



University of the Incarnate Word
School of Osteopathic Medicine

Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Student Handbook

2026-2027

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Introduction

The University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine (UIWSOM) Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Student Handbook (DO Student Handbook) addresses the policies, standards, procedures, and expectations that apply to students in the DO program. In addition to this DO Student Handbook, all students at the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW) are bound by the values, requirements, and expectations outlined in the [UIW Student Code of Conduct](#). The DO Student Handbook is intended to complement the UIW Code of Conduct and shall be construed as such. In case of conflict between the documents, this more specific DO Student Handbook shall control.

This DO Student Handbook is intended to inform students about what is expected of them and ensure that members of the UIWSOM community are treated fairly. While UIWSOM has made every effort to publish a comprehensive handbook, no set of policies can anticipate every circumstance that may arise. Therefore, UIWSOM reserves the right to amend this DO Student Handbook and to make modifications at any time during the academic year, including but not limited to academic requirements for graduation. All policy modifications will be written with approval from the Dean and the appropriate UIWSOM Offices. All students, faculty, and staff will be notified of changes to any policy or procedure in this handbook by the Office of Student Affairs (OSA). It is each student's responsibility to read, understand, and follow the DO Student Handbook and keep apprised of all current graduation requirements by regular consultation with OSA.

For the purposes of this handbook, the terms osteopathic medical student, medical student, and student are used interchangeably.

Dean's Welcome

On behalf of the faculty, administration, and staff, it is my great honor to welcome you to the University of the Incarnate Word School of Osteopathic Medicine (UIWSOM). Your decision to join our community represents a momentous step in your journey toward becoming a dedicated and compassionate osteopathic physician.

At UIWSOM, we are committed to fostering an environment that upholds our mission to educate socially responsible and community-focused leaders in the field of osteopathic medicine. We fully expect that you will not only internalize this mission but also exemplify it, growing into a socially conscious professional who will create meaningful change within the communities you serve.

Your time at UIWSOM will be both challenging and rewarding. Through a transformational, student-centered curriculum and a strong emphasis on professional identity formation, we aim to support your academic, personal, and professional success at every stage.

This handbook has been designed as a resource to familiarize you with policies specific to the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program. We encourage you to engage with its contents and use it as a guide throughout your time with us. Additionally, we urge you to set ambitious goals, seize opportunities for growth, and seek mentorship from our dedicated faculty and administrators. You are not on this path alone—UIWSOM is here to provide guidance and support.

Welcome once again to our learning community. It is a privilege to walk alongside you as you prepare to take your place among the future leaders of the osteopathic medical profession.

With our highest wishes for your success.

John T. Pham, DO, FACOFP

Dean and Chief Academic Officer

Professor of Family Medicine



Enrollment Requirements

Notice of Non-Discrimination

Discrimination and harassment are contradictory to the mission of UIW and will not be tolerated. UIW complies with all applicable federal and state nondiscrimination laws and does not engage in prohibited discrimination or harassment based on race, color, sex, gender, sexual orientation, citizenship status, ethnicity, national origin, age, marital status, disability, genetic information, gender identity or expression, veteran status, pregnancy, religion, or any other characteristics protected by law. As a Catholic institution of higher education sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, UIW is, however, exempt from the prohibition against religious discrimination of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and some provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. With respect to government contracts and in accordance with 41 CFR Section 60-1.5, it shall not be a violation of the equal opportunity clause required by Executive Order 11246 for UIW to establish a hiring preference for applicants of the Catholic faith. UIW reserves the right to exercise this hiring preference as required to maintain its Catholic identity.

UIWSOM is a community that strives to produce an inclusive learning and working environment. Students, faculty, and staff share the responsibility of keeping UIWSOM free from discrimination, harassment, and other misconduct that detracts from the institution's commitments to equity and inclusion.

Technical Standards for Admissions and Successful Completion of the DO Program

The UIWSOM is committed to the full and meaningful inclusion of qualified applicants and students with disabilities. The following Technical Standards reflect reasonable expectations for applicants and students in educational and clinical settings but are not intended to deter any person for whom reasonable accommodations made pursuant to Section 504 and/or the ADA will allow the fulfillment of the complete curriculum.

The DO degree requires general knowledge and demonstration of the basic skills required for practicing osteopathic medicine. Each student must develop a deep and robust osteopathic medical knowledge base and outstanding osteopathic clinical skills, with the ability to effectively interpret information, apply their knowledge and skills appropriately, and contribute to decisions across a broad spectrum of medical situations.

OBSERVATION: Candidates must be able to observe, perceive, collect, use, and interpret information from examinations, demonstrations, diagnostic and assessment procedures and tools, and all other modes of patient assessment in different contexts, including laboratory studies, medication administration, imaging studies, and all other patient care activities (e.g., symmetry,

asymmetry, range of motion, discoloration, etc.). Candidates must also be able to document observations, maintain accurate records, and distill and use pertinent information from such records.

COMMUNICATION: Candidates must be able to understand, speak, and write in English to carry out osteopathic duties in the classroom and clinical settings.

MOTOR FUNCTION, STRENGTH, AND MOBILITY: Candidates must possess sufficient motor function to execute movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. Examples of movements reasonably required of physicians include, but are not limited to, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), the application of pressure to stop bleeding, the opening of obstructed airways, the suturing of simple wounds, performance of obstetrical maneuvers and osteopathic manipulative medicine, inserting an intravenous (IV) catheter and starting IV fluids. Such actions require physical mobility, coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, flexibility, balance and equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision. Individuals with disabilities must be able to achieve these standards with reasonable adaptations.

SENSORY SKILLS: The practice of osteopathic medicine relies on sensory skills. Individuals with disabilities that affect their senses, including tactile or proprioceptive capacities, may be required to undergo evaluation to determine their ability to meet this standard with or without reasonable adaptation.

INTELLECTUAL-CONCEPTUAL, INTEGRATIVE, AND QUANTITATIVE ABILITIES: Candidates must be able to concentrate, analyze, interpret and utilize data in settings that involve reasonable amounts of visual and auditory distraction. Candidates must be able to perform these functions within the limits and under a reasonable amount of stress in anticipation of the diverse and demanding clinical settings and circumstances in which they will practice as physicians. Candidates must be able to perform the following representative functions accurately in the presence of varying levels of distraction and urgency: write prescriptions, perform basic mathematical functions, and read patient charts. They also must demonstrate the ability to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand spatial relationships of structures.

BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL ATTRIBUTES: Candidates in educational and clinical settings must take ownership of learning, exercise good judgment, and promptly complete all responsibilities attendant to their curriculum and to the diagnosis and care of patients. Candidates

must display integrity, honesty, attendance, conscientiousness, empathy, a sense of altruism, and a spirit of cooperation and teamwork. They must understand the legal and ethical aspects of the practice of medicine and function within both the law and ethical standards of the UIWSOM and the medical profession. Candidates must be able to interact in a courteous, professional, and respectful manner with patients and their families, healthcare personnel, peers, colleagues, faculty, staff, and all other individuals with whom they come in contact. Candidates must be able to contribute to collaborative, constructive learning environments; accept constructive feedback from others and take personal responsibility for making appropriate positive changes. Candidates must have the physical and emotional stamina and resilience to tolerate taxing workloads and function in a competent and professional manner under stressful situations, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility, and manage the uncertainty inherent in the care of patients and the healthcare system.

LEGAL AND ETHICAL STANDARDS: Candidates must understand and comply with the legal and ethical standards to be licensed and practice medicine in the State of Texas and maintain and display ethical and moral behaviors commensurate with the role of a physician in all interactions with patients, their families, faculty, peers, staff, students, and the public.

Students who, after reviewing the technical standards, determine that they require reasonable accommodation to fully engage in the program should review the accommodations information in the next section. In addition, these Technical Standards, and any exceptions or accommodations granted to a student, apply at the UIWSOM only, and do not carry over to required licensing (national board) examinations or residency. Therefore, each student is independently responsible for meeting the requirements for licensure and residency.

Accommodations Guidelines, Procedures, and Processes

In compliance with the Mission of the University and federal law, the UIWSOM welcomes students without regard to race, color, sex, gender, sexual orientation, citizenship status, ethnicity, national origin, age, marital status, disability, genetic information, gender identity or expression, veteran status, pregnancy, religion, or any other characteristics protected by law. In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Subpart E; Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972, UIWSOM is committed to making reasonable accommodations to ensure accessibility in completing core osteopathic educational requirements and achieving competencies in clinical and applied basic sciences.

