

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO THE COCA 2023

The Nominations Committee of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) is seeking nomination of qualified candidates who are interested in appointment to serve on the COCA.

The COCA is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the accreditation authority for colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs) in the United States. The twenty-one Commissioners of the COCA set and enforce accreditation standards; consider and adjudicate applications for the establishment of new COMs, branch campuses, and additional locations; and evaluate periodic reviews of existing COMs. Commissioners serve for three-year terms and can serve a maximum of three terms, except for the two COM Student Commissioners, who serve for one two-year term each. The COCA membership includes the following positions:

- 4 COM Deans
- 2 Graduate Medical Education Leaders
- 3 Public Members
- 4 Osteopathic Physicians at Large
- 1 Physician Member of a State Medical Licensing Board
- 2 COM Students (nominated by student groups COSGP and SOMA)
- 1 Biomedical Science Faculty Member at a COM (not a Dean)
- 1 Clinical Science Faculty Member of a COM (not a Dean)
- 1 Hospital or Medical Clinic Administrator
- 1 Student Services Representative from a COM
- 1 DO Resident/Fellow or Physician in Practice less than Five Years

Each of these positions is defined in the [*COCA Handbook*](#).

The COCA meets in multi-day sessions (three to four days) in April, August, and December, and one day in June. One - two meetings are in person; the others are held virtually. Additionally, COCA commissioners are expected to serve on standing and/or ad hoc committees to address specific areas of accreditation activity. For further information regarding the COCA, please visit: <https://aoacoca.org>

The President-elect of the American Osteopathic Association, with approval of the Board of Trustees, makes appointments to the COCA at the conclusion of the AOA Annual Meeting in July. Nominations will be accepted for the following position for three-year terms starting November 15, 2023:

1 Public Member

Nomination Process: The VP of Accreditation, Interim COCA Secretary will receive nominations from the osteopathic community and the public and deliver them to the COCA Nominations Committee. The COCA Nominations Committee will review all nominations and develop a slate of nominees which will then be forwarded to the COCA for concurrence. Upon approval, the list of nominees will be forwarded to the incoming AOA President. The AOA Board of Trustees will then follow the procedures for appointment of members to AOA bureaus, councils, and committees in providing final approval of nominees.

All persons interested in seeking an appointment to the COCA should submit their nomination (either through a third party or self-nominated), including a current curriculum vitae and a letter of interest that includes eligibility requirements according to the definitions listed above and the position you are applying for, to the COCA Secretary:

Genie James, MMSc
Vice President of Accreditation & Interim COCA Secretary
American Osteopathic Association
142 E. Ontario Street
Chicago, IL 60611

Electronic submissions are highly encouraged. Please submit electronic submissions to: predoc@osteopathic.org.

*This vacancy is the result of a COCA member resignation. Vacancies in a COCA member position will be filled in the same manner as described above. A newly appointed commissioner will fill the remaining time in the unexpired term and may be considered for reappointment at the culmination of the term, July 31, 2026. The reappointment will be considered as their first term.

The COCA encourages qualified applicants from all facets of the diverse osteopathic community to apply, including those whose life experiences and cultural background would enhance the distinct perspectives represented on the commission.

Application Deadline: Saturday, September 16, 2023.

All appointments will be announced shortly after a final decision has been made. Upon appointment, the appointed individuals are expected to attend the next COCA meeting as well as a mandatory virtual orientation.

The COCA meeting calendar is available [here](#).