

**Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation**

**Accreditation of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine:  
COM Continuing Accreditation Standards**

Effective July 1, 2019

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**Contents**

Introduction..... 4

Standard 1: Mission and Governance.....7

Standard 2: Leadership and Administration .....11

Standard 3: Finances.....14

Standard 4: Facilities.....16

Standard 5: Learning Environment.....18

Standard 6: Curriculum.....20

Standard 7: Faculty and Staff .....26

Standard 8: Scholarly Activity .....30

Standard 9: Students.....32

Standard 10: Graduate Medical Education (GME) .....36

Standard 11: Program and Student Assessment and Outcomes.....38

Standard 12: Institutional Accreditation (if applicable).....40

Glossary.....44

## Introduction

The American Osteopathic Association’s Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) accredits osteopathic medical education programs leading to the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree in the United States (programmatic accreditation). The COCA also accredits free-standing colleges of osteopathic medicine where no other educational program is offered (institutional accreditation) and serves as the federal Title IV gatekeeper for those institutions. By assessing the compliance of osteopathic medical education programs based on the nationally accepted standards of the COCA, we serve the interests of the public and of the students enrolled in our colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs).

To achieve and maintain accreditation, an osteopathic medical education program leading to the DO degree must meet the standards contained in this document. COMs beginning the process towards accreditation must follow the guidelines detailed in the *Accreditation of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine: COM New and Developing Accreditation Standards*.

The COCA regularly reviews the accreditation standards, and seeks feedback from the osteopathic community and the public. Changes to the COCA standards are considered at a public hearing before a final vote for adoption is made by the COCA. Once approved, new or revised standards are published in *Accreditation of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine: COM Accreditation Standards*, which indicates when the changes become effective.

The *Accreditation of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine: COM Accreditation Standards* is organized into 12 accreditation standards, each with an accompanying set of elements and evidentiary submission requirements. The first 11 standards must be met to achieve full accreditation. Standard 12 is applicable only when COCA serves as the institutional accreditor for a COM.

Each of the standards includes a concise statement of the principles that represent the standard. The elements of each standard specify the components that collectively constitute the standard; they are statements that identify the variables that the COCA considers in evaluating a medical education program’s compliance with the standard. The evidentiary submission requirements outline documentation that must be provided to demonstrate compliance with the element.

Within each standard, there are elements that are identified as “core elements.” A core element is critical to maintain the educational quality of the program. Therefore, a COM will be found out of compliance with the standard if the COM fails to meet any core element within that standard. The COCA will consider other non-core elements, which, while important, are considered in the context of the totality of a COM’s response to each of the elements associated with a specific standard in the determination of the compliance with that standard.

In the event a COM fails to meet any standard or element, the COCA will monitor the COM through progress reporting at specified intervals. The COM must come into compliance with each standard or element within 24 months of the initial determination. The United States Department of Education (USDE) requires a COM be compliant with all standards and all elements be met within this timeframe or the COCA must take an adverse accreditation action against the COM.

In addition to determining whether elements are met and the COM is compliant with all standards, the COCA may make any of the following accreditation decisions:

**Accreditation with Exceptional Outcome:** This indicates that the COM is in compliance with all standards and that all elements are met. For schools with this status, accreditation will be granted for ten years. Monitoring is conducted through submission of the COCA annual report and the mid-cycle report that is due in year five.

**Accreditation:** This indicates that a COM is compliant with all standards. However, there may be non-core elements that are not met and must be addressed via progress reporting. For schools with this status, accreditation will be granted for seven years. Monitoring is conducted through submission of the COCA annual report and the mid-cycle report that is due in year three.

**Accreditation with Heightened Monitoring:** This indicates that a COM is not compliant with one to two standards and ongoing monitoring will occur through progress reporting and annual reports. For schools with this status, accreditation will be granted for four years. Mid-cycle reporting is due in year two.

**Accreditation with Warning:** This indicates that a COM is not compliant with between three and five standards and ongoing monitoring will occur through progress reporting, annual reports, and any other monitoring the COCA deems necessary (e.g., focused site visits, etc.). For schools with this status, accreditation will be granted for two years. The mid-cycle report will be submitted with the annual report.

**Accreditation with Probation:** This indicates that a COM is not compliant with more than five standards. For schools with this status, the accreditation will be granted for no more than one year. Monitoring will occur continuously as deemed necessary by the COCA, including progress reporting, an annual report, and focused site visits.

**Withdrawal of Accreditation:** This indicates that the quality of the educational program is compromised and the school was unable to come into compliance with all standards within the allotted timeframe.

Additional information on COCA accreditation actions may be found in the *Accreditation of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine: COCA Policies and Procedures* document posted to the COCA website ([www.aoacoca.org](http://www.aoacoca.org)). Additional information about the accreditation process and the standards and elements may be obtained from the COCA website or by contacting the COCA office at (312) 202-8124 or [predoc@osteopathic.org](mailto:predoc@osteopathic.org).

NOTICE TO ALL COMs

The submission of any information pursuant to the following accreditation standards is subject to the COCA's submission of that information to the USDE in compliance with the Department's regulatory requirements to determine recognition of the COCA as an accrediting agency. So as to provide comprehensive and accurate information to the Department, the COCA does not redact any information received from any COM. Accordingly, please be advised that, should a COM wish to have redacted information submitted to the Department, a COM must submit to the COCA two sets of the same information. The first set must be an unredacted compilation of all responses to the accreditation standards and the second set must be redacted according to what the COM wishes to have remain confidential. The redacted document must include the word "redacted" in its title and file name.

## Standards

### Standard 1: Mission and Governance

A College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) must have a written statement of mission and goals for the osteopathic medical education program, conduct ongoing planning and assessment, and have written bylaws that describe an effective organizational structure and governance processes. In the conduct of all internal and external activities, the COM must demonstrate integrity through its consistent and documented adherence to fair, impartial, and effective processes, policies, and practices.

#### Element 1.1: Program Mission (CORE)

A COM must have a mission statement that: 1) explains the overall purpose of the COM's program; and 2) serves as guide for program planning and assessment. Where the COM is part of a larger educational institution or parent institution, the COM's mission must be consistent with the institution's mission. The COM must review its program mission at least once every five years and upon review, if the COM deems it to be appropriate to do so, the COM should revise its mission to meet the COM's growth and continued development. The COM must consider the input of its faculty, staff, and students when reviewing and revising its mission.

#### Submission 1.1: Program Mission

1. *Provide copies of program mission / vision (optional) / goals or objectives (optional) and a public link to where the documents are published.*
2. *If the COM is part of a larger educational institution (parent institution), provide a copy of the parent institution's mission statement. The documents should show last updated date (or effective date).*
3. *Provide documentation of the mission revision process, participants, and meeting minutes documenting the most recent governing board approval of the COM's mission.*

#### Element 1.2: Strategic Plan

A COM must produce and publish a current strategic plan addressing all core aspects of the COM mission. Faculty and students must be included in the strategic plan development, review, and revision.

#### Submission 1.2: Strategic Plan

1. *Provide a copy of the COM strategic plan.*
2. *Provide the list of individuals who participated in the plan creation/revision.*
3. *Provide a link to where the documents are published.*

**Element 1.3: Licensing and Regional / Institutional Accreditation (CORE)**

A COM must maintain in effect any charter, licenses, or approvals required for it to function as an institution of higher education, including the provision of degree programs beyond the secondary level.

The parent/sponsoring institution under which the COM operates (or the independent COM itself) must be recognized by an institutional accrediting agency that is recognized by the United States Department of Education (USDE). The COM must report to the COCA any adverse actions that are taken against it or its parent institution by its institutional accreditor within five business days of notification of such action.

**Submission 1.3: Licensing and Regional / Institutional Accreditation**

1. *Provide a copy of the charter, license, or letter of approval from all agencies issuing such approvals.*
2. *Provide a public link to where the most recent institutional accreditation documents are published.*

**Element 1.4: Governance & Program Policies (CORE)**

A COM must have a governing body, or be part of a parent institution with a governing body, that defines the mission of the COM and/or institution, approves the strategic plan, provides financial oversight, and approves requisite policies. The COM must publish and abide by policies regarding conflict of interest (for board members, employees, and institutionally employed faculty); due process for employees, students, and credentialed instructional staff; confidentiality of employee, student, and medical records; fiscal management; and ethics which must incorporate the American Osteopathic Association Code of Ethics.