Students seeking reasonable accommodations as defined by federal laws must follow the University's procedures by submitting a request with applicable supporting documentation to [Student Disability Services](#) (SDS), the procedure for which is outlined in the next section. Students who are already registered with SDS should, when relevant, renew their request ahead of each academic year. If an adjustment to current accommodation is needed, it is the student's responsibility to reach out to SDS directly.

Students are encouraged to review the information on the SDS website and/or contact SDS to discuss their options if they have a documented disability or suspect they have a disability not yet determined. Newly admitted students should apply for accommodation using the same process as current students. Determination of eligibility for SDS services and accommodations is not part of the admission process.

Students are responsible for advocating for themselves during the accommodation process. They should not rely on their parents, peers, faculty members, or others to do so for them. SDS will support participating students and provide reasonable accommodation to the extent permitted by law.

Students may not receive accommodations based on a disability that has not been disclosed and documented to SDS. Students who must remediate a unit or are suspended or dismissed for academic, behavioral, unprofessionalism, or other reasons may not seek to excuse their conduct based on a disability that is not documented with SDS.

Students will be apprised of eligibility within the timeframe established by SDS. Because of the number of requests being processed at the beginning of the academic year, students are urged to submit their request for accommodation once registered at the University or, for renewals, at the end of the current academic year.

Requesting Accommodations

All students must follow SDS policies and procedures for determining eligibility for accommodations. It is the student's responsibility to follow the documentation guidelines and, where relevant, submit evaluation results along with the appropriate online request for accommodations, as follows:

[Disability Accommodations](#) (See SDS Connection Process)

[Religious Accommodations](#)

[Title IX \(Pregnancy and Pregnancy Related\) Accommodations](#)

For more information, please contact [Student Disability Services](#) directly.

Students are strongly encouraged to submit requests to SDS before the start of the year or at the start of a course or clerkship to provide SDS and the Director of Academic Support (DAS) with reasonable notice to adequately coordinate accommodations. **A minimum advance notice of two weeks is necessary for the SDS office to properly evaluate new requests for accommodation. Additionally, letters of accommodation must be submitted to the Director of Academic Support (DAS) at least 14 days prior to any assessment or activity for the accommodation to be implemented.**

It is solely the students' responsibility to request accommodation in a timely manner. Currently enrolled students who have developed or anticipate an impairment due to illness, accident, surgery, or other emergent situation should submit requests to SDS as soon as possible. Emergency requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

An SDS professional will review the accommodations request, meet with the student to discuss their request, and determine appropriate accommodation specific to the individual's needs. Structure and format for approved accommodations may vary based on curricular component and required technical standards

Implementing Accommodations

Students with approved accommodations will receive a Letter of Accommodations from SDS. This is an official notice of the student's eligibility and guidelines appropriate for the student's needs. It is the student's responsibility to review the letter and, if accepted, forward the letter to the DAS for signature. Students must submit this letter at least ***14 days*** prior to any assessment for accommodation to be implemented.

The SOM DAS will 1) review the recommended accommodation with SDS and faculty, as appropriate, to determine suitability for the specific unit component; 2) coordinate logistics for approved accommodations; and 3) sign and return the letter to the student.

Letters of accommodation are not retroactive and become effective on the date the DAS signs the letter received from the student. It is the student's responsibility to renew their accommodations request for each academic year.

Confidentiality of Documentation

Any confidential records and documentation submitted by the student to SDS to support a determination of eligibility will be retained and kept confidential in the SDS office. By law, the

student's documentation will be kept by the SDS office for five years after separation from SOM due to graduation or other means.

The SOM DAS maintains a folder containing all letters of accommodation received from the student. Such material will be retained separately from the student's academic file, and access to such material will be limited, and appropriate confidentiality will be maintained. The SOM DAS only communicates the approved accommodations to the individuals responsible for implementing them. The school will not release details related to accommodations that were provided (for example, to residency programs, etc.).

Test Accommodations for National Board Examinations

Students seeking reasonable accommodations for national board examinations should refer to the instructions and request forms on the appropriate medical board website ([COMLEX-USA](#); [USMLE](#)). Those with current or previous accommodations through The University will need to submit the appropriate verification form to SDS to complete on the Dean's behalf. It is highly recommended that students initiate the accommodations process for board examinations in the fall of their second year (Level 1/Step 1) or the fall of their third year (Level 2-CE/Step 2 CK).

Immunization Accommodations

Any student requiring immunization accommodation must submit the required documentation to the SDS for review. Proof of an approved accommodation must be submitted via the Sentry MD portal and sent directly to the UIWSOM Office of Enrollment Services via cardinal mail.

Program Health Requirements

UIWSOM utilizes PreCheck, a national background screening and drug test processing company for background checks and drug tests; and Sentry MD for maintenance and verification of all required documentation including immunizations, certifications, physical exam records, criminal background, and drug testing. Student records maintained in SentryMD are used to verify compliance with program requirements. Relevant documentation may be shared with clinical agencies as needed to satisfy requirements for students to complete clinical rotations at their facilities.

Incoming first-year students are required to:

- Complete background check and drug testing with PreCheck and submit results to Sentry MD. For additional information, see Criminal Background Check and Drug Testing, below.

- All immunization requirements must be complete by July 1.
- Maintain compliance with all immunizations, background screening, and drug testing at all times.
- Undergo a physical examination and provide results to Sentry MD. This examination must be current (within the current calendar year).
- Physical examinations will expire 12 calendar months from the date the examination is completed.
- An updated examination is required if the previous examination will expire before the end of the academic year.

Second through fourth-year students are required to:

- Maintain compliance with all background checks, drug screening, immunizations, and certification requirements at all times.
- A 10-panel nicotine test may be required for selecting clinical rotation sites.
- Undergo an annual physical examination and provide updated results to Sentry MD no later than 12 calendar months of the previous examination.
- Phase II students are required to complete an annual N95 Mask Fit Test through the UIW Office of Environmental Health, Safety, and Risk Management. Results must be uploaded to Sentry MD.

Immunizations

All students are responsible for providing official and complete documentation of having received immunizations. Updated and current immunizations must be submitted to SentryMD to maintain compliance. The cost of immunizations is the responsibility of the student.

All student records must be in compliance at all times. Incomplete/ noncompliant records may result in the following actions: delayed matriculation into the UIWSOM program delayed assessments, unsatisfactory standing, inability to begin clinical rotations, removal of Letters of Good Standing from the Visiting Student Learning Opportunity (VSLO) system, professionalism violation or dismissal from the UIWSOM program.

Meningococcal Vaccination

First-year students, if younger than the age of 22 years at matriculation, are required to have a record of the meningococcal vaccine. The student must have been immunized within the past five (5) years prior to starting at UIWSOM.

Hepatitis B alone or Hepatitis A/B Combo

All students are required to receive a complete series of the Hepatitis B vaccine. Either a standard Hepatitis B series (3 injections), Heplisav-B (2 injections), or the expedited Hepatitis A & B (TWINRIX) combo series (4 injections) and antibody titer results are required.

- If the Hepatitis B surface antibody titer is negative or nonreactive, the entire series must be repeated as well as antibody titer results.
- Students who are non-responders should be considered susceptible to HBV and must be counseled by UIW Health Services. To be considered a non-responder, student must upload documentation of two complete series and two negative or non-reactive titers to Sentry MD.

Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis (Tdap)/Tetanus-Diphtheria (Td)

One dose of adult Tdap is required. If the Tdap is more than ten (10) years old, a Td booster is required. Students should receive decennial Td boosters, beginning ten (10) years after receiving Tdap.

Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)

Two vaccines of each component or the combo (MMR) following the first birthday or lab report of positive antibody titer for all three (3) components is required.

- In cases of pregnancy or suspected pregnancy, DO NOT get the MMR vaccine for low or negative titers. Medical documentation in writing of such instances is required to be submitted to Sentry MD and written notification given to the Office of Student Affairs.

Varicella (Chickenpox)

One of the following is required:

- Two (2) vaccines following the first birthday or a positive titer result.
- Documented history of chickenpox AND a positive titer result.
 - If titer result is negative or equivocal, the student will be required to submit evidence of a booster vaccine AND a repeat titer result.
 - Students who are non-responders should be considered susceptible to Varicella and must be counseled by UIW Health Services. To be considered a non-responder, student must upload documentation of two vaccines, a booster, and two negative or equivocal titers or documented history of chickenpox, a booster, and two negative or equivocal titers to Sentry MD.

