

COMMISSION ON OSTEOPATHIC COLLEGE ACCREDITATION
Thomas A. Cavalieri, DO, FACOI, Chair

This report is for the period from June 1, 2012 through May 31, 2013. During this period the AOA Commission on Osteopathic Accreditation (COCA) met three times: September 8-9, 2012; December 1-2, 2012; and May 4-5, 2013.

COCA meeting September 2012

The COCA met on September 8-9, 2012 at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel (Chicago, IL). On September 6, an orientation session was conducted for one newly appointed COCA member. Accreditation action items for the meeting agenda included:

- ❑ One comprehensive site visit report was reviewed and accepted from the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Philadelphia, Penn.) and its branch Georgia Campus-Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Suwanee, Ga.)
- ❑ Continuing Accreditation was granted to the following COM: Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Philadelphia, Pa.) and its branch Georgia Campus-Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Suwanee, Ga.)
- ❑ Three reports from focused site visits were reviewed and accepted: Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine-Bradenton (Bradenton, Fla.); Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine (New York); and William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Hattiesburg, Miss.).
- ❑ One comprehensive site visit report from branch campus visit was reviewed and accepted: Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine-Carolinas (Spartanburg, S.C.).
- ❑ Twenty-one (21) progress reports were reviewed and accepted from: Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (Dothan, Ala.); Campbell University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Buies Creek, N.C.); Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Des Moines, Iowa) – 2 reports; Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine (Kansas City, Mo.); Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (Erie, Penn.) – 3 reports; Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (Harrogate, Tenn.); Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Indianapolis, Ind.); Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (East Lansing, Mich.); Midwestern University/Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (Downers Grove, Ill.); Nova Southeastern University, College of Osteopathic Medicine (Fort Lauderdale, Fla.); Ohio University – Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (Athens, Ohio); Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine (Tulsa, Okla.); Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, Wash.); University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – School of Osteopathic Medicine (Stratford, N.J.) – 2 reports; University of North Texas Health Science Center – Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (Fort Worth, TX); Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine-Virginia (Blacksburg, Va.); and William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine.
- ❑ One special report was reviewed and accepted from the Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, Wash.).
- ❑ One request for substantive change – curriculum - was reviewed and denied for the Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine (Tulsa, Okla.).
- ❑ One request for substantive change – class size increase – was reviewed and denied for Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Parker, Colo.).

- ❑ One request for substantive change – mission – was reviewed and denied for the Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine (New York).
- ❑ One additional location was added to parent’s accreditation – Western University of Health Sciences/College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific-Northwest (Lebanon, Ore.)
- ❑ Five mid-cycle reports were reviewed and accepted: Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Des Moines, Iowa); Ohio University-Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (Athens, Ohio); Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Vallejo, Calif.) and its branch campus Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine (Henderson, Nev.); University of Pikeville-Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (Pikeville, Ky.); and Western University of Health Sciences/College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (Pomona, Calif.). Additional information was requested from 2 COMs.
- ❑ Annual reports were received and accepted from all 26 COMs; additional information was requested from 6 of the COMs.

Discussion on policy items for the agenda resulted in the following actions:

- ❑ Approved an e-Accreditation work plan to establish a data warehouse, developed in conjunction with the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) to serve the needs of a single data collection point from the COMs, meet the accreditation needs of the COCA, and meet the research needs of the AACOM;
- ❑ Approved the COM Appeal Panel composition for the academic year 2012-2013;
- ❑ Approved Standard Review Committee’s work plan for the academic year 2012 - 2013;
- ❑ Approved standards survey work plan for an analysis to be made in the fall 2012 – winter 2013 period;
- ❑ Reviewed ten individuals for addition to the Evaluators Registry with approval of eight of the individuals;
- ❑ Reviewed two members of the Evaluators Registry and approved their advancement to Team Chair status.

COCA meeting December 2012

The COCA met on December 1-2, 2012 at the O’Hare Hilton Hotel (Chicago, IL). Accreditation action items for the agenda included:

- ❑ One Pre-accreditation site visit report was reviewed and accepted from Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Lynchburg, Va.);
- ❑ Pre-accreditation status was granted to the following COM: Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Lynchburg, Va.), to become effective at such time as the documents described in the requirements are executed with signatures from all parties on the agreements. Those documents were executed as of December 7, 2012, thus making it effective date of Pre-accreditation status.
- ❑ Two reports from focused site visit were reviewed and accepted: Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences - College of Osteopathic Medicine (Kansas City, Mo.) and Ohio University–Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (Athens and Dublin, Ohio);
- ❑ One request for substantive change – clock hours to credit hours – was reviewed and granted for A.T. Still University Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (Kirksville, Mo.);
- ❑ One *de novo* request for substantive change - class size increase – was reviewed and denied for Rocky Vista University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Parker, Colo.);