**Submission 1.4: Governance & Program Policies**

1. *Provide the bylaws of the governing body and a list of members, including titles, of the body.*
2. *Provide a copy of the policies for:*
  - a. *Conflict of Interest for board members, employees, and institutionally employed faculty.*
  - b. *Due process for all employees, students, faculty, and credentialed instructional staff.*
  - c. *Confidentiality of employment, student, and medical records.*
  - d. *Fiscal management and accountability.*
  - e. *Ethics, incorporating the AOA Code of Ethics.*



**Element 1.5a: Non-Discrimination (CORE)**

A COM must demonstrate non-discrimination in the selection of administrative personnel, faculty and staff, and students based on race, ethnicity, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, national origin, age or disabilities, and religion.

**Submission 1.5a: Non-Discrimination**

1. *Provide a copy of the non-discrimination policy.*
2. *Provide a public link to where the document is published.*

**Element 1.5b: Non-Discrimination for Faith Based Institutions (CORE)**

The COCA respects the religious mission of faith-based schools. A COM having a religious affiliation or purpose may apply selection criteria and/or policies that are directly related to that affiliation or purpose so long as any such criteria and/or policies are made known to applicants and the public and do not contravene any other COCA standard.

**Submission 1.5b: Non-Discrimination for Faith Based Institutions**

1. *Provide the faith-based mission for the COM.*
2. *Provide a copy of the non-discrimination policy and procedures for the selection of students, faculty, and staff.*
3. *Provide a public link to where the policy document is published.*

**Note:** Whether or not a COM is a faith-based institution, once a COM elects to comply with either element 1.4a or 1.4b, the COM is expected to comply with all requirements based on that election irrespective of its faith-based designation.

**Element 1.6: Degree-Granting Body**

The governing body of the COM and/or parent institution must confer the degree Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) upon those students who have satisfactorily completed the requirements for graduation and have been recommended for graduation by faculty.

**Submission 1.6: Degree-Granting Body**

1. *Provide a copy of the bylaws or governing documents that demonstrate the conferral of degree.*
2. *Provide a copy of the COM policy demonstrating that the faculty association (or approved body) must recommend candidates for graduation.*
3. *Provide minutes from the faculty association meeting where this occurred for the most recent graduates.*

**Element 1.7: Clinical Education Affiliation Agreements (CORE)**

A COM must be able to produce agreements, including executed affiliation agreements, that support the clinical educational experience for its students.

**Submission 1.7: Clinical Education Affiliation Agreements**

1. *Provide the definition of an OMS II student and/or other eligible student to enter clinical rotations.*
2. *Provide a copy of a COM-approved affiliation agreement.*
3. *Provide a list of all contracted clinical sites.*
4. *At the time of the site visit, a COM must produce all documents that evidence the acceptance of the COM's students to participate at the affiliate sites, including all executed affiliation agreements.*

**Notes:**

- Submission number 4 seeks the same information as element 6.9.
- For mid-cycle reports, nos. 1 - 4 above must be provided. If warranted, the COCA may require that a COM provide copies of all documents (including all executed affiliate agreements) that evidence the acceptance of the COM's students to participate at an affiliate site.

## **Standard 2: Leadership and Administration**

A COM must have leadership and senior administrative staff with the knowledge, skills, time, and support necessary to achieve the goals of the osteopathic medical education program and to ensure the functional integration of all programmatic components.

### **Element 2.1: Dean Qualifications (CORE)**

A COM must have a dean who is qualified for the position by education, training, and experience to provide effective leadership in education, scholarly activity, and patient care. The dean must have:

1. An earned DO degree from a COCA-accredited college of osteopathic medicine;
2. An unrestricted medical license at some time in his/her career, free of disciplinary actions or sanctions while licensed;
3. AOA OR ABMS board certification at some time in his/her career; and
4. At least five years of proven experience within the last ten years in academic leadership roles that includes budget management authority.

### **Submission 2.1: Dean Qualifications**

1. *Provide a copy of the dean's diploma from a COCA-accredited college of osteopathic medicine.*
2. *Provide a copy of the dean's most recent medical license.*
3. *Provide a copy of the dean's AOA OR ABMS board certification documents.*
4. *Provide a copy of the dean's complete and current curriculum vitae.*
5. *Provide the current job description for the dean.*
6. *Provide the dean's/physician's most recent report from the Federation Credentials Verification Service.*

### **Element 2.2: Full Time Dean (CORE)**

The dean must be employed full-time by the COM and/or its parent institution.

**Note:** In carrying out the full-time responsibilities of the dean, the dean of a COM is administratively responsible for the conduct and quality of the medical education program and for ensuring the adequacy of faculty at the COM and each of its additional locations.

This element requires a dean to be employed full-time without any conflicting, secondary employment. Any secondary employment for which remuneration is given must be: 1) under the auspices of the COM, or its parent institution's authorization; and 2) not in conflict with the time commitments required to carry out the full-time responsibilities of the dean.

#### **Submission 2.2: Full Time Dean**

1. *Provide the employment contract (compensation redacted) demonstrating that the dean is employed full time.*

### **Element 2.3: Academic and Administrative Leadership**

A COM must have academic and administrative leadership to accomplish the mission of the medical school. Assistant/associate deans must have proven experience in teaching, educational design and evaluation, scholarly activity, and academic leadership in a medical education setting appropriate for the position.

#### **Submission 2.3: Academic and Administrative Leadership**

1. *Provide an organization chart that shows the leadership positions and reporting relationships.*
2. *Provide the current job description for each member of the administrative leadership team (associate deans, assistant deans, and senior level administrators).*
3. *Provide a complete curriculum vitae for each member of the administrative leadership team (associate deans, assistant deans, and senior level administrators).*
4. *Provide a copy of the employee's medical license (if a DO or MD).*
5. *Provide a copy of the employee's AOA or ABMS board certification documents (if a DO or MD).*

**Element 2.4: Accreditation Standard Complaint Policies and Procedures (CORE)**

A COM must publish policies and procedures that include a confidential accreditation standard complaint resolution process that includes a description of how these complaints are filed, resolved through an adjudication process, without retaliation, and maintained through the COM's records retention system. The accreditation standard complaint filing process must include a process for filing confidential complaints with the COCA and the contact information of the COCA.

**Submission 2.4: Accreditation Standard Complaint Policies and Procedures**

1. *Provide documentation of policies and procedures regarding accreditation standard complaints and their adjudication.*
2. *Provide sample records of accreditation standard complaints that have been received, adjudicated, and resolved.*
3. *Provide a public link to where the accreditation standard complaint policies and procedures are published.*

### **Standard 3: Finances**

A COM must have sufficient financial resources readily available to meet the needs of the COM and to achieve the COM mission, consistent with its projected and authorized student class size.

#### **Element 3.1: Financial Resources (CORE)**

A COM must ensure that the financial resources of the school meet the requirements of Title IV of the Higher Education Act and are adequate to sustain a sound program of osteopathic medical education and to accomplish the programmatic and institutional goals.

##### **Submission 3.1: Financial Resources**

- 1. Provide the operational budget (income, revenue sources, and expenses) for the COM including at least three years of data.*

#### **Element 3.2: Financial Planning and Budgeting**

A COM must have a budgeting process that is designed to support the mission of the COM.

##### **Submission 3.2: Financial Planning and Budgeting**

- 1. Provide a flowchart demonstrating the budget development process indicating where the final budget approval occurs.*
- 2. Provide a list of all people with budgetary management and oversight.*

#### **Element 3.3: Budgetary Authority**

A COM or parent institution must provide the dean with the resources and budgetary authority necessary to fulfill his or her responsibility for the management of the COM.