Influenza (Flu) Vaccine

This is an annual requirement during the flu season (September–March). It is required that students get the flu vaccine each year while in the program no earlier than September 1st. Results must be uploaded to Sentry MD no later than October 1st. Declinations are not accepted.

Polio Vaccine

Documentation of at least three (3) vaccinations of IPV/OPV - OR polio titer results.

- If polio titer results are equivocal or low, a booster vaccine of IPV is required.

Tuberculosis Screening

Documentation and submission of a non-reactive tuberculin skin test, negative IGRA blood test, QuantiFERON Gold TB blood test, OR T-spot blood test is required by July 1st for first-year students.

- Second, Third, and Fourth-year students are required to have an annual TB test by any of the above methods. Documentation must be uploaded to Sentry MD to maintain compliance.
- Any students with a history of BCG vaccine must have a T-spot or QuantiFERON Gold blood TB test annually and submit documentation by the date required above.
- A student who has a positive TB test but then has a negative Chest X-ray should be directed to the UIWSOM Health Services, or their designee, for counseling and setting of parameters for follow up that is appropriate to the student's situation.
- A student who only had a Chest X-ray but no TB test should be directed to the UIWSOM Health Services, or their designee, for counseling and setting of parameters for follow up that is appropriate to the student's situation.
- Any students with a reactive tuberculin skin test must have a T-spot or QuantiFERON Gold TB blood test.
 - If POSITIVE – Documentation of a Chest x-ray with NEGATIVE results completed within the last five calendar years and a physical examination indicating that the student is free of active tuberculosis within six (6) months of the first day of class is required.
 - Documentation of a physical examination from your physician, confirming that they have reviewed the chest x-ray, found no evidence of tuberculosis (TB), and that you are symptom-free at the time of the examination is required. This documentation must also include the date the chest x-ray was conducted.
 - Updated documentation must be submitted within twelve (12) calendar months of the previous examination.
 - Students with a POSITIVE TB test and a NEGATIVE Chest x-ray will be evaluated for latent TB and required to comply with taking recommended

medication under Direct Observational Therapy according to CDC guidelines. If at any time while in the program, should the latent TB convert to active TB, the student will be placed on an immediate leave of absence.

COVID-19 Vaccine

This vaccine is strongly encouraged. Students may participate in clinical experiences that will require the COVID-19 vaccination.

Immunization Exemptions

While the UIWSOM strongly encourages all students to receive the immunizations indicated above, the UIWSOM understands that, in some circumstances, OMS students will need an exemption from the above-referenced immunizations for a variety of reasons. Pursuant to UIW's policies, requests for accommodation are handled by Student Disability Services. Student Disability Services can be reached at (210) 829-3997 or via e-mail at sds@uiwtx.edu. Additionally, more information regarding Student Disability Services can be found here: <https://my.uiw.edu/sds/>.

However, students are advised that students enrolled in the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program are also required to comply with the policies of UIWSOM's clinical partners, which are separate and distinct from UIW's policies. For clinical requirements, UIWSOM partners with major hospital systems in the San Antonio area, Laredo, Corpus Christi and other core sites. Our hospital partners have indicated that being fully immunized, tested for immunity, and screened for TB are non-negotiable conditions for participation in clinical experiences. Accordingly, if a student fails to complete the necessary vaccination and immunization requirements outlined above, placement in required third- and fourth-year clinical rotations may not be possible. Students unable to complete the requisite clinical rotations may be unable to fulfill degree program requirements.

Physical Examinations

UIWSOM requires students to submit a completed and signed medical health history and physical examination form on the approved UIWSOM form prior to matriculation by July 1st AND must be updated within twelve (12) calendar months of the previous examination. If there are any changes or updates to the medical history during the student's program of study, documentation must be submitted to Sentry MD. The information contained in the medical history and physical exam form will be used only by the UIWSOM for purposes of determining if a health threat/risk is posed for students and/or patients during clinical experiences or clerkships. This confidential information will remain part of the secured student file in Sentry MD.

Physical Health Services Policy

UIWSOM provides its students with access to diagnostic, preventative, and therapeutic health services, accessible in all locations where students receive education from the SOM. The full [Physical Health Services Policy](#) can be found on the UIWSOM website.

Criminal Background Check and Drug Testing

All entering UIWSOM students are required to submit to and receive an acceptable criminal background check designated by the UIWSOM as a condition of enrollment. Acceptable student background checks for enrollment are determined by the UIWSOM Office of Student Affairs and the UIWSOM Admissions Committee. Some clinical facilities may require additional background investigation(s) prior to permitting students to participate in experiential education activities. Program enrollment and clinical facility placement are contingent upon completion and receipt of an acceptable criminal background check and negative drug test unless previous documentation for physician-prescribed medications is on record.

Acceptable student background checks for experiential education participation or clinical sites are determined by a physician faculty member in the Office of Clinical Affairs (OCA). The investigational screenings include but are not limited to the following for every state and county of residence: criminal record, alias name, warrants, protection orders, residential history, social security number, abuse registry, sex offender registry, Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and Nationwide Healthcare Fraud and Abuse cumulative sanction report.

Drug Screens Prior to Clinical Rotations

Clinical facilities are required by their accreditation agency, the Joint Commission, to provide drug screening for security purposes on individuals who supervise care, render treatment, and provide services within the facility. UIWSOM is committed to assisting members of its learning community facing challenges associated with substance use disorder.

Clinical rotations are a critical component in the osteopathic medical education curriculum. These rotations require drug screening for student participation at their sites. Drug testing of osteopathic medical students may be performed at any time. The drug testing policy provides for early identification and intervention prior to adversely affecting a student's health, professional growth, and patient care and safety.

Students with a positive drug screen may be barred from rotations and thus unable to fulfill degree program requirements. Identification of such students before clinical rotations ensure appropriate assessment, indicated treatment, and follow-up.

Applicants and students must meet the legal standards to be licensed to practice medicine in Texas. As such, student candidates for admission must acknowledge and provide a written explanation of any felony offense or disciplinary action taken against them prior to matriculation to the UIWSOM. A student who is charged with or convicted of committing a crime at any time

after acceptance to the UIWSOM and prior to graduation shall inform the Director of Student Affairs within 10 business days of the charge or conviction. A student shall also report information that might impair their ability to obtain a medical license within 10 business days of becoming aware of the information. Failure to report in accordance with this paragraph may result in referral to the Student Progress Committee for consideration of disciplinary action up to and including dismissal from the program.

Certifications

Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Life Support (PALS), and other certifications as determined essential by the clinical rotation sites must be completed by the published deadline and documentation submitted to Sentry MD. Students will receive a certification card that can be provided to clinical rotation sites. **Students with expired certifications will not be allowed to begin clinical rotations.**

Other Requirements

Students must also register or log in to their [CITI](#) account, add, and complete the modules for the following courses when assigned:

- Biosafety and Biosecurity (OSHA requirement); titled “School of Osteopathic Medicine Students” on CITI
- Information Privacy and Security (HIPAA requirement); titled “School of Osteopathic Medicine Students and Residents (IPS)” on CITI
- “Human Subject Research for Biomedical Research Investigators-Basic/Refresher” on CITI

After completing the required modules, scores from each course are to be uploaded to Sentry MD.

Insurance

All UIWSOM students are required to have medical insurance coverage. Fees for the university’s comprehensive [Wellfleet Health Plan](#), a Cigna Network, will be added to the student’s tuition and billed to the student if a student does not submit the required UIW waiver each term by the deadline designated by the UIW Business Office. Valid medical insurance coverage must be a health plan that is comparable to or better than [Wellfleet Health Plan](#). All students are required to submit proof of coverage. Students with private insurance must also upload a copy of the approved UIW waiver and a full copy of the insurance card to Sentry MD by October 1st of each academic year.

Healthcare Professionals Conflict of Interest

Medical students commonly seek care from health professionals affiliated with the UIWSOM (full-time, part-time, or adjunct faculty) due to proximity, convenience, comfort, confidence, and the size of the local medical community. Because of the potential dual-relationship and potential

conflict of interest, faculty members who provide healthcare services to students will not participate in performing academic assessments for grading purposes, participate in disciplinary actions, or participate in decisions regarding promotion for such students.