- ❑ One request for substantive change - class size increase – was reviewed and granted for Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, Wash.);

- ❑ One *de novo* request for substantive change – curriculum – was reviewed and granted for Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Tulsa, Okla.);
- ❑ One *de novo* request for substantive change – mission – was reviewed and granted for Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine (New York, N.Y.);
- ❑ One request for substantive change – additional location and class size increase – was reviewed and deferred for Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine (Middletown, N.Y.);
- ❑ Nine (9) progress reports were reviewed and accepted from: Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (Dothan, Ala.); Campbell University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Buies Creek, N.C.); Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Des Moines, Iowa); Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (Harrogate, Tenn.); Marian University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Indianapolis, Ind.); Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, Wash.); Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine (New York, N.Y.); University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – School of Osteopathic Medicine (Stratford, N.J.); and William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Hattiesburg, Miss.)
- ❑ Two special reports were reviewed and accepted from the following COMs: Pacific Northwest University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Yakima, WA); Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Parker, Colo.)
- ❑ Six follow-up reports based upon review of the annual reports were reviewed and accepted for the following COMs: A.T. Still University, School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona (Mesa, Ariz.); Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Des Moines, Iowa); Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Vallejo, Calif.) and its branch campus Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine (Henderson, Nev.); University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine (Biddeford, Maine); University of Pikeville-Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (Pikeville, Ky.); and West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (Lewisburg, W.Va.)
- ❑ Two follow-up reports based upon review of the mid-cycle reports were reviewed and accepted for the: Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Vallejo, Calif.) and its branch campus Touro University Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine (Henderson, Nev.) and Western University of Health Sciences/College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (Pomona, Calif.).

Discussion on policy items for the agenda resulted in the following actions:

- ❑ Reviewed and approved the site visit schedule for 2014 to include 11 visits;
- ❑ Reviewed and amended the site visit schedule for 2013.
- ❑ Received a preliminary report of the COCA standards survey results;
- ❑ Received a letter from AACOM addressing the review of previous requests for revision of COCA documents and directed this letter to the Standards Review Committee;
- ❑ Received a written report and oral informational testimony from National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) representatives;
- ❑ Received a report on the AOA and AACOM discussions with the Accrediting Commission on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) to develop a unified accrediting system for graduate medical education, and asked that this topic be placed on the COCA agenda for discussion in executive session at its May 2013 meeting;
- ❑ Received a preliminary report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on the future of osteopathic medical education.

COCA meeting May 2013

The COCA met on May 4-5, 2013 at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel (Chicago, Ill). Accreditation action items for the agenda included:

- ❑ One report from the initial Provisional visit was reviewed and accepted for the Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Lynchburg, Va.);
- ❑ The initial award of Provisional accreditation was reviewed for the Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Lynchburg, Va.). The COCA decision was that the Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine was ready to advance in the awarding of Provisional Accreditation, to become effective at such time as Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges approves Liberty University's request for the substantive change to offer a DO degree. SACS-COC approved LUCOM's substantive change request on August 12, 2013. LUCOM's Provisional Accreditation status from COCA became effective August 12, 2013.
- ❑ One report from a comprehensive site visit for continuing Provisional Accreditation was reviewed and accepted for the William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Hattiesburg, Miss.);
- ❑ Continuing Provisional Accreditation status was granted to the William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Hattiesburg, Miss);
- ❑ One report from comprehensive branch campus visit was reviewed and approved for Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine-Carolinas (Spartanburg, S.C.);
- ❑ One report from a focused site visits was reviewed and accepted for: Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (Harrogate, Tenn.);
- ❑ Four (4) progress reports were reviewed and accepted for the: Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (Dothan, Ala.); Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine (Buies Creek, N.C.); Marian University – College of Osteopathic Medicine (Indianapolis, Ind.); Ohio University – Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (Athens, Ohio);
- ❑ One request for substantive change – additional location and class size increase – was reviewed and approved for Ohio University-Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (Athens, Ohio) with additional location in Warrensville Heights, Ohio;
- ❑ One deferred request for substantive change – additional location and class size increase – was reviewed and approved for Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine (New York, N.Y.) with additional location in Middletown, N.Y.;
- ❑ One request for substantive change – mission – was reviewed and approved for Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (Blacksburg, Va.);
- ❑ One request for reconsideration was heard and denied for Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (Parker, Colo.).
- ❑ Four mid-cycle reports were reviewed and accepted: Midwestern University/Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine (Downers Grove, Ill.); New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine (New York, N.Y.); Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine (Tulsa, Okla.); and West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine (Lewisburg, W.Va.). Additional information was requested from 1 COM;
- ❑ Annual reports were received and accepted from all 26 COMs; additional information was requested from 8 of the COMs.

