

Requirements and Statistics for Osteopathic Medicine Programs, DO

Osteopathic Medical School

“D.O. stands for Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine. The Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine is a fully trained physician who prescribes drugs, performs surgery and selectively utilizes all accepted scientific methods of treatment to maintain and restore health. D.O.s graduate from colleges of osteopathic medicine and are qualified to be licensed to practice all branches of medicine and surgery in all 50 states. D.O.s employ the osteopathic philosophy which states that D.O.s treat disease in the context of the whole person, considering the function and interrelation of all body systems, as well as such factors as nutrition, environment and psychology. D.O.s also believe that the musculoskeletal system can impede essential blood and nerve supply. To correct disorders that arise from this and restore proper functioning, D.O.s use manipulative therapy as an additional modality of treatment.” – Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine

- The Osteopathic method of medicine was developed by A.T. Still, an American doctor during the War Between the States. Three of Still’s children died of meningitis during the war, so he strove to find a better alternative way to practice medicine. He founded the first Osteopathic school in 1892.
- Required and recommended courses are the same as for Allopathic Medical Schools.
- Most schools require a letter of recommendation from a D.O.
- Can attend residencies for allopathic doctors as well as those specifically for osteopathic doctors
- Most new medical schools are osteopathic schools

Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine – Carolinas Campus (VCOM-CC) (Spartanburg, SC)

- Recommend: Biochemistry, Molecular Genetics, Genetics, Behavioral Sciences, Math/Statistics
- VCOM requires six additional hours of upper-level biomedical science including, but not limited to: biochemistry, immunology, genetics, microbiology, anatomy and physiology.
- 2010 Admissions data:
 - Average Science GPA: 3.50
 - Average overall GPA: 3.54
 - Average MCAT score: 24.4 O
 - Tuition: \$35,277
- There is an early decision track for qualified applicants with a GPA over 3.50

Georgia Campus – Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (GA-PCOM):

- Recommend: Biochemistry (Strongly recommended), Genetics, Behavioral Sciences, Math/Statistics
- 2008 Admissions data:
 - Science GPA: 3.32
 - Overall GPA: 3.43
 - MCAT: 26
 - Tuition: \$38,625

Lincoln Memorial University’s Debusk College of Osteopathic Medicine:

- Letters of Recommendation:
 - One from a D.O
 - One Pre-medical Committee letter or two letters from science professors
- Admissions factors: GPA, MCAT, and grades in prerequisite courses weigh more heavily
 - National Average for MCAT takers is 24 – this score or greater is considered competitive

2010 Tuition: \$34,728