kickoff and platform walk-through, a team formation webinar, AACOM-led learning or question-and-answer sessions, mentoring, platform guides and videos, project checkpoints, and technical support. Key sessions will be recorded for participants who cannot attend live.

What is required to complete the Accelerator?

Participants must develop a project, either independently or as part of a team, that aligns with a challenge track and submit the required project materials by the deadline. Detailed submission requirements and judging criteria will be published on the event platform.

Will students receive a certificate?

Yes. Students who successfully complete and submit a project will receive a Certificate of Completion by email after the event.

Mentors

Who can serve as a mentor?

Mentors should have relevant subject-matter or professional expertise, such as osteopathic or clinical education, healthcare operations, leadership, innovation, AI or technology, software development, research and data, or healthcare finance. Prior hackathon experience is not required.

What do mentors do?

Mentors help teams refine problem statements, test assumptions, identify practical considerations, and strengthen solutions. They may offer scheduled office hours or check-ins and respond to participant questions through platform meetings, chat, or email.

What is the mentor time commitment?

Mentors should plan for approximately one to two hours of flexible availability per week during the six-week event, plus about 45 to 60 minutes for onboarding and platform familiarization. Two mentor sessions are planned, and mentors are encouraged to attend at least one. Mentors are not expected to be available on demand, attend every session, or provide technical implementation support.

How do I express interest in mentoring?

Select Mentor in the interest question on the registration form. AACOM and BeMyApp will review event needs and follow up with selected mentors about onboarding, profile information, expertise, and availability. Expressing interest does not guarantee a mentor assignment.

Can I participate as both a mentor and a team member?

No. Participants must choose to participate as either a mentor or a team member, not both. This helps maintain clear roles and ensures fairness throughout the competition.

Judges

Who can serve as a judge?

Judges should have relevant expertise in areas such as osteopathic or clinical education, healthcare operations, leadership, innovation, AI or technology, software development, research and data, or healthcare finance. They

must be able to evaluate projects impartially using the event scoring rubric. Prior judging or hackathon experience is appreciated but not required.

What do judges do?

Judges review and score assigned eligible projects before the final deliberation call. BeMyApp will manage the judging platform, instructions, project assignments, scoring process, and deliberation.

What is the judge time commitment?

Judges should plan for approximately two to four total hours during October 14–21, 2026, depending on the number of final submissions. This includes reviewing and scoring assigned projects and participating in a final deliberation session. Judges will receive onboarding materials, the scoring rubric, platform access, and clear instructions in advance.

How do I express interest in judging?

Select Judge in the interest question on the registration form. AACOM and BeMyApp will follow up with selected judges about onboarding, assignments, the scoring rubric, deadlines, and conflict-of-interest guidance. Expressing interest does not guarantee a judging assignment.

Can a mentor also serve as a judge?

A mentor may be considered for a judging role, but assignments will be managed to protect the fairness and impartiality of the judging process.

Student Ambassador Program

What is the Student Ambassador Program?

The program engages students to promote the Accelerator within their COMs through approved academic and student channels, such as learning management systems, student organizations, and class communication channels.

What is required of a student ambassador?

Student ambassadors are asked to complete three activities: (1) post about the Accelerator on social media; (2) share the opportunity with their COM through a student club or organization; and (3) encourage five people to register using the ambassador's unique registration link. Ambassadors must provide proof that they completed all three activities to qualify for the incentive.

How do I express interest in becoming a student ambassador?

Select Student Ambassador in the interest question on the registration form. BeMyApp will follow up with program instructions and a unique registration link that can be used to track referrals. Expressing interest does not by itself qualify a student for an incentive.

Is there an incentive for student ambassadors?

Yes. The student ambassadors who complete all three required activities and provide verification will receive an electronic Visa gift card, subject to the program rules and available incentive pool.

Judging, Voting, and Awards

How will winning projects be selected?

Eligible projects will be evaluated by judges using the official scoring rubric. Judges will submit scores before a final deliberation call, and BeMyApp will aggregate and validate the results.

What does a strong solution look like?

A strong solution starts with a specific clinical education challenge and offers a thoughtful, practical approach to addressing it. It could be a model, workflow, curriculum, tool, playbook, partnership approach, prototype, or something entirely different. Your solution should clearly identify the problem and who would benefit, demonstrate how the idea could realistically be tested or piloted, consider what implementation might require, and identify how success could be measured.

You do not need a finished product, coding or technical expertise, or to have already implemented your solution. The goal is to develop a well-thought-out proposal that shows how your idea could move from concept toward action.

How much prize money is available?

The total prize pool is \$10,000. Award categories, prize amounts, eligibility requirements, and distribution details will be provided in the official rules.

How will prizes be paid?

BeMyApp will pay eligible winners directly rather than through their COMs. Prize distribution is limited to eligible U.S. recipients and may require tax and payment information. Complete terms will be included in the official rules.

What is the Early Bird Submission Deadline, and do I have to submit by then?

The September 30 Early Bird Submission Deadline is optional. Participants who submit their completed solution by September 30 will be entered into a raffle to win prizes. If you're not ready to submit by then, no problem—you can continue working on your solution through the final submission deadline of October 13.

When is the final deadline to submit my solution?

All participant solutions must be submitted by October 13. This is the final submission deadline for the ClinEd Accelerator.

Platform, Privacy, and Other Ways to Participate

What technology do I need?

The BeMyApp platform supports current versions of Chrome, Firefox, Safari. A desktop or laptop is recommended because meeting and webinar features are limited on mobile devices.

Will my contact information be shared with sponsors?

The registration form will allow participants to choose whether their contact information may be shared with eligible top-tier sponsors. Participants may opt out.

How can an organization express interest in sponsoring the Accelerator?

Select Sponsor in the interest question on the registration form or use the sponsor interest form on the event platform. AACOM will follow up with additional information.

What should I do if I registered but did not select a role that interests me?

Contact the event team at bemyapp@aacom.org and identify the role or program you would like to be considered for.

Who owns the intellectual property in a submitted solution, and what are participants responsible for confirming before submission?

As between AACOM, BeMyApp, and the participants, the participants retain all ownership of the intellectual property rights they have in their solutions. Neither AACOM nor BeMyApp automatically acquires ownership through participation, and event sponsors receive no ownership rights merely by sponsoring or judging the Accelerator. However, submissions are not confidential and may be displayed and promoted in connection with the event. By submitting any idea, prototype, solution, or other material to the Accelerator, each participant represents and warrants that: (a) it is the sole owner of, or has obtained all necessary licenses, permissions, and consents with respect to, the submitted materials; (b) the submission does not and will not infringe, misappropriate, or otherwise violate any intellectual property rights, proprietary rights, or other rights of any third party; and (c) no employer, academic institution, or other entity has any claim to or interest in the submission, or, if such rights exist, the participant has obtained all required authorizations and releases permitting the submission and any subsequent use in connection with the Accelerator. Each participant is solely responsible for conducting all due diligence necessary to confirm the foregoing prior to submission, including determining ownership arrangements among team members and securing any consents required from employers, institutions, or co-contributors. Neither AACOM nor BeMyApp assumes any responsibility for verifying participant rights in submitted materials.