Discussion on policy items for the agenda resulted in the following actions:

- ❑ Reviewed and approved the final technical language needed for implementation of new Standard Domain Eight: GME Outcomes to go into effect July 1, 2013. The addition of Standard Eight was initially approved at the April 2012 COCA meeting.
- ❑ Reviewed and approved addition of five individuals to the Registry of Evaluators.
- ❑ Reviewed the standards survey results;
- ❑ Reviewed and approved the standards revision work plan for the Standards Review Committee;
- ❑ Received the report in executive session on AOA and AACOM discussions with the Accrediting Commission on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) to develop a unified accrediting system for graduate medical education activities;
- ❑ Received oral remarks from AOA President Stowers regarding research strategies in the profession;
- ❑ Received and discussed a draft report of Blue Ribbon Commission on the future of osteopathic medical education with two representatives of the Blue Ribbon Commission.

COCA - Executive Committee (COCA – EC)

August 2012

The COCA-EC met in executive session by teleconference on August 24, 2012 and took the following actions:

- ❑ Reviewed the draft feasibility study analysis of a developing COM and approved the analysis report with authorization to schedule a site visit to review pre-accreditation.
- ❑ Reviewed a request to postpone a site visit to a COM and to postpone appearance of COM representatives before the COCA. The COCA-EC denied both requests.

Annual Report Review Committee

September 2012 Report – there was no report from the Annual Report Review Committee at this meeting.

December 2012 Report – there was no report from the Annual Report Review Committee at this meeting.

May 2012 Report - there was no report from the Annual Report Review Committee at this meeting.

COM Accreditation Appeal Panel

There were no appeals heard during this year.

Committee on College Accreditation Training (CCAT)

September 2012 –

The committee chair met with staff and CCAT members via teleconference on August 23, 2012 to review the draft agenda and propose potential speakers for the CCAT workshop, scheduled for Saturday/Sunday, November 10-11, 2012, in Washington, DC.

December 2012 Report –

The CCAT held its Evaluator Training Workshop on November 10-11, 2012, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel – Washington, DC-Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia. Themed, “*Evaluation Goals in 2012*,” the program focused on evaluating assessment outcomes and choosing the right communication approach to deliver assessment results. The workshop had a total of 73 registrants, including six COCA members, four CCAT members, and 2 guest speakers.

Participants attended four plenary sessions including:

1. **Examining “Best Practices” in Outcomes-based Assessment: Alignment? Analysis? Action? Accreditation?** - Speaker, Amy Driscoll, PhD, Consulting Scholar, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the New England Resource Center for Higher Education, provided techniques on “best practices” in outcomes-based assessment. Participants interacted with examples of “best practices” from the perspectives of both educators and accreditors for a deep understanding of the components of an assessment cycle.
2. **E-accreditation and Overview** - Speaker Konrad C. Miskowicz-Retz, PhD, CAE, Director, Department of Accreditation, AOA and Thomas Levitan, MEd, Vice President for Research and Application Services, AACOM, discussed electronic media and its application to both organizations. Dr. Miskowicz-Retz addressed the future transition of COCA to E-accreditation, its benefits, and what can be expected by both evaluators and COMs. Dr. Levitan addressed the future transition of AACOM to electronic media and its benefits related to data compilation and presentation for COMs, COCA and the public.
3. **Frequently Missed Standards** - Speaker Kenneth J. Veit, DO, MBA, FACOFP, COCA Commissioner, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, addressed standards often missed by evaluators with the goal of examining divergent interpretations and reaching consensus.
4. **What’s New/What’s Coming – GME Standards, Standards Survey and Work Plan of Standards Review Committee** - Speaker Konrad Miskowicz-Retz, PhD, CAE, provided an update on the new and revised standards. Speaker Andrea Williams, MA, Director, Division of Predoctoral Education, AOA, discussed the current status of the standards survey. Speaker Ronnie B. Martin, DO, FACOFP, COCA Commissioner and Chair, Standards Review Committee, addressed the changes to the Standards from the committee’s perspective.

The afternoon of Day One of the program featured six breakout sessions that included: a session for preclinical and clinical evaluators that focused on reaching consensus on Faculty Adequacy Models; a session for preclinical evaluators that focused on research adequacy and faculty development program; a session for clinical evaluators that focused on clinical adequacy, GME adequacy, and core competencies and phone interviews at distant clinical sites; a session for student services that focused on the nondiscrimination statement, off campus policies, FERPA and Standard 5.5; a session for team chairs that focused on effectively delivering news, which was presented by guest speaker, Dorothy Pirovano, APR, CEO, Public Communications, Inc.; and a session for new evaluators that focused on training for new evaluators.

