

General Admission Requirements

You've made the decision to apply to osteopathic medical school. Just what are the admissions committees and interviewers looking for in a prospective student?

Admission to osteopathic medical school is competitive. Of those applying in the 2007 application cycle, the average (mean) MCAT scores were 7.60 verbal, 7.46 physical sciences and 8.30 biological sciences. The average (mean) overall grade point average was 3.35 and the average science grade point average was 3.20. Generally, MCAT scores and grade point averages are slightly higher for matriculating students than scores reported for the overall applicant pool.

In terms of academics, osteopathic medical schools are looking for an academic record that indicates you have the aptitude and the knowledge base to successfully complete the medical school curriculum.

Just as important are the personal qualities you bring to the table. Osteopathic medical schools are looking for students who:

- Are well-rounded
- Have good communication and interpersonal skills
- Have a record of community service
- Have a record of leadership
- Have some clinical experience
- Have participated in a variety of extracurricular activities
- Come from diverse backgrounds
- Are motivated to pursue a career in osteopathic medicine
- Have knowledge of osteopathic medicine
- Have shadowed an osteopathic physician

Osteopathic medical schools also have a long tradition of accepting nontraditional students who may be looking at osteopathic medicine as a new career later in life. These students constitute approximately 25 percent of the osteopathic medical school student body across the country.

Nearly all students who apply to osteopathic medical school have a bachelor's degree. There are a few exceptions for students in special programs that have prior arrangements with osteopathic medical schools. Many applicants have earned a master's degree or doctorate in another subject area before applying to osteopathic medical school.

Many public osteopathic medical schools are mandated by state legislature to admit a certain percentage of in-state residents to each entering class. Contact the colleges in which you are interested for more information.

The application cycle will be open by June 1 and ends April 1. Deadlines vary by college, so make sure to confirm deadlines for the schools to which you are applying (see page 18).

Grade Point Averages for Entering Students

Group	GPA		
	2004	2005	2006
Science	3.33	3.36	3.36
Non-Science	3.53	3.54	3.55
Mean GPA	3.43	3.44	3.45

Average (Mean) Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) Scores for Entering Students

Mean MCAT	2004	2005	2006
Biological Science	8.53	8.64	8.77
Physical Science	7.89	8.04	8.14
Verbal Reasoning	8.24	8.31	8.40
Writing Sample			
J (Lowest)	0.1%	0.4%	0.2%
K	1.6%	1.4%	1.5%
L	6.1%	5.4%	5.5%
M	20.0%	20.5%	20.5%
N	14.7%	12.8%	14.7%
O	17.5%	17.0%	18.5%
P	12.5%	12.9%	13.0%
Q	16.2%	18.5%	16.7%
R	7.0%	7.4%	6.6%
S	2.1%	2.3%	1.9%
T (Highest)	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%
Unknown	1.3%	1.1%	0.7%
Number of Scores Reported	3,536	3,797	3,928

Note: Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.
Source: American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

Criminal Background Checks

Over the course of the past several years, some state legislatures have considered or enacted legislation requiring criminal background checks for all medical students. Additionally, affiliated hospitals and clinical institutions of many medical schools have considered policies requiring criminal background checks for medical students completing clinical rotations at their facilities. Currently, the Department of Veterans



Affairs mandates that all medical students involved in patient care at their hospitals undergo criminal background checks.

In large part, the movement toward criminal background checks across the health professions is based on strengthening the public's trust in the medical profession. In addition, criminal background checks enhance the safety and well-being of patients; aid in the applicants' and enrolled medical students' ability to eventually become licensed as physicians, and minimize the liability of medical schools and their affiliated clinical facilities.

While a criminal background check is not part of the AACOMAS application for the 2009 cycle, many medical schools are requiring criminal background checks of all matriculating students.

When an individual applies through the AACOMAS application process, the applicant will be asked to disclose information regarding prior criminal offenses. Failure to accurately and truthfully disclose such offenses on the AACOMAS application may result in an offer of admission being rescinded or, if the omission is discovered after enrollment in medical school, in the enrollment being cancelled. In addition to the information collected on the AACOMAS application, many osteopathic medical colleges are requiring candidates to submit to a criminal background check prior to matriculation, prior to the start of clinical rotations, or at some other specified time. It is your responsibility to become aware and informed of what will be required of you during the application process.

