



AMERICAN  
OSTEOPATHIC  
ASSOCIATION

# The Evolution of Osteopathic Medicine

Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine, commonly known as DOs, represent more than 11 percent of the physician workforce in the United States. In 2023, one in four US medical students was enrolled in an osteopathic medical school.



VIRGINIA

Founder, Andrew Taylor Still, DO, is born.

August 6  
1828

1853

Dr. Still moves to Kansas to help his father provide care for Native Americans and soon receives training to become a physician.



1857

Dr. Still is elected to Kansas' territorial legislature.

1860

Dr. Still marries Mary Elvira Turner, known as the mother of osteopathic medicine.



1861

Dr. Still serves in the Union Army and is distraught by the medical care and effects of opium.

1864

Four children of Dr. Still's die within four weeks, prompting him to rethink his medical training.



June 22  
1874

After years of study and research, Dr. Still develops what would become osteopathic medicine.

1875

Dr. Still moves to Kirksville, Missouri to work as a traveling physician.



1880s

Dr. Still's reputation grows, and he coins the term "osteopathy."

1892

ATSU opens as the American School of Osteopathy (ASO) in Kirksville, with A.T. Still, DO, as the first president.



1894

The Journal of Osteopathy is launched in Kirksville and prints until 1964.

1896

Vermont is the first state to license osteopathic physicians for medical practice.



1897

The American Association for the Advancement of Osteopathy (now the American Osteopathic Association) was established.

December 12  
1917

Dr. Still dies at age 89 in Kirksville, Missouri.



1922

The Andrew Taylor Still College of Osteopathy and Surgery (ATSCOS), is founded by George M. Laughlin, DO.

1951

U.S. Congress amends the Social Security Act to include osteopathic physicians.



1967

DO graduates participate in the military residency match for the first time.

1973

The DO degree is recognized in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.



2005

Louisiana becomes the 50th state to accept the COMLEX examination.

2014

Transition to a single accreditation system for graduate medical education is announced.



2016

The number of DOs in the U.S. surpasses 100,000.

2017

125th anniversary of the opening of the first college of osteopathic medicine.



One in 4 U.S. medical students attends an osteopathic school.

2020

The successful transition to a single GME accreditation system is completed. First combined DO and MD Match takes place

The number of DOs and osteopathic medical students surpasses 150,000.

150,000

2023

47 countries vote to support practice rights for DOs.



2024

Celebrating 150 years of osteopathic medicine.