Healthcare professionals providing health services to a student must recuse themselves from academic assessment or promotion of the student receiving those services.

UIW Health Services Clinic

Posted notification at the reception desk requested that all UIWSOM students identify themselves to ensure they are not seen by faculty who may also be at the clinic providing care or acting as a preceptor.

This notification is to avoid any contact between students and faculty who, for that unit of instruction, are together in the classroom or for assessment.

During UIWSOM employee orientation, this policy is reviewed and discussed with newly employed full- time, part-time, and adjunct faculty.

Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) is the term used to denote a student's successful completion of coursework toward a certificate or degree. Federal regulations require schools to monitor the academic progress of financial aid recipients and certify the applicant is making satisfactory progress toward earning their degree. This evaluation must be made at least once per year. The Office of Financial Assistance (OFA) performs this evaluation annually, at the end of the spring term, utilizing the academic standards established by the UIWSOM Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Student Handbook in conjunction with OFA policies and procedures. Failure to meet the SAP standards for all terms enrolled may result in loss of financial aid eligibility. These standards are cumulative so it includes all periods of the student's enrollment, which may include times when the student did not receive federal aid. The academic standards set forth by SOM may vary from the financial aid policy for academic progress. Refer to [UIW Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) for SAP Standards and the SAP Appeal Process.

Overview of Graduation Requirements and Academic Standing

Primary responsibility for student evaluation and promotion rests with the faculty. The faculty have an obligation to students, the school, and the community to evaluate students and to promote and graduate only those students who have demonstrated their suitability for the practice of medicine. Students must successfully complete all first-year curriculum requirements before proceeding to the second year. All second-year curriculum and pre-clerkship requirements must be completed before proceeding to the third year, including receiving a passing score on COMLEX-USA Level 1. Third-year core clerkships must be successfully completed, including all associated COMAT Subject Examinations, before students begin the fourth year (subject to scheduling limitations).

Summary of Graduation Requirements

A UIWSOM student is a candidate for degree conferral if all the following responsibilities have been met:

- Successfully complete all the curricular and clinical requirements,
- Achieve passing scores for the COMLEX-USA Level 1 and Level 2-CE exams by the deadlines specified in this Handbook,
- Resolve any professional issues on record or pending,
- Complete all program requirements within six years,
- Satisfy all indebtedness, return all loaned or rental property, and complete Student Loan Exit Counseling at www.studentaid.gov if received student loans,
- Apply for graduation with the UIW Registrar's Office and pay all associated fees,
- Participate in Commencement Ceremony unless special permission from the dean is granted.

Satisfactory and Unsatisfactory Standing

There are numerous reasons for good standing verification, including those related to core, selective, and elective rotations, military programs, scholarships, student organizations, and leadership positions. Requests to verify a student's standing may be generated by the Office of Student Affairs (OSA), Office of Clinical Affairs (OCA), Office of the Dean, Office of Medical Education (OME), student organizations, by the student themselves, or by an external entity. The student standing verification request form can be found [online](#).

There are two standing designations in the DO curriculum: satisfactory or unsatisfactory. UIWSOM Satisfactory Standing is not equivalent to the designation of Satisfactory Academic Progress used by the UIW Office of Financial Assistance (OFA); however, a student's UIWSOM standing may impact the designation used by the UIW OFA.

A student is in satisfactory standing if, at the time of the request:

- All completed coursework has a final grade of P, PR, or H. Verification of this is completed by a representative from OME.
- All ACLS, PALS, and BLS certification deadlines have been met. Verification of this is completed by a representative from Enrollment Services.
- All program standards for health assessments, immunization status, and other requirements as determined by the OSA have been met. Verification of this is completed by a representative of the Office of Enrollment Services.
- There are no unresolved issues related to professionalism. Verification of this is completed by a representative from the OSA

Standing verification will generally be completed within seven business days of the request but may take additional time in certain circumstances. The length of time a student is on unsatisfactory standing may vary depending on the situation and is determined by OSA and/or the Student Progress Committee.

*Grades of F and SR indicate the student's UIWSOM Standing is unsatisfactory. In Phase I, a student that must reassess two or more components during an academic year will be in unsatisfactory standing. In Phase II, a student who must reassess one or more clerkship requirements during an academic year will be in unsatisfactory standing. Repeating a Unit, Clerkship, or Academic Year due to academic standards not being met indicates the student's UIWSOM Academic Standing is unsatisfactory.

A student whose UIWSOM Standing is unsatisfactory may be required to complete one or more of the following by Academic Affairs or OSA:

- maintain scheduled appointments with a member of the Office of Academic Support at intervals determined by the Director of Academic Support.
- maintain scheduled appointments with a member of the Office of Student Affairs at intervals determined by the Director of Student Affairs
- complete other requirements as assigned by OME, OSA, OCA, SPC, or the Office of the Dean

Students that are in unsatisfactory standing are not eligible to hold any office in a UIWSOM organization, serve as a UIWSOM representative, hold any student leadership roles at UIWSOM, participate in extracurricular projects, partake in research, or travel on behalf of the UIWSOM. Based on academic performance and adherence to all UIWSOM policies, (specifically, passing the current year's completed curriculum units and maintained professionalism standards), a student repeating the academic year may petition the SPC for consideration return to satisfactory status.

If a student does not comply with the above, they may be referred to the SPC. A student's UIWSOM Standing may return to satisfactory when the necessary requirements are fulfilled.

Special Considerations for Military Students

Students are expected to complete basic officer training (OTS, ODS, BOLC) during the break between OMS-I and OMS-II year, unless their enrollment in a Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) or receipt of their military orders occurs after this period has passed. For all military clinical rotations, students should review military customs and courtesies, be prepared to comply with the Uniform Code of Military Justice and demonstrate behavior consistent with their status as UIWSOM representatives and as military officers. HPSP students are required to complete at least two rotations with military programs, typically one each year. Military rotations during third year can be done in any of the core specialties and must adhere to the requirements of the core clerkships. Military rotations during fourth year must align with fourth-year rotation requirements. All military rotations must be approved in advance by the Office of Clinical Affairs. For any non-clinical military requirements that conflict with Phase II rotations, a Military Service Training elective is available with prior approval from the Office of Clinical Affairs. It is recommended that students begin scheduling audition rotations at the beginning of the spring semester of the OMS-III year. Most students will defer their 3rd Active Duty for Training (ADT) until their OMS-IV year, and complete two ADT rotations in these military programs.

PHASE I PROMOTION POLICIES

Phase I Assessments and Evaluations

The following assessments and evaluations contribute to the student's grade in each unit (unless otherwise indicated in the unit/clerkship syllabus):

- Summative Assessments and Evaluations
- Cognitive Examinations (e.g., Unit CE, COMSAE)
- Structures Examinations (STRX)
- Developing Osteopathic Clinical Skills Performance Evaluation (DOCS-PE)
- Quizzes
- Small Interactive Group Sessions (SIGS) Facilitator Evaluation of Student

Other requirements as defined in the unit syllabus (e.g., board preparation questions)

Phase I Grading

The grading system used by UIWSOM during Phase I includes the following:

Grade	Letter	Description
Pass	<i>P</i>	Successfully meets all requirements of a unit
Pass with Remediation	<i>PR</i>	After remediation, successfully meets all requirements of a unit
Subject to Remediation *	<i>SR</i>	Did not meet standards in a unit and requires remediation
In Progress**	<i>IP</i>	Did not meet standards in a unit and is scheduled to reassess (not remediate)
No Grade	<i>NG</i>	Administratively withdrawn or self-withdraws <u>after</u> a unit begins and <u>before</u> assessment week
Fail	<i>F</i>	Did not meet standards in a unit or fails to follow the process to withdraw
Withdrawn***	<i>W</i>	Withdrew from a unit prior to withdrawal deadline

*SR may be replaced with grades commensurate with subsequent performance in the Unit (e.g., upon completion of remediation). If a student repeats an entire unit as part of remediation, SR will remain on the transcript as a final grade for their first attempt.

**Designation is for internal processes and is NOT a “grade” that will be part of a permanent transcript.

***See Withdrawal Policy below

Outcomes for Phase I Assessments and Student Evaluations

Unit summative assessments and evaluations (CE, DOCS-PE, STRX, SIGS Facilitator Evaluation of Student) are scored according to a rubric, and each student is assigned a designation of “standards met (SM),” “standards met with requirements (SWR),” or “standards not met (SNM)” for each component.