##### **Submission 3.3: Budgetary Authority**

- 1. Provide the current job description demonstrating that the dean possesses budgetary authority for the COM.*
- 2. Provide the employment contract (compensation redacted) demonstrating that the dean possesses budgetary authority for the COM.*

**Element 3.4: Financial Audit (CORE)**

A COM or its parent institution must commission an annual independent audit confirming financial viability and provide evidence of resolution of concerns cited in the audit's accompanying management letter.

**Submission 3.4: Financial Audit**

- 1. Provide the annual audited financial statement and audit report for the COM or its parent institution for the latest complete fiscal year.*

## **Standard 4: Facilities**

A COM must have sufficient physical facilities, equipment, and resources for clinical, instructional, research, and technological functions of the COM. These resources must be readily available and accessible across all COM locations to meet its needs, the needs of the students consistent with the approved class size, and to achieve its mission.

### **Element 4.1: Facilities (CORE)**

A COM must have facilities for the program of instruction that enable the authorized class size of students and faculty to pursue the mission, curriculum, and scholarly activity of the COM.

#### **Submission 4.1: Facilities**

1. *Complete and submit Table 4.1 to describe the on-campus facilities.*
2. *Provide a facility floor plan with designations of how the space will be utilized (full architectural drawings are not required).*
3. *Describe how the COM assesses the adequacy of the core clinical rotation facilities, including how students are involved in the assessment.*

### **Element 4.2: Security and Public Safety**

A COM must ensure that adequate security systems are in place and publish and follow policies and procedures for security; faculty, staff, and student safety; and emergency and disaster preparedness at all COM-operated teaching and training locations. The COM's policy must include methods of communication with students, faculty, and staff at all teaching and training locations.

#### **Submission 4.2: Security and Public Safety**

1. *Provide a copy of all security and safety related policies and procedures.*
2. *Provide a link to where the policies are published.*
3. *As required under 34 CFR §668.46, provide a copy of your most recent report required under the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1092, et al., as amended.*

**Note:** COMs for which the COCA is the institutional accreditor, satisfying the evidentiary submissions under element 4.2 will satisfy the required submissions under element 12.7.



**Element 4.3: Information Technology**

A COM must ensure access to information technology to support its mission.

**Submission 4.3: Information Technology**

1. *Provide the information technology strategic plan.*
2. *Provide the most recent technology assessment report.*

**Element 4.4: Learning Resources**

A COM must ensure access to learning resources to support its mission.

**Submission 4.4: Learning Resources**

1. *Complete and submit Table 4.4 to describe the COM's learning resources.*

## **Standard 5: Learning Environment**

A COM must ensure that its educational program occurs in professional, respectful, non-discriminatory, and intellectually stimulating academic and clinical environments. The school also promotes students' attainment of the osteopathic core competencies required of future osteopathic physicians.

### **Element 5.1: Professionalism (CORE)**

A COM must ensure that the learning environment of its osteopathic medical education program is conducive to the ongoing development of professional behaviors in its osteopathic medical students, faculty, and staff at all locations and is one in which all individuals are treated with respect. This should also include exposure to aspects of patient safety, cultural competence, and interprofessional collaborative practice.

#### **Submission 5.1: Professionalism**

- 1. Provide a copy to the COM's professionalism policies and procedures and a link to where the documents are published.*
- 2. Provide a list of the membership of the committee that addresses issues of professionalism and ethics.*
- 3. Provide a published description and charge of the committee that addresses issues of professionalism and ethics.*

### **Element 5.2: Diversity**

A COM must publish policies and have in place practices that engage in ongoing, systematic, and focused recruitment and retention activities, to achieve mission-appropriate diversity outcomes among its students, faculty, senior administrative staff, and other relevant members of its academic community.

#### **Submission 5.2: Diversity**

- 1. Complete Tables 5.2a, 5.2b, and 5.2c.*
- 2. Provide the COM's policies that demonstrate its current practice of systematic and focused recruitment and retention activities, to achieve mission-appropriate diversity outcomes among its students, faculty, senior administrative staff, and other relevant members of its academic community.*
- 3. Describe the COM's programs and partnerships (with other institutions and organizations) aimed at achieving diversity among qualified applicants for medical school admission and the evaluation of program and partnership outcomes.*

### **Element 5.3: Safety, Health, and Wellness**

A COM must publish and follow policies and procedures that effectively mitigate faculty, staff, and student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards, provide education on prevention of such exposures, and address procedures for care and treatment after such exposures. A COM must also publish and follow policies related to student, faculty, and staff mental health and wellness and fatigue mitigation.

#### **Submission 5.3: Safety, Health, and Wellness**

1. *Provide the policies and procedures addressing safety and health issues.*
2. *Provide a link to where the documents are published.*
3. *Demonstrate how this information is provided to students.*

### **Element 5.4: Patient Care Supervision (CORE)**

A COM must ensure that osteopathic students in clinical learning situations involving patient care are under direct supervision by a licensed health care professional at all times in order to ensure safety. The COM must ensure that all supervised activities are within the scope of practice of the supervising health care professional. Students must have clear guidelines on their role in care and the limits of their scope of authority.

#### **Submission 5.4: Patient Care Supervision**

1. *Provide the policies addressing student supervision during the provision of patient care.*
2. *Provide a link to where the documents are published.*
3. *Demonstrate how this information is provided to students.*

## **Standard 6: Curriculum**

The faculty of a COM must define how the students will achieve the educational program objectives, including osteopathic core competencies, and is responsible for the detailed design and implementation of the components of a curriculum that enables its students to achieve those competencies and objectives. Educational program objectives are statements of the knowledge, skills, behaviors, and attitudes that osteopathic medical students are expected to demonstrate as evidence of their achievement prior to successful completion of the program.

The faculty of a COM must periodically and regularly review and revise the COM's curriculum and evaluate the COM's educational program to ensure that the quality of the program meets the current standards of osteopathic core competencies and that students achieve all program objectives and participate in required clinical training experiences and environments.

### **Element 6.1: Curriculum Design and Management (CORE)**

A COM must have in place a body (e.g., faculty committee) that exercises collective responsibility for the education program as a whole, and has responsibility for the development, management, evaluation, and enhancement of the curriculum. This committee must include student and faculty representation from the pre-clinical (years 1 and 2) and clinical education (years 3 and 4) years. The curriculum must meet the mission of the COM.

#### **Submission 6.1: Curriculum Design and Management**

- 1. Provide the charge and responsibility of the curriculum committee.*
- 2. Provide a list of the members of the curriculum committee and their titles.*
- 3. Provide a list of meeting dates and meeting minutes for the past academic year.*

### **Element 6.2: Programmatic Level Educational Objectives (CORE)**

A COM must define and make all programmatic level educational objectives known to students, faculty, and others with responsibility for student education and assessment.

#### **Submission 6.2: Programmatic Level Educational Objectives**

- 1. Provide the programmatic level educational objectives.*
- 2. Provide a public link to where the document is published.*

### **Element 6.3: Maximum Length of Completion**

A COM must ensure that each single degree DO student completes the DO degree within 150% of the standard time to achieve the degree (six years following matriculation).

#### **Submission 6.3: Maximum Length of Completion**

1. *Provide the policy that describes that single degree DO students must complete their education within 150% of the standard time (six years following matriculation).*
2. *Provide the public link to where the document is published.*
3. *Provide a list identifying any single-degree DO student(s) who graduated beyond 150% of the standard time and provide a detailed explanation as to the reason for allowing the student(s) to graduate past the 150% of the standard time.*

### **Element 6.4: Osteopathic Core Competencies (CORE)**

A COM must teach and educate students in order to ensure the development of the seven osteopathic core competencies of medical knowledge, patient care, communication, professionalism, practice-based learning, systems-based practice, and osteopathic principles and practice/osteopathic manipulative treatment.