May 2013 Report –

There was no report from the Committee on College Accreditation Training at this meeting.

COCA Standards Review Committee (SRC)

September 2012 Report – there was no SRC report at this meeting

December 2012 Report –

The Standards Review Committee met by teleconference on October 2, 2012. The discussion by the SRC during the teleconference resulted in the following topics being proposed for a work plan:

- ❑ Priority One: Standard Two: Governance, Administration and Finance – review and revise domain with content emphasis on standards that address COM leadership and identification of the differences in the institutional accreditation concerns vs. programmatic accreditation concerns;
- ❑ Priority Two: Standard Eight: GME Outcomes (effective July 1, 2013) – define terms in 8.3 and 8.5; review and determine reporting and monitoring and assigning standards to particular members of site visit team for review;

- ❑ Priority Three: SOMA Request – Gender identity – review current language in standards; review recommendations from Student Services Evaluators; review with legal counsel.
- ❑ Priority Four: Standards Survey – review results of standards survey and make recommendations for changes based on results;
- ❑ Priority Five: AACOM “parking lot” – Review recent letter from AACOM with recommendations from Deans’ Retreat in November 2012 of current issues they would like to be reviewed by the Standards Review Committee and the COCA.

May 2013 Report –

At the December 1-2, 2012 meeting of the COCA, several topics were proposed for consideration by the Standards Review Committee in order to make proposals to the COCA for changes to the *Accreditation of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine: COM Accreditation Standards and Procedures*. These topics included:

- ❑ Review and propose revisions for Standard One: Mission, Goals and Objectives and Standard Two: Governance, Administration and Finance;
- ❑ Definition of terms and needed clarification for new Domain Standard Eight: GME Outcomes – particularly for 8.3 and 8.5;
- ❑ Standard Five: Students - language of gender identity changes in this Domain made by SOMA;
- ❑ Issues proposed by AACOM that need review and response by COCA;
- ❑ 2012 Standards Survey.

A series of teleconferences were scheduled with SRC members to discuss these topics. Teleconferences took place on December 20, 2012, January 14, 2013, February 11, 2013, and March 19, 2013.

A Standards Forum was held on April 6, 2013, at the O’Hare Hilton Hotel, in Chicago, Ill. All COCA stakeholders were invited to attend and participate. In addition to the topics mentioned above, the Standards Forum also discussed a proposal on diversity submitted by the Student National Medical Association. Two representatives from that organization were present for the discussion. AACOM had also presented the SRC with revisions to Standard Six: Curriculum, which were also on the agenda for the Standards Forum.

Forty-six stakeholders attended the Standards Forum. The discussion was as follows:

- ❑ Proposed changes to Standard One: Mission, Goals and Objectives and Standard Two: Governance, Administration and Finance were discussed. Objection to some of the changes was expressed and new language was offered. This topic will go to the SRC for further discussion and recommendation.
- ❑ Definition of terms and language clarification for new Standard Eight: GME Outcomes was discussed. Recommendations from stakeholders will go to the SRC for further discussion and final language will be proposed for COCA decision.
- ❑ AACOM proposal for changes to Standard Six: Curriculum was discussed. Responses from stakeholders will be reviewed by the SRC and recommendations will be given to the COCA.
- ❑ AACOM long standing issues were discussed. AACOM proposed that a Task Force be formed to address these issues made up of AACOM, AOA and COCA members.
- ❑ Language of gender identity and changes to standards 2.8, 4.3, and 5.3.2 were discussed. Responses from stakeholders will be reviewed by the SRC and recommendations will be given to the COCA.
- ❑ Two representatives from the Student National Medical Association made a presentation to the SRC and stakeholders regarding proposed changes to diversity qualification in the Standards. This proposal will be reviewed by the SRC and recommendations will be made to the COCA.

The Standards Review Committee met via teleconference on Monday, April 22, 2013. As a result of this teleconference, the Standards Review Committee decided to make the following recommendations to the COCA:

1. Proposed final changes to Standard Eight: GME Outcomes for COCA approval.
2. Adopted of all six recommendations proposed by Mr. Wells and reviewed by the SRC as contained in the “Report by David Wells to COCA SRC Regarding Issues Raised by AACOM.”

3. Proposed changes to Standard One: Mission, Goals and Objectives and Standard Two: Governance, Administration and Finance are presented for COCA review.
4. Proposed changes to Standard Six: Curriculum as presented by AACOM are presented for COCA review.
5. Proposed changes to Standards 2.8, 4.3 and 5.3.2 are presented to COCA for review and adoption of new language.
6. Proposed edits to COCA Standards as presented by the Student National Medical Association are presented with a recommendation for continued study by the SRC.

RESOLUTIONS

This report is informational in nature; no resolutions are presented.