



Honorary Doctoral Degree Policy

Scope of This Policy

This policy states the COCA's position on whether a COM can award an honorary doctoral degree.

Policy Position

To maintain the integrity and academic standards of its accredited programs of osteopathic medicine, the COCA prohibits awarding honorary Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine/Doctor of Osteopathy (DO or HonDO) degrees. While honorary degrees may serve as a means of recognizing individuals, they are susceptible to misunderstanding, misuse, and abuse. They may undermine the credibility and value of an earned DO degree.