#### **Submission 6.4: Osteopathic Core Competencies**

1. *Provide a description of the COM's delivery of its curriculum including teaching and educating its students to ensure the development of the seven osteopathic core competencies of medical knowledge, patient care, communication, professionalism, practice-based learning, systems-based practice, and osteopathic principles and practice/osteopathic manipulative treatment. Not to exceed 250 words.*
2. *A curriculum map demonstrating how the content of these courses is delivered must be made available during any site visit.*

### **Element 6.5: Scientific Method**

A COM must ensure that the curriculum includes instruction in the scientific method including data collection to test and verify hypotheses or address questions regarding biomedical phenomena and in the basic scientific and ethical principles of clinical and translational research. The curriculum must include the methods by which such research is conducted, evaluated, explained to patients who are part of clinical studies, and applied to patient care.

#### **Submission 6.5: Scientific Method**

- 1. Provide a description of the COM's delivery of its curriculum including instruction in the scientific method addressing data collection, testing and verifying hypotheses or questions regarding biomedical phenomena and the basic scientific and ethical principles of clinical and translational research. The curriculum must include the methods by which such research is conducted, evaluated, explained to patients/ subjects of a clinical study, and applied to patient care. Not to exceed 250 words.*
- 2. A curriculum map demonstrating how the content of these courses is delivered must be made available during any site visit.*

### **Element 6.6: Principles of Osteopathic Medicine (CORE)**

In each year of the curriculum, a COM must provide each student with instruction in Osteopathic Principles and Practice (OPP), including both observation and hands-on application of Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine (OMM) supervised by COM-credentialed physicians (DO or MD).

#### **Submission 6.6: Principles of Osteopathic Medicine**

- 1. Provide a description of the COM's delivery of its OPP and OMM curriculums including instruction in OPP, including both observational and hands-on application of OMM. Not to exceed 250 words.*
- 2. A curriculum map demonstrating how the content of these courses is delivered must be made available during any site visit.*

### **Element 6.7: Self-Directed Learning**

A COM must ensure that the curriculum includes self-directed learning experiences and time for independent study to allow students to develop skills for lifelong learning. Self-directed learning includes students' self-assessment of learning needs; independent identification, analysis, and synthesis of relevant information; and appraisal of the credibility of sources of information.

#### **Submission 6.7: Self-Directed Learning**

- 1. Provide a description of the COM's delivery of its curriculum including self-directed learning experiences and time for independent study allowing students to develop skills for lifelong learning. Not to exceed 250 words.*
- 2. A curriculum map demonstrating how the content of these courses is delivered must be made available during any site visit.*

### **Element 6.8: Interprofessional Education for Collaborative Practice (CORE)**

In each year of the curriculum, a COM must ensure that the core curriculum prepares osteopathic medical students to function collaboratively on health care teams, adhering to the IPEC core competencies, by providing learning experiences in academic and/or clinical environments that permit interaction with students enrolled in other health professions degree programs or other health professionals.

#### **Submission 6.8: Interprofessional Education for Collaborative Practice**

- 1. Provide a description of the COM's delivery of its curriculum, that include the COM's preparation of students to function collaboratively on health care teams by providing learning experiences in academic and/or clinical environments that permit interaction with students enrolled in other health professions degree programs or other health professionals. Not to exceed 250 words.*
- 2. A curriculum map demonstrating how the content of these courses is delivered must be made available during any site visit.*

### **Element 6.9: Clinical Education (CORE)**

A COM must:

- A. define eligibility for an OMS II and/or other student to enter clinical rotations;
- B. define the types of patients and clinical conditions that osteopathic medical students are required to encounter, the skills to be performed by the students, the appropriate clinical setting for these experiences, and the expected levels of student responsibilities;
- C. be able to provide clinical education rotations, including demonstration of adequate faculty, for the three-year rolling average of the number of eligible second-year and repeating students; and
- D. have published policies and procedures (protocols) addressing methodologies by which students can complete the entire clinical education curriculum.

#### **Submission 6.9: Clinical Education**

- 1. *Provide the definition of an OMS II student and/or other student eligible to enter clinical rotations.*
- 2. *Provide a sample syllabus for core clinical rotations.*
- 3. *Provide policies and procedures (protocols) demonstrating how clinical education is delivered to all students through the COM.*
- 4. *Complete Table 6.9a detailing student population.*
- 5. *Complete Table 6.9b demonstrating adequacy of core clinical rotation capacity.*
- 6. *Provide a contingency plan for all core rotations indicating how students will be placed in clinical education in the event opportunities are no longer available.*

### **Element 6.10: Clinical Experience**

A COM must ensure that each student participates in one or more required core rotation(s) prior to the fourth year clinical clerkship experience that is conducted in a health care setting in which the student works with resident physicians currently enrolled in an accredited program of graduate medical education. In addition to the above expectation, a minimum of one required third year clinical clerkship must be completed under the supervision of an osteopathic physician and more than one of the required third year clinical clerkship experiences must include an inpatient component.

#### **Submission 6.10: Clinical Experience**

- 1. *Complete Table 6.9b.*



**Element 6.11: Comparability across Clinical Education Sites**

A COM must ensure that the curriculum includes comparable educational experiences and equivalent methods of assessment across all core clinical educational sites where students learn, ensuring all students achieve similar outcomes based on core educational learning objectives.

**Submission 6.11: Comparability across Clinical Education Sites**

- 1. Provide the policies and procedures describing how student outcomes at clinical educational sites are reviewed and utilized in the determination of the comparability of outcome of the clinical experiences.*
- 2. Provide the most recent report assessing student outcomes across sites.*

**Element 6.12: COMLEX-USA**

All students must successfully pass COMLEX-USA Level 1, Level 2 CE, and Level 2 PE prior to graduation from an osteopathic medical school. The COM must publish to the public the COMLEX -USA Level 1, Level 2 CE, Level 2 PE, and Level 3 first time pass rate for all students in each class at the COM.

**Submission 6.12: COMLEX-USA**

- 1. Provide all COMLEX-USA related school policies and procedures.*
- 2. Provide a public link to the location where the last four years of COMLEX-USA Level 1, Level 2 CE, Level 2 PE, and Level 3 first time pass rates are published.*

## **Standard 7: Faculty and Staff**

The faculty members at a COM must be qualified through their education, training, experience, and continuing professional development and provide the leadership and support necessary to attain the institution's educational, research, and service goals.

A COM must ensure that its medical education program includes a comprehensive, fair, and uniform system of formative and summative medical student assessment and protects medical students' and patients' safety by ensuring that all persons who teach, supervise, and/or assess medical students are adequately prepared for those responsibilities.

### **Element 7.1: Faculty and Staff Resources and Qualifications (CORE)**

At all educational teaching sites, including affiliated sites, a COM must have sufficient faculty and clinical staff resources to achieve the program mission, including part time and adjunct faculty, and preceptors who are appropriately trained and credentialed. The physician faculty, in the patient care environment, must hold current medical licensure and AOA or ABMS board certification/board eligibility. All non-physician faculty must have demonstrated, appropriate qualifications in his/her disciplinary field.

#### **Submission 7.1: Faculty and Staff Resources and Qualifications**

- 1. Provide the organizational chart demonstrating how the faculty are organized.*
- 2. For all OMM/OPP faculty provide current complete curriculum vitae, medical license and AOA board certification.*
- 3. Complete Tables 7.1a and 7.1b.*

**Note:** At the time of the site visit, the COM must have available for inspection the complete faculty file, including the most recent and complete curricula vitae and credentialing information, of all faculty, including all adjunct faculty.

### **Element 7.2: Faculty Approvals at All Teaching Sites**

A COM must academically credential and/or approve the faculty at all COM and COM-affiliated and educational teaching sites.

#### **Submission 7.2: Faculty Approvals at All Teaching Sites**

- 1. Provide a copy of the policies and procedures for credentialing and appointment, or approval of all COM faculty.*
- 2. Complete Table 7.2.*

### **Element 7.3: Department Chair Qualifications**

A COM must employ chairs of department(s), or the equivalent of departments, with a minimum of five years of experience in teaching and academic leadership in a medical education setting. For clinical department chairs, the chair must have an active medical license and active AOA or ABMS board certification in his/her specialty.