- If a student receives a designation of “standards met” or “standards met with requirements” on all components in a unit, and all other unit requirements are met, the student will receive a unit grade of Pass (P).
- If a student receives a designation of “standards not met” for one or more assessments or evaluations in a unit, the student will receive an In Progress (IP) designation for the unit and must reassess each component for which this designation is received. Reassessment policies and eligibility requirements are presented below.

Outcomes for Other Phase I Requirements

The designation of “standards not met” will be applied if a student fails to complete applicable Unit requirements, such as completion of board preparation questions or excess absences (see absence policy below).

Requirements for “standards met with requirements” or “standards not met”

A student that receives “standards met with requirements” (“SWR”) or “standards not met” (“SNM”) will be required to follow an action plan implemented by the Academic Progress Committee (“APC”). Such requirements may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Meetings with relevant faculty and administrative offices;
- LGS attendance;
- Post-Exam Review (“PER”) attendance;
- R&R attendance for the component in which the SWR or SNM was received;
- Lunch and Learns;
- Completion of a Self-Assessment and Action Plan form.

A student that receives SWR will be required to meet as follows:

SWR Occurrence	Components Within the Academic Year	Required Meetings
1st SWR	Any component	Meet with appropriate faculty content expert(s) for that component
2nd SWR	Same component as first SWR within that academic year <i>Example: 2 SWR in CE</i>	Meet with curriculum lead or designee for that component AND a learning specialist
3rd SWR	Same component as the first and second SWRs within that academic year	Meet with the APC

	<i>Example: 3 SWR in STRX</i>	
4th SWR	Any combination of components within that academic year <i>Example: 2 SWR in DOCS, 1 SWR in CE, & 1 SWR in SIGS</i>	Meet with the APC

A student who receives SNM within the OMS-I year will have required meetings or referrals as follows:

Year	SNM Occurrence	Components Within the Academic Year	Required Meetings
OMS-I	1st SNM	Any component	Meet with curriculum lead or designee AND learning specialist
	2nd SNM	Both SNM within the same unit <i>Example: 1 SNM STRX + 1 SNM DOCS in FIT</i>	Meet with curriculum lead or designee AND learning specialist
		Across units <i>Example: 1 SNM FIT STRX + 1 SNM HDC CE</i>	Meet with APC
	3rd SNM	All within same unit <i>Example: 1 SNM CE + 1 SNM STRX + 1 SNM DOCS in FIT</i>	Meet with APC

		Across units, with no more than two (2) from same component	Meet with APC
		<i>Example: 1 SNM FIT CE + 1 SNM MTP STRX + 1 SNM HDC STRX</i>	
		Across units, all from same component	<i>Exceeds reassessment limit</i>
	>3 SNM	Any SNM pattern	<i>Exceeds reassessment limit</i>

A student who receives SNM within the OMS-II year will have required meetings or referrals as follows:

Year	SNM Occurrence	Components Within the Academic Year	Required Meetings
OMS-II	1st SNM	Any component	Meet with curriculum lead or designee AND learning specialist
	2nd SNM	Both SNM within the same unit	Meet with curriculum lead or designee AND learning specialist
		Across units	Meet with APC

		<i>Example: 1 SNM CRR STRX + 1 SNM ERR CE</i>	
	3rd SNM	All within same unit <i>Example: 1 SNM CE + 1 SNM STRX + 1 SNM DOCS in ERR</i>	Meet with APC
		Across units, with no more than two (2) from same component <i>Example: 1 SNM CRR CE + 1 SNM ERR STRX + 1 SNM MBB STRX</i>	Meet with APC
		Across units, all from same component <i>Example: 1 SNM CRR CE + 1 SNM ERR CE + 1 SNM MBB CE</i>	<i>Exceeds reassessment limit</i>
	>3 SNM	Any SNM pattern	<i>Exceeds reassessment limit</i>

A student who receives SNM within a repeat year will have required meetings or referrals as follows:

Year	SNM Occurrence	Components Within the Academic Year	Required Meetings
Repeating Year (Remediation)	1st SNM	Any component	Meet with curriculum lead or designee AND learning specialist

	2nd SNM	Both SNM within the same unit	Meet with curriculum lead or designee AND learning specialist
		<i>Example: 1 SNM STRX + 1 SNM DOCS in CRR</i>	
	3rd SNM	Across units	Meet with APC
		<i>Example: 1 SNM CRR STRX + 1 SNM ERR CE</i>	
		All within same unit	Meet with APC
		<i>Example: 1 SNM CE + 1 SNM STRX + 1 SNM DOCS in ERR</i>	
		Across units, with no more than two (2) from same component	Meet with APC
		<i>Example: 1 SNM CRR CE + 1 SNM ERR STRX + 1 SNM MBB STRX</i>	
		Across units, all from same component	<i>Exceeds reassessment limit</i>
		<i>Example: 1 SNM CRR CE + 1 SNM ERR CE + 1 SNM MBB CE</i>	
	>3 SNM	Any SNM pattern	<i>Exceeds reassessment limit</i>

Reassessment

A student that receives SNM must reassess the end-of-unit assessment for which that grade was received. Reassessments for CE, DOCS-PE, and STRX for Year 1 and Year 2 will occur at the end of the academic year and must be completed during the time indicated on the academic calendar. Reassessment for SIGS consists of assignments that occur immediately following the unit for which a designation of SNM is received.

Reassessment Limits:

A student may reassess up to three (3) end-of-unit summative assessments. No more than two (2) assessments may be in the same component (Cognitive Examination, DOCS Performance Evaluation, Structures Examination). A student that exceeds these limits on reassessments during year 1 or 2 will be required to repeat the academic year.

If a student is currently repeating an academic year or has previously repeated an academic year in Phase I, exceeding the reassessment threshold will result in immediate dismissal from the program.

Reassessment Outcomes:

If a student earns SM for a unit reassessment and all other unit requirements are met, the student will receive a grade of *Pass* (“P”) for the unit. A student who earns SNM on a unit reassessment will receive a unit grade of *Subject to Remediation* (“SR”) and be required to remediate the unit. If the student does not sit for the reassessment within the time specified, they will receive a grade of *Fail* (“F”).

- For OMS-I reassessments, a passing grade must be earned before the start of the next academic year.
- For OMS-II reassessments, a passing grade must be earned before sitting for the COMSAE, attending an external boards immersion program and sitting for the COMLEX-USA Level I.

Remediation of a Unit

A student who receives SNM on a unit reassessment must obtain approval from the SPC to initiate the remediation process. A remediation plan may include repeating an academic year.

Once the SPC has approved a student for remediation, a remediation plan will be developed by the appropriate faculty and curriculum leadership. If the student completes the remediation successfully, the student will receive a designation of *Pass with Remediation* (“PR”) on the student’s transcript.

If the student does not successfully complete the remediation, the student will receive a designation of *Fail* (“F”) on the student’s transcript. A final grade of *Fail* (“F”) triggers an automatic dismissal from the program without the option to appeal.

- For OMS-I reassessments, a passing grade must be earned before the start of the next academic year.
- For OMS-II reassessments, a passing grade must be earned before sitting for the COMSAE, attending an external boards immersion program, and sitting for the COMLEX-USA Level I.

Repeating an Academic Year During Phase I

A student who is required to repeat an academic year must repeat the year in its entirety. All unit requirements in the repeated year will be assessed, including all requirements for which the student previously met academic standards.

A student may only repeat an academic year once during the entirety of Phase I. A student repeating year 1 is required to attend orientation. In addition to complying with all Student Handbook requirements, a repeating student must meet regularly with representatives of Academic Support and the Office of Student Affairs, as determined individually.

PHASE II PROMOTION POLICIES

Assessments and Evaluations for Phase II

The following are the required grading components for the successful completion of each core clerkship:

- attendance
- preceptor evaluation of the student
- clerkship director evaluation of the student
- case logs
- question bank completion
- COMAT subject examination passing score

The following are the required grading components for the successful completion of selectives, electives, and other Phase II courses:

- attendance
- preceptor or facilitator evaluation of the student
- other specific requirements as listed in the syllabi

Details for each grading component and additional grading details can be found in the clerkship and course syllabi.