Criminal Background Check Requirements for Matriculation (subject to change by college)

College	Criminal background check required for 2009 application cycle?	Do you require Drug Testing prior to matriculation? At any other times?
A.T. Still University Kirksville COM	Yes. Accepted students must submit PreCheck criminal background check within 30 days of signature on admissions agreement.	No.
A.T. Still University SOM-Arizona	Yes. Accepted students must submit PreCheck criminal background check within 30 days of signature on admissions agreement.	No.
Arizona COM of Midwestern University	Yes.	Any student who attends class or a rotation or is on the premises of a facility affiliated with Midwestern University while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is subject to an immediate drug screen for cause, and possible disciplinary action, including suspension.
Chicago COM of Midwestern University	Yes.	Yes. Repeated if required by a specific rotation site in 3rd and 4th year.
Des Moines University COM	Yes. After acceptance, but prior to matriculation. Cost is covered by applicant.	No. Not at this time.
Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences COM	Yes. Must provide criminal background check prior to matriculation with KCUMB approved vendor.	No drug testing prior to matriculation.
Lake Erie COM-Erie	Yes. Accepted students are required to submit a criminal background check prior to matriculation. The cost is covered by the applicant.	Yes. Drug and alcohol testing is required as a part of the student health and immunization records submission. Additional testing may be required for clinical rotations as requested by specific rotation sites.
Lake Erie COM-Bradenton	Yes. Accepted students are required to submit a criminal background check prior to matriculation. The cost is covered by the applicant.	Yes. Drug and alcohol testing is required as a part of the student health and immunization records submission. Additional testing may be required for clinical rotations as requested by specific rotation sites.
Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk COM	Yes. Prior to matriculation and again prior to the start of clinical rotations.	Yes. Prior to matriculation and again prior to the start of clinical rotations.
Michigan State University COM	No. Criminal background checks are required for all students during Spring semester of the 2nd year, prior to beginning hospital rotations.	No. During the 2nd year of medical school and randomly throughout the 3rd and 4th years.
New York COM of NYIT	No. Background checks are conducted prior to clinical rotations. Accepted students are informed of this and required to sign an acceptance form acknowledging this information.	Policy at: www.nyit.edu/about/general/pdfs/drugandalcohol.pdf
Nova Southeastern University COM	Yes.	Not prior to matriculation. Yes. At the end of the 2nd year.
Ohio University COM	Yes. All students will be required to submit to an FBI criminal background check at the time of matriculation and in the 3rd year prior to the start of clerkship.	No. Not at this time.
Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences COM	No. Student background checks are conducted prior to beginning 3rd year clinical rotations. Upon acceptance, incoming students sign an acknowledgement of the pending background check.	No. Not at this time.
Pacific NW University of Health Sciences COM	Yes. Prior to matriculation through www.MyBackgroundCheck.com	Yes. Prior to matriculation as part of the physical exam. Also repeated prior to clinical rotations.

Criminal Background Check Requirements for Matriculation (continued)