#### **Submission 7.3: Department Chair Qualifications**

1. *Provide the organizational chart demonstrating the reporting hierarchy for each department.*
2. *Provide the current job description for each department chair (or equivalent).*
3. *Provide a complete curriculum vitae for each department chair (or equivalent).*
4. *For each clinical department chair (or equivalent), provide a copy of the department chair's medical license.*
5. *For each clinical department chair (or equivalent), provide a copy of the department chair's AOA or ABMS board certification documents.*

### **Element 7.4: Primary Care Leadership**

A COM may organize its medical faculty under an organizational structure of its own design, but the leadership of the COM's clinical education must include one or more actively licensed osteopathic physicians who are ABMS or AOA board certified in a primary care (family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics) discipline with a minimum of five years of experience in teaching and academic leadership in a medical education setting.

#### **Submission 7.4: Primary Care Leadership**

1. *Provide a copy of the job description for the chair of primary care (or equivalent).*
2. *Provide a complete and current curriculum vitae for the chair of primary care (or equivalent).*
3. *Provide a copy of the chair's (or equivalent) medical license.*
4. *Provide a copy of the chair's (or equivalent) AOA or ABMS board certification documents.*

### **Element 7.5: OMM/OPP Leadership (CORE)**

Osteopathic philosophy and principles (OPP) that include osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) are defining characteristics of a COM in maintaining its osteopathic distinction.

Accordingly, in a Department of OMM/OPP or equivalent, a COM must employ at least one full-time Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine with a minimum of three years of full-time faculty experience, an active medical license, and active board certification from the American Osteopathic Board of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine (AOBNMM) or a Certificate of Special Proficiency in OMM (C-SPOMM) whose principal duties include developing the osteopathic content of the COM's curriculum.

#### **Submission 7.5: OMM/OPP Leadership**

1. *Provide a copy of the job description for the chair of OMM/OPP.\**
2. *Provide a complete curriculum vitae for the chair of OMM/OPP.\**
3. *Provide a copy of the chair's\* medical license.*
4. *Provide a copy of the chair's\* AOA board certification documents.*

*\* or person responsible for developing the OMM/OPP curriculum*

### **Element 7.6: Faculty Development**

A COM must develop and implement an ongoing needs-based, assessment-driven, faculty development program that is in keeping with the COM's mission.

#### **Submission 7.6: Faculty Development**

1. *Provide a report of the most recent annual faculty development needs assessment.*
2. *Provide a roster of all faculty development activities for the past academic year, including documentation of the faculty participation at each activity.*

### **Element 7.7: Faculty Association**

A COM must have a faculty organization that serves as a representative forum for faculty participation for the free exchange of ideas and concerns of all faculty.

#### **Submission 7.7: Faculty Association**

1. *Provide a copy of the bylaws for the faculty association.*
2. *Provide a list of faculty association meeting dates and meeting minutes for the past academic year.*

### **Element 7.8: Faculty Appointment and Advancement**

A COM must have clear policies and procedures in place for faculty appointment, renewal of appointment, promotion, granting of tenure (if a tenure program exists), and remediation. The policies and procedures must provide each faculty member with written information about his or her term of appointment, responsibilities, lines of communication, privileges and benefits, performance evaluation and remediation, terms of dismissal, due process, and, if relevant, the policy on practice earnings.

#### **Submission 7.8: Faculty Appointment and Advancement**

1. *Provide the policies and procedures for faculty appointment and advancement, including*
  - a. *term of appointment;*
  - b. *responsibilities;*
  - c. *lines of communication;*
  - d. *privileges and benefits;*
  - e. *performance evaluation and remediation;*
  - f. *terms of dismissal;*
  - g. *due process; and*
  - h. *the policy on practice earnings (if relevant).*
  
2. *Provide a link to where the documents are published.*

## **Standard 8: Scholarly Activity**

A COM must demonstrate a commitment to research and scholarly activity through its budgetary processes, support of faculty research (including the establishment of a research infrastructure, including an office of research, faculty and personnel to assist students in research and peer review through publication or grant application), and inclusion of its students in research throughout all four years of the osteopathic medical education.

### **Element 8.1: Research and Scholarly Activity Strategic Plan (CORE)**

A COM must produce and publish a strategic plan for research and scholarly activities that documents how the COM intends to contribute to the advancement of knowledge through research and scholarly contributions.

#### **Submission 8.1: Research and Scholarly Activity Strategic Plan**

1. *Provide a copy of the COM's research and scholarly strategic plan.*
2. *Provide a public link to where the research and scholarly strategic plan may be accessed.*

### **Element 8.2: Research and Scholarly Activity Budget (CORE)**

A COM must include budgetary processes that support research by its faculty and students.

#### **Submission 8.2: Research and Scholarly Activity Budget**

1. *Provide a copy of the COM's research and scholarly activity budget.*

### **Element 8.3: OMM/OPP Research and Scholarly Activity (CORE)**

A COM must demonstrate how its research and/or scholarly activity includes and/or incorporates osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) and osteopathic principles and practice (OPP) as a component of the research and/or scholarly activity.

#### **Submission 8.3: OMM/OPP Research and Scholarly Activity**

1. *Complete and submit Table 8 to identify the activity of the COM's faculty (students and staff, if applicable) over the past three years.*

**Element 8.4: Student Participation in Research and Scholarly Activity (CORE)**

A COM must publish and follow policies and procedures to support student driven research and scholarly activity, as well as student participation in the research and scholarly activities of the faculty.

**Submission 8.4: Student Participation**

- 1. Provide a copy of all student research and scholarly activity policies.*
- 2. Provide a link to where the policies are published.*
- 3. Submit Table 8 to document student research and scholarly activity.*

## **Standard 9: Students**

A COM must establish and publish admission requirements for potential applicants to the osteopathic medical education program, and must develop and apply effective policies and procedures for medical student selection and enrollment.

A COM must develop and implement policies and procedures as well as provide the human and physical resources required to support and promote health and wellness in order to meet and advance the physical, emotional, mental, career, academic and professional needs of its students, faculty, and staff. All osteopathic medical students of the COM have the same rights to and must receive comparable services.

### **Element 9.1: Admissions Policy (CORE)**

A COM must establish and publish, to the public, admission requirements for potential applicants to the osteopathic medical education program and must use effective policies and procedures for osteopathic medical student selection for admission and enrollment, including technical standards for admissions. A COM must tie all admissions policies to the COM mission.

#### **Submission 9.1: Admissions Policy**

- 1. Provide all admission requirements and policies and procedures for osteopathic medical student selection and enrollment.*
- 2. Provide a copy of the technical standards required of matriculates.*
- 3. Provide a public link to where the documents are published.*

### **Element 9.2: Academic Standards (CORE)**

A COM must publish and follow policies and procedures on academic standards that include grading, class attendance, tuition and fees, refunds, student promotion, retention, graduation, students' rights and responsibilities, and the filing of grievances and appeals.

#### **Submission 9.2: Academic Standards**

- 1. Provide copies of policies and procedures on academic standards.*
- 2. Provide a public link to where the documents are published.*



### **Element 9.3: Transfer Policies**

A COM must publish and follow policies regarding transfer or admissions with advanced standing. A COM may only accept credits from a school accredited by the COCA or Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) where the student is eligible for readmission. The COM must ensure that if transfer occurs from an LCME accredited school of medicine, the student must acquire OMM/OPP competency prior to graduation from the COM. The last two years of education must be completed at the COM granting the degree.

#### **Submission 9.3: Transfer Policies**

1. *Pursuant to 34 CFR §688.43(a) (11), provide all transfer policies and procedures.*
2. *Provide a public link to where the documents are published.*

### **Element 9.4: Secure Student Recordkeeping**

A COM must develop an accurate, confidential and secure system for official student record keeping that includes: admissions, advisement, academic and career counseling, evaluation, grading, credits, and the training of faculty and staff in the regulations regarding these records.

#### **Submission 9.4: Secure Student Recordkeeping**

1. *Provide the policies and procedures on student recordkeeping.*
2. *Provide the policies and procedures for training of faculty and staff pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 USC 1232g; 34 CFR §99).*

### **Element 9.5: Academic Counseling (CORE)**

A COM must provide academic counseling to assist its students in study skills, learning styles, learning resources, and other assistance for academic success.