Attendance

Attendance is expected for clinical assignments and all non-clinical sessions as defined in the clerkship or course syllabi and/or posted in the learning management system. Attendance also factors into honors designations for the Year 3 core clerkships as outlined in the clerkship syllabi. All absences must be documented by following the attendance policy outlined in this handbook and in the clerkship syllabi. Missed or neglected requirements due to any absence (both approved and non-approved) must be made up to the extent possible at the discretion of the preceptor and/or Clerkship Director. Exceeding more than three (3) approved absences within a four-week clerkship or one-and-a-half (1.5) approved absences within a two-week clerkship may result in required remediation or failure of the clerkship. Non-approved/ unexcused absences and recurrent tardiness may result in referral to the SPC.

Phase II Grades

Grade	Letter	Description
Honors	<i>H</i>	Only awarded during Year 3 core clerkships. Requirements defined in the core clerkship syllabi
Pass	<i>P</i>	Successfully meets all requirements of a clerkship or course
Pass with Remediation	<i>PR</i>	After remediation, successfully meets all requirements of a clerkship or course
Subject to Remediation*	<i>SR</i>	Did not meet standards in a clerkship or course and requires remediation
In Progress**	<i>IP</i>	Did not complete all components of a clerkship or course
No Grade	<i>NG</i>	Administratively withdrawn or self-withdraws <u>after</u> a clerkship begins and <u>before</u> assessment week
Fail	<i>F</i>	Did not meet standards in a unit/clerkship or fails to follow the process to withdraw
Withdrawn***	<i>W</i>	Withdrew from a clerkship or course prior to withdrawal deadline

*SR may be replaced with grades commensurate with subsequent performance in the Clerkship or Course (e.g., upon completion of remediation).

**Designation is for internal processes and is NOT a “grade” that will be part of a permanent transcript.

***See Withdrawal Policy below

Guidelines for Applying Sanctions for Unacceptable Progress during Phase II

Students who earn a grade of Subject to Remediation (SR) or Fail (F) in a Phase II course/clerkship will fall into one or more of these categories:

Remediation

The student who earns a grade of SR must perform additional work in that clerkship. The Clerkship Director, in collaboration with the Phase II Curriculum Director, will prepare a written plan outlining the remedial work required. Remedial work may include repeating a clerkship. Upon completion of appropriate remediation, students will be re-evaluated and given a grade of *Pass with Remediation (PR)* or *Fail (F)*, and appropriate action will be taken as specified in the Student Handbook.

Repeat Clerkship

A student who is required to repeat a clerkship as remediation or for earning a grade of Fail (F) in a Phase II course/ clerkship must repeat the clerkship in its entirety. Repetition of clerkships cannot be used to fulfill elective/selective requirements and must be taken when the student is not enrolled in any other academic work for credit.

- Repeated core clerkships must be completed with a grade no lower than Pass (P). A grade lower than Pass (P) in a repeated clerkship will be recorded as Fail (F) and may result in dismissal.
- Repetition of a failed clerkship and remedial work may prevent students from graduating on schedule.

Academic criteria for remediating or repeating a clerkship

A student will be allowed to remediate or repeat a Phase II course/clerkship if both of the following criteria are met:

- One (1) or fewer grades of Subject to Remediation (SR) in any Phase II course/clerkship, and
- One (1) or fewer grades of Fail (F) in any Phase II course/ clerkship.

A student who exceeds these thresholds will be referred to the SPC. Outcomes may include repeating the academic year or dismissal from the program.

Repeat Academic Year

A student who is required to repeat an academic year must repeat the year in its entirety. All course/clerkship requirements in the repeated year will be assessed, including all requirements for which the student previously met academic standards.

COMAT Thresholds Across Clerkships

A student who receives a designation of “standards not met” for a first attempt on the COMAT must meet with the Clerkship Director for the associated clerkship. A learner who receives a designation of “standards not met” for a second attempt on the COMAT or a “standards met with requirements” for a first attempt must meet with the Director of Academic Support.

Students who receive a “standards not met” on two (2) COMATs, regardless of which COMAT or final clerkship grade, will be referred to the Academic Progress Committee and Phase II Curriculum Director.

Students who receive a “standards not met” on three (3) COMATs, regardless of which COMAT or final clerkship grade, will be referred to the SPC.

Students who receive a "standard met with requirements" on three (3) COMATs, regardless of which COMAT or final clerkship grade, will be referred to the Academic Progress Committee and Phase II Curriculum Director.

National Board Examination Policies

In accordance with the AOA Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA), students are required to pass the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examinations (COMLEX-USA Level 1 and Level 2-CE) to graduate.

Students are permitted a maximum of three (3) attempts to pass COMLEX-USA Level 1 and a maximum of four (4) attempts to pass COMLEX-USA Level 2. Failure to pass within these limits will result in dismissal from the program with no option to appeal. In accordance with COCA standards, all degree requirements, including successful completion of COMLEX-USA Level 1 and COMLEX-USA Level 2 CE, must be completed within six (6) years of matriculation. Additional information on this standard can be found [online](#).

Completion of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) is not required for graduation. Students are not eligible to register for USMLE Step examinations until they are eligible to register for the corresponding COMLEX-USA examination.

COMLEX-USA Level 1

Students are required to take COMLEX-USA Level 1 following completion of the OMS-II year and must receive a passing score prior to the start of clinical rotations.

Eligibility

Students become eligible to register for COMLEX-USA Level 1 in the fall semester of the OMS-II year. The Office of Medical Education determines and announces registration requirements and processes annually.

To be approved to take COMLEX-USA Level 1, students must:

- Pass all Phase I units (with a grade of Pass or Pass with Remediation)
- Successfully complete COMSAE Phase 1 Examination requirements

COMSAE Phase 1 Examination Requirements

Students must demonstrate readiness for COMLEX-USA Level 1 through successful completion of COMSAE requirements. Passing score thresholds for the COMSAE Phase 1 and COMSAE

Phase I Reassessment are determined and published annually by the DO Curriculum Committee prior to the first administration.

Depending on their score on the initial COMSAE, a student will fall into one of three categories:

- Approved to sit for COMLEX
- Required to reassess
- Required to remediate

A student that does not meet standards on the COMSAE Phase 1 Reassessment will be required to remediate. Requirements and timelines for students that must reassess or remediate will be determined and communicated by the APC with oversight by the SPC. Remediation includes, but is not limited to, completion of an approved tutoring program or external immersion course (“boards bootcamp”) and demonstration of readiness to sit for COMLEX by passing a COMSAE or institution-defined equivalent examination. All requirements must be met before a student is approved to sit for COMLEX.

Timeline, Attempts, and Progression Requirements

The UIWSOM-designated testing window and deadline for COMLEX-USA Level 1 will be determined on an annual basis and announced by January of the testing year. Students must complete Level 1 by the deadline unless an extension is granted by the ACC. A request for extension must be filed by the student with the Chair of the ACC. A passing score is required prior to starting Phase II clinical rotations. In limited cases, and only with the approval of the ACC, students may miss up to two (2) clinical rotations prior to being moved to the next graduating class.

Remediation Following a Failed COMLEX-USA Level 1 Attempt

Students who fail a COMLEX-USA Level 1 examination are required to complete a remediation plan as determined by the APC.

Remediation requirements include:

- Mandatory participation in an approved external immersion program (“boards bootcamp”) or tutoring program
- Demonstration of readiness for retesting, which may include achieving a passing COMSAE score and/or meeting institutional benchmarks for question bank performance (e.g., TrueLearn)
- Completion of all additional requirements outlined by the APC

Receipt of institutional approval is required prior to sitting for a subsequent attempt. Failure to comply with remediation requirements may result in referral to the SPC.

COMLEX-USA Level 2 – CE

Approval to sit for COMLEX Level 2 CE is granted upon successful completion of all requirements outlined below.

Eligibility

To be eligible to sit for COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE, students must:

- Pass COMLEX-USA Level 1
- Successfully complete all OMS-III curriculum requirements
- Successfully complete COMSAE Phase 2 Examination requirements

COMSAE Phase 2 Examination Requirements

Students must demonstrate readiness for COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE through successful completion of COMSAE requirements. Passing score thresholds for the COMSAE Phase 2 and COMSAE Phase 2 Reassessment are determined and published annually by the DO Curriculum Committee prior to the first administration.

COMSAE Phase 2 Eligibility criteria:

- Meet required clinical performance standards, including passing at least three (3) COMAT examinations, including Family Medicine or Internal Medicine
- Complete a practice COMSAE Phase 2 approximately one month prior to the COMSAE Phase 2 administered by the school

Note: Students who are not eligible to sit for the COMSAE Phase 2 by the main scheduled date will be referred to the ACC.

