



SCHOOL of
OSTEOPATHIC
MEDICINE

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Policy Contact: Andrea Cyterski-Acosta
Responsible Office: Office of Admissions
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Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to state admissions requirements, policies, and procedures for potential applicants to the school of osteopathic medicine and to tie policies to the SOM mission. Technical standards are included.

Policy Statement

1) Description

The University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine (UIWSOM) implemented a rolling admissions holistic review process. This format reflects the varied ways applicants prepare for and demonstrate a desire to study and practice osteopathic medicine. Using the guiding tenets of the mission of the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW) and the mission of the UIWSOM, admissions criteria were established to recognize those applicants who embrace and thrive in an education setting focused on health care disparities of the surrounding community.

2) Primary goals

- a) Manage the admissions process, using criteria which provide a holistic view of each applicant to fairly and effectively identify candidates who have the potential to be successful UIWSOM students and future physicians. These criteria include:
- Motivation, dedication, and passion for the osteopathic medical profession
 - Commitment to social accountability and alignment with the UIW mission
 - Academic achievement and scholarship
 - Life experiences

3) Participants

- a) The Office of Admissions has the primary responsibility for managing and organizing all aspects of the application process including communication, application review and student candidate interviews. Designated faculty and staff from other UIWSOM departments assist with various aspects of the application process as well. Interviews are conducted by faculty and administrators from UIWSOM, as well as UIW main campus personnel, local physicians and other members of the community with a vested interest in UIWSOM.

4) Resources

- a) Application Processing and Management- UIWSOM participates in the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service (AACOMAS), the centralized on-line application service for osteopathic medical schools. Zap Solutions- AMP is the admissions platform that helps manage the pre-screening, screening, interview, and committee selection process.

5) Guidelines

- a) Pre-requisite Coursework Requirement- Minimum coursework requirements include:
- Completion of no less than 75% of the credits required for a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university.

- Biology: minimum of 8 semester hours, including 2 hours of laboratory work. (Applicants will be strongly encouraged to take additional coursework to help facilitate a smoother transition to the medical school environment. These courses may include human anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, genetics, cell biology, neuroscience, microbiology, behavioral science, and immunology.)
- General Chemistry: minimum of 8 semester hours, including 2 semester hours of laboratory work. Organic Chemistry: minimum of 8 semester hours, including 2 semester hours of laboratory work.
- Physics: minimum of 8 semester hours, including 2 semester hours of laboratory work.
- English: minimum of 6 semester hours of composition and literature.

Six semester hours of Philosophy or other Humanities coursework is strongly recommended.

- b) AACOMAS Traffic Guidelines- Admitted students are requested to submit necessary matriculation documents according to the AACOMAS traffic guideline schedule- <https://www.aacom.org/become-a-doctor/how-to-apply-to-osteopathic-medical-college/aacomas-traffic-guidelines>
- c) Admissions Cycle- The admissions cycle coincides with the opening of the AACOMAS portal the first week of May. UIWSOM concludes the cycle on March 15th. Important deadlines can be found at <https://osteopathic-medicine.uiw.edu/admissions/doctor-of-osteopathic-medicine/application-cycle.html>
- d) Technical Standards- The Technical Standards encompass a spectrum of physical and mental activities and skills that all candidates and students must possess with or without reasonable accommodation for performing on practice partners such as standardized patients or classmates as well as patients in a clinical setting. Candidates and students must also be able to perform these abilities and skills in a reasonably independent manner. Activities and skills include the following categories:
- Sensory (visual, hearing, tactile)
 - Motor
 - Intellectual
 - Communication
 - Behavioral and Social

Sensory

- a. Visual: Candidates and students must have sufficient visual capabilities for the purposes of observation. Observation includes the ability to visualize educational demonstrations and laboratory activities related to basic sciences and clinical activities. Visual acuity includes but is not limited to the ability to observe a partner and patient at varying distances, being able to interpret diagnostic reports such as electrocardiograms and x-rays, and perform tasks in setting that may have visual distractions, such as crowds. Observation includes non-verbal communication and is enhanced by the functional use of the sense of smell.
- b. Hearing: Candidates and students must have sufficient auditory ability to monitor and assess partners and patients for the purposes of acquiring necessary health information and working as a team in educational and health care settings. Auditory acuity includes skills such as auscultation, listening to monitors, and responding to verbal calls for assistance in urgent health care situations. Candidates are expected to be able to perform skills in environments with a certain degree of background noise.
- c. Tactile: Candidates and students must have sufficient tactile sensory and proprioceptive abilities for the purposes of both gathering data in physical examinations and for practicing and performing medical procedures safely. Tactile acuity includes clinical skills such as palpation and percussion.

Motor Skills

Candidates and students should have sufficient motor function to coordinate both gross and fine motor movements, maintain equilibrium, and have the functional use of the senses of touch and vision in an educational and clinical setting. This includes sufficient postural control and eye-hand coordination to perform clinical skills and tasks. Candidates and students should be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general and emergency care to patients. This includes being able to safely and independently lift 20 pounds and work with a health care team in lifting patients. Other activities which require sufficient motor activities include, but are not limited to: cardiopulmonary resuscitation, administration of intravenous medication, the application of pressure to stop bleeding, the opening of obstructed airways, the suturing of wounds, the performance of obstetrical maneuvers and performance of osteopathic manipulative techniques. Such actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

Communication

Candidates and students should be able to communicate effectively, efficiently and in a sensitive manner both verbally and non-verbally in order to interact with all members in both educational and clinical settings. Verbal communication includes speaking, reading and writing. English is the primary language used for all educational activities, including classroom and clinical settings. Candidates and students must be able to communicate verbally, in writing, and by reading in English. Non-verbal communication includes those perceived behaviors, movements, postures and other physical characteristics that are interpreted as well as performed by the candidate and student.

Intellectual

Candidates and students must be able to conceptualize, integrate and qualitatively analyze information derived empirically and rationally. This includes abilities to reason, calculate, analyze, measure and synthesize information in a variety of settings, including those that may be urgent with increased transient stress and distractions. Candidates and students must comprehend three-dimensional relationships, and understand spatial relationships of structures, including anatomical structures.

Behavioral and Social

Candidates and students must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities that include the exercise good judgment, prompt completion of all educational and clinical responsibilities, and the development of mature, sensitive and effective professional relationships with patients. Candidates and students must be able to tolerate mentally and physically taxing workloads and adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest and motivation are all personal qualities that will be assessed during the admissions and educational processes. <https://osteopathic-medicine.uiw.edu/admissions/doctor-of-osteopathic-medicine/minimumtechnicalstandardsuiwsom.html>

e) Pipeline Programs

- a) Direct Admit- UIWSOM offers direct admit options for highly qualified first-time freshmen. Qualified candidates will receive conditional acceptance to SOM and are expected to meet specific guidelines during their undergraduate career to gain full admissions. <https://www.uiw.edu/healthprofessions/index.html>
- b) UIW Health Professions Pathway- UIWSOM has a memorandum of understanding with Carroll College and St. Edward's University which reserves 10 interview slots for qualified candidates from each institution. These slots may be released in spring for other qualified candidates if fewer than two qualified applicants have applied.