#### **Submission 9.5: Academic Counseling**

1. *Describe the process for academic counseling provided to students.*
2. *Complete Table 9.5.*

**Element 9.6: Career Counseling (CORE)**

A COM must provide career counseling to assist its students in evaluating career options and applying to graduate medical education training programs.

**Submission 9.6: Career Counseling**

1. *Describe the process for career counseling, including GME readiness, provided to students.*
2. *Complete Table 9.6.*

**Element 9.7: Financial Aid and Debt Management Counseling**

A COM must provide its students with counseling to assist them with financial aid applications and debt management.

**Submission 9.7: Financial Aid and Debt Management Counseling**

1. *Provide a description of all financial aid and debt counseling sessions provided to its students, including:*
  - a. *When the financial aid and debt counseling sessions are/were provided to the students;*
  - b. *The OMS year during which students are required to receive these sessions;*
  - c. *A roster of students that received financial aid and debt counseling.*

**Element 9.8: Mental Health Services (CORE)**

A COM must provide its students with confidential access to an effective system of counseling and mental healthcare. A mental health representative must be accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, from all locations where students receive education from the COM.

**Submission 9.8: Mental Health Services**

1. *Provide the policies and procedures for students seeking counseling and mental health services.*
2. *Provide a link to where the documents are published.*
3. *Provide a list of the mental health services available to students with service locations and hours.*

**Element 9.9: Physical Health Services (CORE)**

A COM must provide its students with access to diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic health services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, accessible in all locations where students receive education from the COM.

**Submission 9.9: Physical Health Services**

1. *Provide the policies and procedures for students seeking diagnostic, preventive and therapeutic health services.*
2. *Provide a public link to where the documents are published.*
3. *Provide a list of the health services locations where students may seek care.*

**Element 9.10: Non-Academic Health Professionals (CORE)**

A COM must ensure that any health professional providing health services, through a physician-patient relationship, must recuse him/herself from the academic assessment or promotion of the student receiving those services.

**Submission 9.10: Non-Academic Health Professionals**

1. *Provide the policies and procedures on recusal from student assessment and promotion for health professionals providing services to students.*

**Element 9.11: Health Insurance**

A COM must require that all students have health insurance.

**Submission 9.11: Health Insurance**

1. *Provide the policies and procedures regarding health insurance for students.*
2. *Provide a link to where the documents are published.*

## **Standard 10: Graduate Medical Education (GME)**

The faculty of a COM must ensure that the curriculum provides content of sufficient breadth and depth to prepare students for entry into a graduate medical education program for the subsequent practice of medicine. The COM must strive to develop graduate medical education to meet the needs of its graduates within the defined service area, consistent with the mission of the COM.

### **Element 10.1: Osteopathic Educational Continuum**

A COM must demonstrate its policies, procedures, personnel, and budgetary resources to support the continuum of osteopathic education.

#### **Submission 10.1: Osteopathic Educational Continuum**

- 1. Provide the COM's policy(ies) and describe the COM's structure and procedures that support the continuum of osteopathic education.*

### **Element 10.2: ACGME Accredited GME**

A COM must provide a mechanism to assist new and existing graduate medical education (GME) programs in meeting the requirements for accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

#### **Submission 10.2: ACGME Accredited GME**

- 1. Provide the COM's policy(ies) and description of its mechanism for developing new GME programs and continuing to assist existing GME programs.*

### **Element 10.3: Osteopathic Recognition of GME**

A COM must provide a mechanism to assist graduate medical education programs accredited by the ACGME in meeting the requirements of osteopathic recognition.

#### **Submission 10.3: Osteopathic Recognition GME**

- 1. Provide documentation demonstrating the COM's processes and commitment of resources to assist GME programs to achieve osteopathic recognition.*

**Element 10.4: GME Placement Rates (CORE)**

A COM must demonstrate and publish publicly the placement of its students in graduate medical education programs, including through the publication of placement rates of its students.

**Submission 10.4: GME Placement Rates**

- 1. Provide a public link where the COM's average match rate for the last four academic years in all residency match programs is listed. The post-graduate medical education placement rate must be calculated by dividing the number of students who matched into a PGY1 position by the number of students who attempted to match.*
- 2. Submit Table 10.1.*

## **Standard 11: Program and Student Assessment and Outcomes**

A COM must assess both programmatic and individual student outcomes to ensure that the COM meets its mission. Additionally, a COM must use the data from programmatic and individual outcomes to continuously improve all aspects of the COM.

### **Element 11.1: Program Assessment (CORE)**

A COM must connect its learning outcomes assessment to its program mission, goals, and objectives to continuously improve the educational quality of its osteopathic medical education program.

#### **Submission 11.1: Program Assessment**

- 1. Provide the guiding documents which govern how the COM conducts systematic program review. This may be in the form of a program review manual or guide that has been adopted by the faculty. This should include the manner in which the core osteopathic competencies are embedded in the curriculum and assessed as an aspect of the review.*
- 2. Provide a list of the most recent scheduled program reviews for the past three academic years, preceding a site visit, or any submission to the COCA for any monitoring purposes (e.g., annual report, mid-cycle report, supplemental report, etc.).*
- 3. Provide examples of changes in curriculum, pedagogy, counseling, or other aspects of the student experience that have been made as a result of recent program reviews in order to more fully support the learning of the core competencies.*

### **Element 11.2: Student Evaluation of Instruction**

A COM must have policies and procedures in place to collect and consider confidential student evaluations of their courses, clerkships, faculty, and other relevant student experiences. The COM must demonstrate that these results are incorporated into the COM's self-assessment to improve curriculum and address deficiencies in student experiences.

#### **Submission 11.2: Student Evaluation of Instruction**

- 1. Describe the processes for obtaining student evaluation of classroom and clinical instruction.*
- 2. Provide a copy of the evaluation forms used by the students for these purposes.*
- 3. Provide a flowchart demonstrating how the evaluation data are utilized in curricular improvement.*

### **Element 11.3: Student Debt Outcomes**

A COM and/or its parent institution must collect and publish data on the debt load and student loan default rates of its students in such a way that applicants can be aware of the information.

#### **Submission 11.3: Student Debt Outcomes**

1. *Provide the current average debt for the last four years of students.*
2. *Provide a public link to where the information is published.*
3. *For each of the four academic years preceding the submission of this information, provide the student loan default rate for all federal financial aid obtained under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (HEA), as amended, including financial aid provided under Title IV of the HEA.*

### **Element 11.4: Student Survey**

A COM must cooperate with the administration of the COCA student survey as part of the comprehensive accreditation process.

#### **Submission 11.4: Student Survey**

1. *Describe the methods the COM used to support the completion of the COCA student survey.*

### **Element 11.5: Program and Student Outcomes – Annual and Mid-Cycle Reports (CORE)**

A COM having accreditation status must submit specified annual and mid-cycle reports to the COCA.

#### **Submission 11.5: Program and Student Outcomes – Annual and Mid-Cycle Reports**

1. *Complete and submit the COCA Annual and Mid-Cycle Reports by the established deadlines.*

**Standard 12: Institutional Accreditation (if applicable)**

For any COM that is not affiliated with a parent institution, the COCA may serve as both institutional and programmatic accreditor. When the COCA serves as the institutional accreditor, the COM must demonstrate that it is compliant with this standard and its supporting elements

**Element 12.1: Incorporation of the Institution (CORE)**

A COM that is not affiliated with a parent institution must demonstrate its incorporation as a non-profit or for-profit entity (e.g., corporation, limited liability company, etc.) with governing bylaws that are consistent with the COCA accreditation standards. The COM must have an autonomously appointed functioning governing body that is broad in representation of expertise in education, finance, law, health policy, and osteopathic medicine.

**Submission 12.1: Incorporation of the Institution**

1. *Provide the annual registration documents for ongoing incorporation for the COM.*
2. *Provide a copy of the bylaws of the governing body.*
3. *Provide a list of members of the governing body and their titles.*
4. *Provide evidence of an annual assessment of the governing body's conflicts of interest.*

**Element 12.2: Degree and Other Educational Offerings (CORE)**

A COM that is not affiliated with a parent institution must demonstrate evidence of approval to grant the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree and any other educational offerings from all appropriate regulatory agencies whether it is a board of regents, a state regulatory agency, or any other regulatory agency charged with granting such authority under the laws of the state in which the COM is located.

