

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO THE COCA FY 2027

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. The August, December, and April meetings are held in-person at the AOA headquarters in Chicago, IL. The June meeting is virtual. All COCA commissioners are expected to serve on standing and/or ad hoc committees to address specific areas of accreditation activity.

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 positions for three-year terms starting August 1, 2026:

- 2 GME Leaders*
- 1 State Medical Licensing Board*
- 1 COM Dean
- 1 Hospital Administrator

1 COM Student (Nominated by SOMA)

Nomination Process

The 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 individuals 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:

Dan Mendelson, MEd, CAE
COCA Secretary & Vice President, Standards
American Osteopathic Association
142 E. Ontario Street
Chicago, IL 60611

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

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: Wednesday March 25, 2026.

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](#).

For further information regarding the COCA, please visit: <https://aoacoca.org>

*The current three-year term associated with each of these positions will end on July 31, 2026. Commissioners currently serving on the COCA who have not reached the three-term limit are eligible for reapplication and consideration for appointment to these positions on the COCA.