



Training in Policy Studies Fellowship Program

Website: <https://osteopathic.org/residents/tips-program/>

The AOA's Training in Policy Studies (TIPS) Fellowship Program is training the next generation of leaders in health policy. This program will provide residents with an understanding of current health policy issues and help them build skills necessary to tackle complex public health challenges through policy. Issues addressed in the program include effectively communicating policy proposals, payment model reform, building the future health care workforce, and policy approaches to addressing public health issues.

The program will seek to develop the following skills:

- Policy analysis: Fellows will enhance their analytical skills by reviewing policy proposals and evaluating their impact, as well as through developing their own proposals.
- Data translation: Fellows will hone their ability to translate research and data into usable information for policy makers.
- Writing for policy change: Fellows will develop a policy paper during the fellowship to adapt and apply their writing abilities to the public policy environment.
- Leadership and communication: Fellows will gain a greater understanding of how to be an effective spokesperson for their patients and for the profession. Fellows will also have the opportunity to engage with professionals in the health policy field.

Meeting Participation:

Fellows will participate in a total of seven learning sessions, including a final presentation. Of these sessions, four will be in-person, and three will be held digitally. The program will start in November 2020 and conclude at the 2021 OMED. Final presentations will be presented at the OMED meeting. TIPS Fellows must participate in at least 7 of the meetings in order to receive a certificate at the end of the program.

Engagement:

Reading and projects outside of class sessions help support Fellows' learning and facilitate thoughtful discussion and policy analysis during meetings. We recognize the time constraints that residents face, and have worked to design assignments to be accomplished in the time allotted without overburdening residents. Assignments will include:

- Readings for each discussion session will be assigned 1 to 2 weeks before the meeting.
- 1 policy brief (1 page)
 - Fellows will draft a policy brief based on a subject of their choosing, which will serve as a building block for starting the final research paper
- 1 final paper (3-4 pages)
 - The final paper will evaluate a unique public health or health policy issue and propose policy changes that can be implemented to address the issue. The paper will be research-based and will help Fellows enhance their translation and analytical skills. Fellows will have two "tracks" to choose from for this final product: to develop an AOA House of Delegates resolution or a manuscript that Fellows can submit to the JAOA for publication in the "Health Policy" section.

Agenda:¹

Meeting Dates	Subject(s)	Description and Assigned Reading Due Dates
<p>Digital Meeting: Week of November 16</p>	<p>Program Overview</p> <p>Part 1: Writing for Policy Change</p> <p>Part 2: Legislative Affairs and Healthcare Reform</p>	<p>AOA leadership will welcome the new cohort of Fellows and lead a discussion on the importance of physician involvement in policymaking. American Osteopathic Foundation leadership will provide a welcome to the fellows, discuss the importance of engagement with the foundation, and provide an overview of the foundation’s work.</p> <p>We will discuss the objectives of the TIPS program, work that the Fellows will engage in, and approaches to writing for policy change. The writing workshop will help prepare Fellows to complete their policy paper.</p> <p>A guest speaker will present and lead discussion focusing on how to produce work for publication.</p> <p>The legislative affairs discussion will provide fellows with insight into the policy making process from when a bill is introduced to when it is signed into law. The discussion will address how stakeholder requests or needs are incorporated into legislation. This background will then be used to describe how different stakeholder approach surprise medical billing.</p>
<p>Policy Brief # 1 Due December 21st</p>		
<p>Digital Meeting: January 14, 2021</p>	<p>Part 1: Overview on State Legislative Issues and Policy Making</p> <p>Part 2: What is grassroots engagement in the American political</p>	<p>The first part of this discussion will provide a panorama on issues affecting the osteopathic profession and patients at the state level. Issues include telemedicine, liability issues, and scope of practice.</p> <p>Part 2 of this meeting will address the role of grassroots efforts in the policymaking process and how stakeholders mobilize to shape policy.</p> <p>Guest Speakers: Raine Richards. JD, Director of State Government Affairs for the AOA; Sean Neal, Director of OPAC</p>

¹ Topics subject to change based on current events and evolving policy landscape.

	system, and how it affects policy	
Policy Brief Revision or Draft House of Delegates Resolution Due Two Weeks Before March Meeting		
Virtual DO Day and Policy Conference (Two-Day Event)		
Digital Meeting: March 7-9 2021 (following DO Day and Policy Conference)	Part 1: Physician Burnout and Mental Health Part 2: Community Engagement	The meeting will address the issue of physician burnout, mental health, and protecting physicians who seek help. This segment will also feature a presentation from the American Osteopathic Foundation
Resolution Presentations to AOA Bureaus Due in May for Fellows Who Choose the Resolution “Track”		
Digital Meeting: May 3, 2021	Part 1: Overview of the Regulatory Process Part 2: Writing Workshop	The first portion of this meeting will describe the rulemaking process and its importance in implementing laws. Part 2, the writing workshop, will be used to help Fellows work through challenges they may be facing in developing their final papers. Fellows will review each other’s briefs and provide each other with feedback. Suggested Readings: Ryan and Ellimoottil. “The ultimate guide to writing manuscripts” The University of Michigan. November 2016.
Paper/Manuscript Drafts Due 2 Weeks Before June Meeting		
Digital Meeting: June 2021	Addressing Social Determinants of Health Through Policy	The meeting will discuss why addressing social determinants of health is important to improving the well-being of communities, and current policy initiatives to improve social determinants.

July 2021	Prescription drug pricing	The meeting will focus on prescription drug costs in the US, discussing both legislative and administration efforts to address drug pricing issues in Medicare and the commercial market.
September 2021	Part 1: Media Training Part 2: Insurance Benefit Reform	AOA Communications staff will provide a training to TIPS fellows on how to communicate messages effectively on social media and share best practices for engaging with the media. The second part of the discussion will discuss insurance reform and how the ACA needs to be improved to expand preventive coverage or certain services that have limited coverage.
Final Papers and Presentation Due 2 Weeks before October Meeting		
OMED Meeting: October 22-25, 2021	Proposal Presentations and Program Conclusion	Fellows will present their policy proposals and leadership from AOA and AOF will conclude the program with the fellows.