Depending on their score on the initial COMSAE, a student will fall into one of three categories:

- Approved to sit for COMLEX
- Required to reassess
- Required to remediate

A student that does not meet standards on the COMSAE Phase 2 Reassessment will be required to remediate. Requirements and timelines for students that must reassess or remediate will be determined and communicated by the APC with oversight by the SPC. Remediation includes, but is not limited to, completion of an approved tutoring program or external immersion course (“boards bootcamp”) and demonstration of readiness to sit for COMLEX by passing a COMSAE or institution-defined equivalent examination. Depending on the remediation requirements, students may be placed on a revised degree plan by the ACC and may not be allowed to participate in clinical rotations until remediation requirements are complete. All requirements must be met before a student is approved to sit for COMLEX.

Timeline, Attempts, and Graduation Requirements

Students must sit for COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE by the end of Medical Knowledge Consolidation II. All extensions must be approved by the ACC. A request for extension must be filed by the student with the Chair of the ACC. A passing score must be received before the NRMP medical school graduation credentials verification deadline. Students who do not meet this deadline will be withdrawn from the residency match and may be moved to the following graduating class.

Remediation Following a Failed COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE Attempt

Students who fail a COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE examination are required to complete a remediation plan as determined by the APC. Remediation will begin during the next course/rotation. Students cannot complete clinical rotations while undergoing remediation. Students may be placed on a revised degree plan by the ACC and monitored by the SPC. This revised degree plan may require enrollment in an online elective or leave of absence during the remediation.

Students must complete all remediation requirements and retake the exam before resuming clinical rotations.

Remediation requirements include:

- Mandatory participation in an approved external immersion program (“boards bootcamp”) or tutoring program
- Demonstration of readiness for retesting, which may include achieving a passing COMSAE score and/or meeting institutional benchmarks for question bank performance (e.g., TrueLearn)
- Completion of all additional requirements outlined by the APC

Receipt of institutional approval is required prior to sitting for a subsequent attempt. Failure to comply with remediation requirements may result in referral to the SPC.

Leave of Absence for COMSAE or COMLEX Remediation

Students placed on a leave of absence (LOA) as part of COMSAE or COMLEX-USA remediation must maintain regular communication with the institution and demonstrate ongoing engagement in all assigned remediation activities. Failure to comply with these expectations will result in referral to the SPC and may impact continued enrollment. Please see the LOA section of the Absence Policy for further details.

COMSAE/COMLEX and Financial Considerations

UIWSOM covers the cost for the first attempt of COMSAE Phase 1 and COMSAE Phase 2. All other COMSAE attempts, including those used for reassessment and required remediation programs, are the financial responsibility of the student.

Students are responsible for all costs associated with the COMLEX-USA examinations, including examination fees, rescheduling fees, and related expenses.

Tuition and fees for required remediation programs are the sole responsibility of the student.

Students are encouraged to consult with the UIWSOM Office of Enrollment Services regarding financial aid options.

Clinical Clerkship Guidelines

General Information

The Office of Clinical Affairs (OCA) manages all aspects of Phase II. Clerkship assignments, student and preceptor evaluations, clinical case and procedure logs, course grades, preceptor credentialing, required training, and required documentation are managed through this office. The Assistant Dean for Clinical Education and the Assistant Dean of Clinical Affairs direct this office.

Communication regarding clerkships may come from any member of the OCA.

During clerkships, for questions involving issues with sites, preceptors, or educational objectives, students are expected to communicate with their respective Core Site Directors and Clerkship Directors.

OCA staff make core clerkship schedules and preceptor assignments for Year 3 and 4 of the curriculum and provide students with guidance and assistance in preparing their remaining Year 4 schedule.

Guidelines for Core Clerkships in Year 3

Students complete eight four-week core clerkships during Year 3, including: Family Medicine, Medically Underserved Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Hospital Medicine, Obstetrics-Gynecology, Pediatrics, and Psychiatry. Students also complete Readiness for Clerkship (RfC), Reflection, Integration, and Assessment (RIA), and Osteopathic Principles and Practice Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (OPP LIC) courses during Year 3. The eight required Year 3 core clerkships must be completed with a UIWSOM preceptor at a UIWSOM core site. Students will be assigned to one of UIWSOM's core sites (San Antonio area, Corpus Christi, Laredo, Houston, California, and others as developed) for the entirety of their third year. Students will submit their preferences for core sites in the Fall of Year 2. At that time, students will also have the opportunity to submit exemptions to site placement outside of the San Antonio area for

reasons such as personal home ownership in San Antonio, marriage to a spouse physically employed or in school in San Antonio, children enrolled in San Antonio schools, military order to remain in San Antonio, and personal medical condition requiring presence in San Antonio. Exemptions will require appropriate supporting documentation; final approval is at the discretion of the OCA and OSA.

Assignments to core sites will be made by a random lottery system, taking into account exemptions and preferences, as possible. Preferences and submitted exemptions are not guaranteed for core site placement and will not be considered if reported after the submission deadline as announced by OCA. Regardless of core site, students are responsible for their own housing for their third year. If placed at a site outside of the San Antonio area, students will have remote access to curricular sessions and may be eligible for housing and travel reimbursement for required trips back to San Antonio.

Regardless of core site, students may be placed at a site distant from their assigned core site for individual core rotations. Students may be eligible for housing reimbursement for rotations more than 75 miles from UIWSOM (or assigned core site hub) and travel reimbursement for mileage more than 50 miles from UIWSOM (or assigned core site hub).

Unless an approved exemption or accommodation through Student Disability Services is on file by the announced deadline prior to the start of Year 3, changes to rotation assignments will not be made. Students are responsible for updating the OCA of any changes to their situation that may prohibit remote site placement prior to the assignment being made.

For individual rotations, OCA staff will make preceptor assignments for students for Year 3 randomly. As per COCA, students will be required to complete one clerkship at a site with residents, one clerkship under the supervision of a DO preceptor, and more than one rotation in an inpatient setting during Year 3. Core clerkships must be completed with a credentialed UIWSOM preceptor who is board-certified or board-eligible in the rotation specialty and at a UIWSOM-affiliated site.

Guidelines for Clerkships in Year 4

Students complete one emergency medicine required rotation, two medicine selectives, one surgery selective, and five electives (or a total of 20 weeks elective) clerkships during Year 4. Students also complete the Readiness for Residency (RfR) course during Year 4.

Students must submit Year 4 clerkship preferences through a planning survey that is distributed electronically, typically in the Spring of Year 3. OCA staff finalize Year 4 schedules based on the survey results. Students must communicate all non-UIWSOM rotations, including those scheduled through the Visiting Student Learning Opportunities (VSLO) or other rotation scheduling avenues, to the OCA for approval and to ensure all necessary agreements and

credentialing are complete. Students will receive their VSLO access token in January of Year 3. Students are encouraged to coordinate as much of their Year 4 rotation on their own. Selective and elective rotation opportunities done through UIWSOM are dependent on preceptor and faculty availability and capacity.

A single rotation cannot be used to fulfill multiple requirements. Students may complete a maximum of five rotations (or up to 20 weeks) during Year 4 in the same specialty. Students may complete a maximum of two rotations in Year 4 with the same preceptor. Students may complete a maximum of 8 weeks of online elective rotations in Year 4

The required emergency medicine clerkship must be four weeks in duration and completed with a UIWSOM preceptor.

Selectives must be four weeks in duration, be a clinical rotation, and be completed either with a UIWSOM preceptor or through VSLO. Selectives must be done from the approved list of specialties provided annually by the OCA and can be done in either the adult or pediatric subspecialty, if relevant.

The required emergency medicine and selective rotations must each be completed in a four-week block and cannot be split.

Electives can be two or four-weeks in duration. Rotations done in non-selective specialties or those done in selective specialties by students who have already fulfilled their selective requirements can count as electives. Clinical electives must be done with a UIWSOM preceptor or through VSLO.

Reimbursement for travel or housing for rotations or required activities in Year 4 is not provided. For any core clerkships completed in Year 4, the same reimbursement policy as listed in the Year 3 Clerkship Guidelines will be followed.

General Guidelines for Clinical Rotations

For rotations requiring completion with an established UIWSOM preceptor, OCA may approve students to fulfill these obligations with new preceptors as well, if the site and preceptor meet requirements for that specific rotation. Requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Time needed to credential new preceptors and sites must be taken into consideration. All such requests must be made at least six weeks in advance of the start of the rotation in question, and all credentialing and onboarding must be completed at least four weeks in advance.

