



## Research Policy

### **Scope of This Policy**

This policy addresses the use of information collected as part of the accreditation processes for internal or external research purposes.

### **Research**

The Department of Accreditation staff may conduct research, or contract with a third party to conduct research with the approval of the COCA, based on confidential information in a de-identified form contained in annual reports, self-study documents, and site visit reports. The source documents used for such research may not be shared or made available to other individuals or organizations. Data obtained from the annual reports may be shared or made available to other individuals or organizations to the extent that confidentiality requirements and data-sharing agreements of the American Osteopathic Association, as the sponsoring organization, permits.