

# College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Clyde B. Jensen, Ph.D.,** *President*  
**Jan G. Womack, Ph.D.,** *Vice President of Administrative Services*  
**Jack R. Wolfe, D.O.,** *Dean of Academic Affairs*  
**Robert C. Ritter, Ph.D.,** *Associate Dean of Preclinical Education*  
**Larry D. Cherry, D.O.,** *Assistant Dean of Clinical Education*  
**Thomas R. Pickard, D.O.,** *Interim Assistant Dean of Postdoctoral Education*  
**Richard A. Wansley, Ph.D.,** *Assistant Dean of Research, Sponsored Programs, and Service*  
**Daniel E. Overack, Ph.D.,** *Assistant Dean of Students*

The College of Osteopathic Medicine was founded in 1972 in response to a physician shortage in the state. The College opened its doors in 1974 and graduated its first class in 1977. In 1988, the College was merged with Oklahoma State University and continues to prepare students to be primary care physicians with emphasis in rural medicine. The College's campus, a modern, three-building complex, is located on a sixteen-acre site on the west bank of the Arkansas River, just minutes from downtown Tulsa.

Although still addressing the needs of Oklahoma, the College has broadened its service area to include Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, and southwest Missouri.

In 1981, the College opened a clinical teaching facility a half-mile south of the main campus. The College Clinic, which sees approximately 1,800 patients a month, is both a teaching clinic for medical students and a health care resource for residents of the west Tulsa area. The Clinic provides comprehensive health care and is staffed by licensed osteopathic physicians who supervise students in the care of patients.

## Osteopathic Medicine

Promoting a holistic approach to health care, osteopathic physicians treat the entire patient, not just symptoms, and traditionally have excelled in general and family health care. The doctor of osteopathy is a fully-trained physician who prescribes drugs, performs surgery, and selectively utilizes all accepted scientific modalities to maintain and restore health. They are licensed to practice all phases of medicine (including surgery), and offer their patients an added dimension of health care through osteopathic manipulation, a hands-on technique that uses palpation and manipulative procedures of the musculoskeletal system to diagnose illness and treat patients. Osteopathic medicine embraces the philosophy that the human body is a balance of individual components that interact through the musculoskeletal system.

## Minimum Admission Requirements

At time of application, the applicant must have an overall grade-point average of at least 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) and a preprofessional science GPA of at least 2.75.

At the time of entry, the applicant must have completed:

1. At least three years (90 hours) and not less than 75 percent of the courses required for the baccalaureate degree at a regionally-accredited college or university;
2. A full academic year sequence (generally eight to ten hours) with no grade below a "C" (2.00 on 4.00 scale) in each of the following subjects: English, biology, general chemistry, organic chemistry, and physics;
3. The following courses are strongly recommended: biochemistry, comparative anatomy, embryology, microbiology.

Applicants must take the Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). They are encouraged to take the examination in the spring prior to applying; however, fall scores are acceptable. Applicants taking the MCAT in the spring after application are at a distinct disadvantage because no offer of admission can be made until the College receives test results.

All applicants from Oklahoma and the regional service area (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas, and southwest Missouri) who have fulfilled these requirements will be invited to an on-campus interview. Select applicants from outside the region will be invited to an interview as well. Applicants must participate in the interview to qualify for further consideration. Interview results and other data submitted will be considered when determining which applicants have demonstrated appropriate levels of scholarship, aptitude, and motivation for admission to the program. Class size is limited to 88 students.

The annual application deadline is March 1.

## College Curriculum

Divided into Preclinical and Clinical Education, the curriculum at the College emphasizes general practice. The four-year program uses a coordinated, spiraling systems approach in which subject matter is continuously re-introduced in greater depth and complexity.

The first year of study concentrates on the basic sciences and preliminary clinical concepts. Preparation of the student for early patient contact requires selective background in anatomy, physiology, behavioral science, techniques of physical examination, diagnosis and patient interview, and recognition of normal and abnormal patterns of physical conditions and disease. The next three semesters emphasize the interdisciplinary study of the structure and function of body systems. In addition, students are introduced to specialized clinical care and medical procedures related to each body system.

The final sixteen months of the program are devoted exclusively to clinical rotations, where stu-



dents work with patients under physician-faculty supervision. The student rotates through basic hospital services, including general medicine, surgery, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics, internal medicine, and emergency room, and spends a few weeks at a small rural hospital, major urban hospital, primary care clinic, psychiatric facility, community health facility, office of a private physician, and one elective location.

Students graduate from the four-year program with the Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.) degree. Following graduation, students are required by state licensing boards to complete at least a one-year rotating internship approved by the American Osteopathic Association. Those who wish to specialize enter a residency program following the internship. Graduates are eligible to be licensed to practice as soon as they complete the internship.

Detailed information on the College of Osteopathic Medicine can be found in the College's academic catalog, available from the College:

College of Osteopathic Medicine of Oklahoma State University  
 1111 West 17th Street  
 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74107  
 (918) 582-1972

## Affiliated Institutions

Students gain clinical training beginning in their second year at COM-OSU, working under physician supervision in small community hospitals, with private practitioners, in major hospitals, at the College Clinic, and in Indian Health Service hospitals. To demonstrate the diversity of clinical experience



students receive, listed below are some of the College's affiliated institutions:

- Tulsa Regional Medical Center, 533 beds
- Dallas Forth Worth Medical Center, 377 beds
- Charles Still Hospital (Jefferson City, MO ), 184 beds
- Riverside Hospital (Wichita, KS ), 87 beds
- Claremore Health Center, 74 beds
- Guymon Memorial Hospital, 53 beds
- Tahlequah City Hospital, 51 beds
- Hominy City Hospital, 26 beds

### Physician Placement

The College maintains close contact with its graduates and can offer assistance in setting up a practice following the graduate's internship and residency training. The physician placement officer helps to assess the physician need in a community, estimates costs of establishing and operating a practice, and matches physicians to communities where both the community and the physician will benefit.

### Selection Factors

The College considers applications for admission from all qualified candidates without regard to age, sex, creed, race, or national origin. Strong preference is given to Oklahoma residents and

residents from the regional service area of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas and southwest Missouri. Those who have experienced unequal educational opportunities for social, cultural or racial reasons are particularly urged to apply. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or have obtained permanent resident status to be considered.

### Accreditation

The College is accredited by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the Bureau of Professional Education of the American Osteopathic Association, the recognized accrediting agency for institutions that educate osteopathic physicians.

### Financial Aid

The college employs a full-time financial aid officer who works to ensure that students are not prevented from attending the College because of finances. The primary purpose of the College's aid program is to provide financial assistance to students who would otherwise be unable to afford tuition.

Although the principal responsibility for financing an education remains with the student and his or her family, the College will work to offer campus-based aid to supplement that contribution.

Because the number of applicants and their total requests each year exceed the resources available, a selection process is necessary to see that the most deserving and best qualified students have first claim on available resources. Financial aid options include loans, scholarships, and grants, as well as work/study programs and return service agreements.

A Family Financial Statement and other required applications are available at the College.

### Honor and Service Organizations

- American College of General Practitioners - Undergraduate Chapter
- Atlas Fraternity (social)
- Christian Medical Society
- Delta Omega (national osteopathic sorority)
- Geriatric Medicine Club
- Inter-Club Council
- Minority Student Organization
- Osteopathic Sports Medicine Society
- Sigma Sigma Phi (honor society)
- Society for the Advancement of Osteopathic Medicine
- Student Associate Auxiliary
- Student Osteopathic Medical Association
- Undergraduate American Academy of Osteopathy