

DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE (D.O.)

Purpose

The purpose of the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine is to prepare osteopathic physicians who will be responsive to the health care needs of patients, patients' families, and underserved communities through courses of medical study and clinical experiences guided by osteopathic medical tradition, concepts, and practice. Programmatic emphasis on the osteopathic core competencies and spiritual care equips student-doctors to match into competitive graduate medical education programs and continue the tradition of providing holistic patient care.

Read more information about Curriculum Description and Curriculum Schedule.

Program Learning Outcomes

The student will be able to:

- Osteopathic Principles and Practice/Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment: The student will understand and apply osteopathic principles to patient care.
- Medical Knowledge: The student will demonstrate knowledge of established biomedical, epidemiological, social, and behavioral sciences and their application to patient care.
- Patient Care: The student will have the knowledge, attitudes, and skills to provide compassionate, appropriate, and effective patient care.
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills: The student will demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in effective interactions with patients, families, and colleagues.
- Professionalism: The student will demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities in an ethical and sensitive manner.
- Practice-based Learning and Improvement: The student will demonstrate the ability to investigate and evaluate patient care practices using scientific evidence and apply these to patient care.
- Systems-based Practice: The student will demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and systems of health care, to provide care of optimal value.
- Spiritual Care: The student will demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the spiritual needs of patients, families, and colleagues.

Read more information about American Osteopathic Association Core Competencies and LUCOM Program Learning Outcomes.

Graduation Requirements

A student who has fulfilled all the academic requirements may be granted the degree Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) provided the student¹:

1. Has satisfactorily completed all of the curriculum and rotations requirements at a COCA-accredited college of osteopathic medicine including at a minimum the last two years of his/her education at LUCOM.
2. Has completed all academic requirements in no more than six years from the date of matriculation (150% of the standard time), except where an exception is required by law or statute.²

3. Has complied with all the curricular, legal, and financial requirements of the university.
4. Has attended the compulsory portions of orientation and senior week, including graduation rehearsal and the graduation ceremony, at which time they take the osteopathic oath.
5. Has passed COMLEX Level 1 and both components of COMLEX Level 2 (CE and PE³) of the examination administered by the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners.⁴
6. Has reached at least 21 years of age.
7. Has demonstrated the ethical, personal, and professional qualities deemed necessary by the LUCOM faculty for the practice of osteopathic medicine and gained the recommendation for graduation from the Student Progress Committee.
8. Has demonstrated suitability for the practice of osteopathic medicine to the administration and LUCOM faculty through action of the Student Progress Committee as evidenced by their conduct, ethical and professional behavior, demonstrations of medical knowledge and skills, displaying responsibility for patient care, and exhibiting integrity in the conduct of clinical and academic activities.
9. Has demonstrated compliance with the Code of Behavioral Conduct.

Degrees are not awarded solely upon the completion of any prescribed number of courses, credits, or upon passing a prescribed number of examinations. Granting of the degree requires in addition, that the LUCOM faculty believes the student has attained sufficient maturity of thought, ethics, and professional proficiency to serve the public as an osteopathic physician. Matriculation and enrollment do not guarantee the issuance of a degree without satisfactorily meeting the aforementioned curriculum and degree requirements. Students will not receive a diploma until all degree requirements are fulfilled. Students must complete all degree requirements by December 31 to be allowed to participate in the May Commencement/Senior Week activities of the same calendar year.

Hooding Ceremony

The student doctor hooding ceremony recognizes and celebrates LUCOM graduates. LUCOM recognizes the values of professionalism and service in support of the mission and vision of the institution. Eligible family members are, therefore, invited to participate in the hooding ceremony for student doctors. Family members are eligible to participate in the hooding ceremony if they meet the following qualifications:

- Hold a DO or MD degree
- Must be an immediate family member (parent, sibling or spouse)

Graduates must complete a Hooding Request Form for advanced approval of the family member's participation. If a student does not request to be hooded by a family member, the student will be hooded by a LUCOM faculty member.

¹ 1.6 Degree-Granting Body

² 6.3 Maximum Length of Completion

³ COMLEX 2-PE was temporarily suspended in April 2020, suspended indefinitely in February 2021, and formally discontinued in June 2022.

⁴ 11.4a COMLEX-USA

Program of Study

Delivery Format: Residential Only

- Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.)

Career Opportunities

As a board-certified osteopathic physician, you may practice in every state and in more than 65 countries worldwide. Licensed osteopathic physicians can:

- Practice medicine in all medical specialties
- Diagnose and treat patients
- Prescribe medications
- Perform surgery
- Work in a hospital caring for patients with injuries or life-threatening illnesses
- Teach future generations of physicians
- Conduct research and work in laboratories
- Study the cause of illnesses and look for better ways to treat diseases and injuries
- Run medical centers