College	Criminal background check required for 2009 application cycle?	Do you require Drug Testing prior to matriculation? At any other times?
Philadelphia COM	Yes. PCOM uses preCheck for this process.	Not prior to matriculation. The campus Dean of the College may require a currently enrolled student to submit to confidential assessment/scanning based on reasonable suspicion of impairment. Institutional policy is found in the PCOM student handbook.
Georgia Campus-Philadelphia COM	Yes. PCOM uses preCheck for this process.	Not prior to matriculation. The campus Dean of the College may require a currently enrolled student to submit to confidential assessment/scanning based on reasonable suspicion of impairment. Institutional policy is found in the PCOM student handbook.
Pikeville College SOM	Yes. Through our contracted vendor: Verified Credentials, Inc. At www.myvci.com/pikeville	Yes. Each student will be drug tested after matriculation and before beginning clinical rotations.
Rocky Vista University COM	Yes.	Yes. Additional testing may be required during the 3rd and 4th year upon request by clinical sites.
Touro COM-NY	Yes.	No.
Touro University COM-CA	As a part of professionalism, you may be required to submit to a background check at your expense either prior to or during your enrollment at Touro University - California. Facts uncovered as a result of a background check performed while you are enrolled that would preclude licensure and/or practice in the profession may be sufficient grounds to impact your ability to continue your education.	No. TUCOM-CA does not require drug testing prior to matriculation. Some rotation sites, however, may require students to pass such a test prior to commencing their rotations. Such requirements are communicated to students wishing to rotate at those locations.
Touro University Nevada COM-NV	Yes. A criminal background check will be required of all accepted candidates prior to matriculation	Yes. Prior to start of the 3 rd year.
University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-SOM	Yes. All students accepted to UMDNJ-SOM are required to submit to a criminal background check.	No. Drug testing is currently not required prior to matriculation.
University of New England COM	Yes. A background check will be required of all accepted candidates prior to matriculation and again prior to the start of clinical rotations.	No.
University of North Texas Health Science Center/Texas COM	No. However, students are subject to criminal background checks during their enrollment.	No. However, clinical affiliates may have their own policy for students who are on rotation. In addition, students who enter drug or alcohol treatment programs while enrolled may be required to submit to testing as part of that program.
Edward Via Virginia COM	Yes. All applicants who are offered and accept their seat in the Class of 2013 will be required to submit a criminal background check. The CBC must be submitted at the same time as the tuition deposit.	At the request of our clinical sites, VCOM requires drug screening prior to initiation of any clinical training. This is subject to change based on the requirements set forth by the clinical training sites. The student may also be required to submit to drug and or alcohol testing based on reasonable suspicion.
West Virginia SOM	No. However, students are subject to criminal background checks prior to 3 rd year clinical rotations.	No. However, students are subject to drug testing prior to 3 rd year clinical rotations.
Western University of Health Sciences-COM of the Pacific	Yes. All applicants who accept our offer of admissions will be required to submit a criminal background check. Due to hospital requirements, a second background check may be necessary.	No.

Applications, First-Year Enrollment, Total Enrollment and Graduates

COLLEGE	2005-06				2006-07			
	Applications	First-Year Enrollment	Total Enrollment	Graduates	Applications	First-Year Enrollment	Total Enrollment	Graduates
ATSU/KCOM	2,621	175	670	155	2,877	174	683	162
AZCOM	2,359	166	574	136	2,680	155	583	137
CCOM	3,197	182	690	15	3,739	183	690	179
DMU-COM	2,368	219	817	198	2,660	218	814	185
KCUMB-COM	2,228	251	940	204	2,507	267	967	227
LECOM	2,497	231	885	183	2,980	236	900	230
LECOM-Bradenton	1,746	166	323	na	na	163	475	na
MSUCOM	1,923	205	616	108	na	220	708	132
NYCOM/NYIT	3,285	321	1,176	252	3,828	297	1,220	305
NSU-COM	2,542	246	822	165	na	244	884	187
OUCOM	2,338	115	431	431	na	109	428	104
OSU-COM	1,238	93	352	92	1,451	93	352	92
PCOM	3,825	275	1,041	242	4,397	274	1,046	na
GA-PCOM	1,682	83	83	na	2,234	86	169	na
PCSOM	1,476	80	278	56	1,742	80	301	71
TUCOM-CA	2,091	135	533	110	na	135	549	142
TUNCOM-NV	1,509	108	184	na	na	134	320	na
UMDNJ-SOM	2,401	102	384	89	2,808	108	398	95
UNECOM	2,443	125	499	108	2,894	123	496	111
UNTHSC/TCOM	1,701	140	520	114	na	161	555	127
VCOM	1,673	160	467	na	na	162	607	144
WVSOM	1,635	111	397	82	2,307	196	502	102
WesternU/COMP	2,321	219	724	151	na	216	762	148
Total	51,099	3,908	13,406	2,708	39,104	4,034	14,409	3,119

Source: Annual Statistical Report on Osteopathic Medical Education, 2006, 2007 (in