**Submission 12.2: Degree and Other Educational Offerings**

1. *Provide a list of all degrees and educational programs (certificates and courses) offered by the COM.*
2. *Provide a copy of all charters, licenses, or letters of approval from any educational or business agencies that grant authority to the COM.*



**Element 12.3: Chief Executive Officer (CORE)**

A COM that is not affiliated with a parent institution must employ a chief executive officer who is qualified by education, training, and experience to provide effective leadership to the COM's administration, faculty, students, and staff. The chief executive officer must have a minimum of five years' experience in senior administration in an institution of higher education or healthcare setting.

**Submission 12.3: Chief Executive Officer**

1. *Provide the current job description for the chief executive officer.*
2. *Provide a complete curriculum vitae for the chief executive officer.*

**Element 12.4: Chief Financial Officer (CORE)**

A COM that is not affiliated with a parent institution must employ a chief financial officer who is qualified by education, training, and experience to provide organizational leadership related to the financial health of the COM. The chief financial officer must have a minimum of three years' experience in administration in financial management of an institution of higher education or healthcare setting.

**Submission 12.4: Chief Financial Officer**

1. *Provide the current job description for the chief financial officer.*
2. *Provide a current and complete curriculum vitae for the chief financial officer.*

**Element 12.5: Course Credit Hours**

A COM that is not affiliated with a parent institution must publish policies and procedures for the assignment of credit hours for all intended courses within its anticipated curriculum.

**Submission 12.5: Course Credit Hours**

1. *Provide a copy of the COM's credit hour assignment policy.*
2. *Provide a public link to where the document is published.*

### **Element 12.6: Public Information**

All public information published by a COM in its catalogs, student handbooks, advertising literature, or any other publicly available information must be presented in an accurate, fair, and complete manner.

#### **Submission 12.6: Public Information**

1. *Provide all documentation that demonstrates the institution's calendar, as well as its policies on grading, admissions, academic program requirements, tuition and fees, and refund.*
2. *Provide evidence of all communication that accurately represent the COM's accreditation status. This communication must include information on how to contact COCA.*

### **Element 12.7 Public Notification of Opportunity to Comment**

A COM that is not affiliated with a parent institution must seek third party comments addressing the quality of the COM's educational program prior to the completion of a comprehensive review by the COCA.

#### **Submission 12.7: Public Notification of Opportunity to Comment**

1. *Provide evidence that a public notice inviting any third party comments prior to an impending comprehensive site visit or a focused site visit was posted on the institution's website no later than three months before the site visit.*
2. *Provide evidence that the public notice was available on a public link readily accessible by the general public.*
3. *Provide evidence that the public notice includes, at a minimum, the date of the visit, purpose of the visit, instruction for submitting any comments to the COCA at [predoc@osteopathic.org](mailto:predoc@osteopathic.org).*

### **Element 12.8: Academic Freedom**

A COM that is not affiliated with a parent institution must include in its publications policies regarding academic freedom. All such policies must be approved by the COM's governing board.

#### **Submission 12.8: Academic Freedom**

1. *Provide the institution's policies regarding academic freedom evidencing a commitment to academic freedom, intellectual freedom, freedom of expression, and respect for intellectual property rights.*

**Element 12.9: Campus Security (CORE)**

A COM that is not affiliated with a parent institution must provide comprehensive information about its campus security to its students, faculty, staff, and to the public at large.

**Submission 12.9: Campus Security**

- 1. Provide a public link to the last three years of the annual security report required to be filed by state and/or federal law.*
- 2. Provide a public link which includes policies and procedures about the annual security report required to be filed by state and/or federal law.*

**Element 12.10: Title IV Responsibility (CORE)**

A COM that is not affiliated with a parent institution must demonstrate compliance with all federal funding guidelines under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

**Submission 12.10: Title IV Responsibility**

- 1. Provide a copy of the most recent filing of the annual audit pursuant to the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996, OMB Circular A-133.*
- 2. Provide the date of the most recent program review conducted pursuant to Title IV of the HEA and the final action letter from that review.*
- 3. Provide a copy of the most recent audit(s) of the state financial aid programs, if applicable.*
- 4. Provide copies of all relevant correspondence submitted to, and received from, the U.S. Department of Education for ongoing noncompliance issues, including liabilities owed.*
- 5. Provide negotiated settlement agreements for the payoff of any fines or monies owed in connection with program reviews.*
- 6. Provide institutional responses to all audits and/or findings.*

**END OF STANDARDS**

## Glossary

*The glossary should be used for information and guidance purposes only. The glossary should not be used as a resource to interpret the Standards; only the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation may interpret the Standards according to the context presented. The document serves only to define terms.*

AACOM – American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

Academic Credentialing – Approval of faculty members either for on-campus or off campus, through a process of verification of education, licensure, insurance, and other requirements deemed necessary to meet COM policy.

Accreditation – The status of public recognition that an accrediting agency grants to an educational institution or program that meets the agency’s standards and requirements. This process ensures that educational programs provided by institutions of higher education meet acceptable levels of quality, as follows:

1. Accreditation with Exceptional Outcome: This indicates that all standards are compliant and all elements are met. For schools with this status, accreditation will be granted for ten years.
2. Accreditation: This indicates that all standards are compliant. However, there may be unmet elements that must be addressed via progress reporting. For schools with this status, accreditation will be granted for seven years.
3. Accreditation with Heightened Monitoring: This indicates that fewer than three standards are non-compliant and ongoing monitoring will occur via progress reporting. For schools with this status, accreditation will be granted for four years.
4. Accreditation with Warning: This indicates that between three and five standards are non-compliant and ongoing monitoring will occur via progress reporting. For schools with this status, accreditation will be granted for two years.
5. Accreditation with Probation: This indicates that more than five standards are noncompliant. For schools with this status, the accreditation will be granted for no more than one year.
6. Withdrawal of Accreditation: This indicates that the quality of the educational program is compromised and the school was unable to come into compliance with all standards within the allotted timeframe.

ACGME – Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

**Additional Location** – A location that is geographically apart from the main campus at which the institution offers at least 50 percent of an educational program. The Additional Location will not have separate administration, faculty, or budgetary independence. The additional location must have a common Chief Academic Officer, faculty, budget, and curriculum with the parent COM. Students may be admitted directly to the Additional Location as their primary place of enrollment (34 CFR §602.22).

**Adverse Action** – A decision by the COCA involving the status of probation, warning, denial, withdrawal, suspension, revocation of accreditation or pre-accreditation or any other negative effect on a COM's accreditation status. Upon the determination of the COCA, the decision is reported to the United States Department of Education, irrespective of the appeal status of a decision.

**Adjunct Faculty** – Faculty serving in a temporary or auxiliary capacity with limited duties and benefits.

**Affiliated Clinical Site** – A clinical site in an accredited healthcare facility or clinic, not owned or operated by a COM, which agrees to provide specific and limited clinical instruction to a COM's students.

**Annual Report** – A required report from each COM addressing programmatic outcomes.

**Anticipated change in class size** – A substantive change initiated by the COM and approved by its governing board.

AOA – American Osteopathic Association

**Branch Campus** – A branch campus is a location that is geographically apart from the COM and is:

1. Permanent in nature;
2. Offers courses in educational programs leading to a DO degree;
3. Has its own faculty and administrative or supervisory organization; and
4. Has its own budgetary and hiring authority.

The COCA may serve as the programmatic or institutional accreditor for COMs wishing to request a Branch Campus. (34 CFR §600.2).

CHEA – Council for Higher Education Accreditation

Clery Act – Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act) - Federal statute which requires all colleges and universities that participate in federal financial aid programs to keep and disclose information about crime on and near their respective campuses.

COCA – Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation

COM (SOM) – College (or school) of osteopathic medicine offering instruction leading to the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degree.

Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination of the United States (COMLEX-USA) – A series of osteopathic medical licensing examinations administered by the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME).

CORE Element – An element considered fundamental to the meeting of the standard. COM will be found out of compliance with the standard if the COM fails to meet any core element within that standard.

Credit Hour – A credit hour is defined by the regulations of the U.S. Secretary of Education at 34 CFR 600.2 – Except as provided in 34 CFR 668.8(k) and (l), a credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally established equivalency that reasonably approximates not less than:

1. One hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours of out of class student work each week for approximately fifteen weeks for one semester or trimester hour of credit, or ten to twelve weeks for one quarter hour of credit, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time; or
2. At least an equivalent amount of work as required in paragraph (1) of this definition for other academic activities as established by the institution including laboratory work, internships, practicum, studio work, and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

Curriculum Changes – A substantive change in curriculum will be considered when a comprehensive change in the curriculum is occurring, which means a significant departure from the existing curriculum content or method of delivery. A substantive change is NOT merely a modification made as part of the routine curricular improvement process. A substantive change in curriculum may also be considered if there is a change from clock hours to credit hours or a substantial increase or decrease (more than 20%) in the number of clock or credit hours awarded for successful completion of a program. CFR 602.22 a-(2)iii.

**Direct Supervision of a Medical Student** – Direct supervision of a medical student by a licensed provider who is available in the facility at the time the student is providing care to any patient. For a procedure, the licensed provider must be credentialed to perform the procedure and in the room with the student.

**Distance Education** – Education that uses one or more of the technologies listed in paragraphs (1) through (4) of this definition to deliver the entire course of instruction to students who are separated from the instructor and to support regular and substantive interaction between the students and instructor, either synchronously or asynchronously. The technologies may include:

1. The internet;
2. One-way and two way transmission through open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, broadband lines, fiber optics, satellite, or wireless communications devices;
3. Audio conferencing; or
4. Video cassettes, DVD's and CD-ROMs, if the cassettes, DVDs or CD-ROMs are used in a course in conjunction with any of the technologies listed in paragraphs (1) through (3) of this definition. (34 CFR 600.2)

**EPAs** – Entrustable Professional Activities

**Escrow Reserve Fund** – A minimum segregated, unencumbered reserve fund escrowed until one year after graduation of the first class of students and equal to an amount approved by the COCA. The escrowed reserve fund must not be borrowed or pledged funds and must be 100% wholly owned assets of the COM or its parent institution.

**Faculty member** – An individual who contributes in a full or part time manner to a COM in the areas of teaching, research/scholarly work, service, or administrative responsibilities.

**Full Time Faculty Member** – A faculty member is determined to work full time for a COM or institution if he/she contributes at least thirty two hours per week of work, including responsibilities in the area of teaching, research/scholarly work, service or administrative responsibilities. In the faculty adequacy model, a faculty member meeting this definition may be considered full-time or 1.0 full time equivalent (FTE).

**Part Time Faculty Member** – Faculty members working fewer hours or with contractual arrangements resulting in routine payments from sources other than the COM or institution are considered part-time and should be assigned the working percentage of a full time equivalent.

Feasibility Study – An assessment of the practicality of a proposed plan or method. The submitted document will be verified at the time of the site visit. It includes the following items.

1. If the COM, or its parent, has accreditation from a regional agency recognized for that purpose by the U.S. Secretary of Education, then a letter from the regional accreditor indicating approval of the substantive change must accompany the request.
2. A COM, and/or its parent, must not have accreditation with warning, accreditation with probation, or be subject to a show cause determination that could alter accreditation status issued by the COCA or the regional accreditor prior to requesting the substantive change for a substantive change.
3. Assessment of the degree of support the substantive change has in the community, county and state, and the respective osteopathic professional associations. Written documentation must accompany this assessment. The assessment must include a letter of comment from the state osteopathic association for each state in which the proposed substantive change intends to have clinical training sites.
4. A statement of the curriculum proposed to be offered and the COM's previous experience with that curriculum.
5. Demonstrate and document with written verification it has the availability of adequate clinical training sites. Documentation must include an assessment of the impact of the substantive change's proposed clinical training programs upon any osteopathic training programs already in existence at the clinical sites under discussion.
6. A GME feasibility report demonstrating the expected placement of the COM's current and prospective graduates in GME positions. The COM must demonstrate educational planning and noted progress in generating postdoctoral training opportunities.
7. The parent must provide student services for the substantive change consistent with Standard 9 in the Continuing Accreditation Standards.
8. Identify the faculty and administration who will provide instruction and complete administrative duties.
9. Projected revenues, expenditures, and cash flows for the substantive change.
10. Operation, management, and physical resources for the substantive change, including learning resources.



Fulltime equivalent (FTE) – An FTE is the number of hours worked by one employee on a full-time basis.

Institutional Accrediting Agency – An agency that accredits institutions of higher education; such an agency grants accreditation decisions that enable its accredited institutions to establish eligibility to participate in Higher Education Act Programs.

Interprofessional Education (IPE) – When students from two or more professions learn about, from and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes. (World Health Organization 2010)

NACIQI – National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity

NBOME – National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, Inc

Observer – A site team member who is an official from a federal or state agency or a representative of any other organization, who is not assigned a specific role on the site visit team.

Operating Reserve Fund – A fund consisting of an amount approved by the COCA but no less than one-fourth of the escrow reserve fund. The minimum operating reserve fund must not be borrowed or pledged funds and must be 100% wholly owned assets of the COM or its parent institution.

Osteopathic Core Competencies (OCC) – The Seven Osteopathic Core Competencies were defined to meet the requirements of AOA-accredited postdoctoral training programs: Medical knowledge; osteopathic philosophy and osteopathic manipulative medicine; patient care; professionalism; interpersonal and communication skills; practice-based learning and improvement; and systems based practice.

Progress Report – A document submitted by a COM for compliance monitoring purposes to demonstrate the COM's compliance with accreditation standards the COCA has deemed not met.

Requirement – Mandate for compliance with a specific standard of element within a standard usually following a comprehensive or focused site visit to a COM. A requirement may be written at any time in the accreditation process. All requirements will be monitored by the COCA through a Progress Report or Focused Visitation.

Self-Study – A self-assessment report submitted by a COM to the COCA to demonstrate the COM's compliance with all applicable COCA standards.

Show Cause – A directive by the COCA to a COM mandating the COM to produce information or evidence as to why the COCA should not take an adverse accreditation decision following

information evidencing a COM's non-compliance with the accreditation standards, policies or procedures.

Site Visit – The process through which the COCA examines, through an on-site review, a COM's compliance with all accreditation standards.

Comprehensive Site Visit – A review that addresses all standards.

Focused Site Visit – A review that addresses a specific set of identified standards.

Site Visit Team – A group of individuals each classified under certain categories of on-site evaluators, as required by 34 CFR § 602.15. The categories of on-site evaluators are:

1. Administrator- An individual who is currently or recently, and directly, engaged in a significant manner in postsecondary program or institutional administration.
2. Educator- An individual who is currently or recently, and directly, engaged in a significant manner in osteopathic education in an academic capacity (e.g. professor, instructor, academic dean).
3. Academic- individual who is currently or recently, and directly, engaged in a significant manner in postsecondary teaching and/or research.
4. Practitioner- individual who is currently or recently, and directly, engaged in a significant manner in the practice of the osteopathic profession.

Teach-out Agreement – A written agreement an accredited COM provides for the equitable treatment of its students to complete their program of study, if the COM stops offering its educational program before all students enrolled in that program complete their program of study.

Teach-out Plan – A written plan developed by a COM providing for the equitable treatment of its students if an institution, an additional location or a branch campus ceases to operate before all students enrolled in that program complete their program of study. This plan may include, if required by the COCA, a teach-out agreement between COMs.

Technical Assessment Report – The process of setting goals about technical facets of the institution, determining how well those goals are being met, and determining the best course of action to take to improve those results.

Title IV – Title IV of the Higher Education Act.

USDE – United States Department of Education and the Secretary of Education

Withdrawal - The voluntary withdrawal of a COM from the accreditation process.