Students must keep their Sentry MD records up-to-date and complete onboarding deadlines communicated by the Site Coordinators and/or clinical site staff. Students are expected to reply to correspondence by Site Coordinators and/or clinical site staff in a timely manner. Failure to do

so will result in a professionalism violation and may impact the student being able to complete their assigned rotation(s), potentially leading to a delay in completing graduation requirements.

Students may complete only one clerkship with a preceptor who is an acquaintance, member of the student's family or with a conflict of interest; this must be an elective clerkship.

Students may neither attend nor receive credit for a clerkship that has not been approved by the OCA.

Confirmation of Clerkship Assignments

Rotation schedules will be published in the learning management system. It is the responsibility of the student to contact their assigned site one week prior to arrival to confirm the clerkship, obtain instructions regarding start time, expected attire, parking, and receive any special instructions or assignments for the clerkship. For any clerkship occurring at a core site, students must work with the Site Coordinator to confirm the clerkship and coordinate clerkship details. Since some core sites ask that students not contact preceptors directly, students should confer with the Site Coordinator at their core site to determine the best method to confirm clerkships at that site. A preceptor or clinical site may decline the assignment of a student to their site at any time for reasons specified in the site or preceptor MOU/agreement, and the student would then be assigned to another site or preceptor by the OCA as soon as possible.

Liability Insurance

UIWSOM provides liability insurance coverage for students on approved clinical clerkships while they are directly under the supervision of the assigned preceptor or designee. The university liability insurance policy does not cover students who are performing extra-curricular activities (including shadowing).

Duty Hours

Each clinical training site sets its own schedule. Night call, weekend coverage, and holiday assignments are at the discretion of the training site. The philosophy of UIWSOM is that osteopathic medical students are in a period of education that mimics the practice as demonstrated by the supervising physician. Additional details can be found in the clerkship syllabi.

Fatigue Mitigation Plan

All students, faculty, and staff share responsibility for recognizing, reporting, and addressing excessive fatigue. In the event a student feels too fatigued to safely participate in patient care duties, the student should alert their assigned preceptor as soon as possible. If it is possible and practical to rest in a designated area in a clinical environment (e.g. a call room), this would be the preferred first step. If this is not possible and a student cannot safely travel home by car, UIWSOM will reimburse rideshare travel from the clinical site to the student's home, provided the distance is within 75 miles.

At the earliest possible time after resting, the student should alert their Clerkship Director, Assistant Dean of Clinical Affairs, and the OSA to the need to enact the fatigue mitigation plan and provide relevant details of the situation. The OCA will use this information to monitor for patterns and support clinical site improvement, wherever possible. Students are expected to make every effort to be well-rested before clinical duties, and excessive reliance on this fatigue mitigation plan will lead to referral to Student Affairs.

Medical Records and Charting

Policies regarding documentation by medical students in medical records will vary among hospitals and clinics. Some sites allow students to write full notes directly into the patient chart or electronic medical record. In this case, the supervising physician must also verify the history of present illness, any relevant physical exam information, as well as an assessment and plan. Student notes are never to serve as the attending physician's notes. Student notes should be reviewed and signed by the supervising physician. If dictation or computerized entry by students is allowed, those notes must also be reviewed and signed by the attending physician. Students are responsible for proactively obtaining charting/documentation instructions from the preceptor or Site Coordinator at each clerkship site. The student must always sign and date all entries into the medical record by name and educational status, such as John Doe, OMS-III.

Patient Care Activities and Supervision

Students may only be involved in patient care activities as part of an approved UIWSOM curricular activity and under the supervision of an assigned clinical preceptor or faculty member during any clinical experience or clerkships.

- Students must comply with all general and specific rules and medical ethics established by the hospital, clinic, or facility at which they are being trained.
- The supervising clinical faculty/preceptor is responsible for patient care.
- Students are not to take the place of qualified staff.

- A medical student is not legally or ethically permitted to practice medicine or assume responsibility for patients.
- A student may be involved in assisting in the care of a patient, but only under the supervision of a licensed physician or designee.
- Students may not write or enter patient care orders independently;
- The clinical site will define the degree of student involvement in patient care activities at that facility.
- Students may not perform OMT without appropriate supervision.
- A student may not administer therapy or perform medical treatment, procedures, or invasive exams except under the supervision of a licensed physician or designee to whom the student has been formally assigned.
- With the approval and general supervision of the preceptor, students may take histories, perform physical examinations, and enter their findings in the patient chart.

A student may be removed from a clinical site or procedure if the preceptor or the OCA determines that the student's actions constitute a potential danger to patients or staff, fail to meet the UIWSOM Technical Standards, or the standards applicable to the clinical placement, or otherwise suggest that the student is not capable of performing safely, effectively, or professionally in a clinical setting. In the event an investigation is necessary, a preceptor or the OCA may relieve a student of clinical responsibilities or reassign the student while the investigation occurs.

Environmental Health, Occupational Exposure, and Universal Precautions

For any accidents or injuries that occur while on clinical rotations at a hospital, clinic, or UIW campus site, as well as for any exposures involving potentially infectious substances or bloodborne pathogens (such as a needle stick, wounds from surgical instruments, splashes from potentially contaminated liquids to the eyes or mucous membranes, etc.), students should immediately follow the protocol established by the hospital or clinic where the injury or exposure occurs. [The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) recommends that students receive evaluation and treatment immediately following the exposure. In addition, students must immediately see the [UIW Exposure Control Plan for Bloodborne Pathogens](#) for instructions on next steps. All UIWSOM students are automatically enrolled for [needlestick insurance](#) for lab testing in the event of an exposure to blood or body fluids due to an accidental needle stick.

Students should notify their clinical preceptor and Clerkship Director about the incident as soon as possible, and then the Assistant Dean of Clinical Affairs and/or the Assistant Dean of Clinical Education. Students are required to complete the Incident/Accident Report Form as soon as reasonably practicable after the incident. The form can be found on the UIW Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management web site at [Report of Injury](#).

For emergencies, contact the Director of Student Affairs at 210-619-7062.

Student Professionalism and Expectations

Professionalism

Professionalism is a core component of the practice of osteopathic medicine and is central to the ethic of care that students develop in the DO program. Professionalism requires the cultivation and application of several virtues, including good judgment, honesty, personal and professional responsibility, social accountability, morality and ethical decision-making, sensitivity, compassion, and respect for diversity.

Students at the UIWSOM are expected to be professional in every situation and encounter, be it in-person or virtually, with faculty, staff, fellow students, preceptors, patients, and community members. Professionalism also requires adherence to all UIW and UIWSOM rules, policies, and requirements. To this end, students are expected to adhere to the UIWSOM Honor Code. Professionalism violations may be referred to the Student Progress Committee. Unprofessional behavior may prevent the student from academic advancement.

The UIWSOM also subscribes to the [AOA Rules and Guidelines of Professional Conduct](#).

UIWSOM Honor Code

The UIWSOM Honor Code is a standard of professionalism that allows students to hold themselves and their colleagues accountable for actions and behaviors. The purpose of the Honor Code is to guide students in their professional development while embodying the mission and vision of UIWSOM.

Students of UIWSOM will embody the core values of integrity, accountability, inclusivity, and compassion.

- **Integrity** in the educational, professional, and personal domains to foster honesty, awareness, and humility.
- **Accountability** to one another through active listening, mutual respect, life-long learning, and the ability to take constructive criticism.
- **Inclusivity** promotes an environment of trust, open-mindedness, and respect for people of all cultures and identities.
- **Compassion** in our interactions with patients, peers, faculty, and community members is characterized by a community-centered approach.

Components of Professional and Ethical Behavior

Professionalism cannot be reduced to a formula. The following is a non-exhaustive list of professional and ethical expectations.

Nondiscrimination

It is unethical for a student to refuse to participate in an educational activity or the care of a person based on race, color, sex, gender, sexual orientation, citizenship status, ethnicity, national origin, age, marital status, disability, genetic information, gender identity or expression, veteran status, pregnancy, religion, or any other characteristics protected by law. Students must show respect for patients and families as well as everyone involved in their care. This includes physicians, nurses, other students, residents, fellows, and administrative staff.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality is required on multiple levels at UIWSOM. Throughout the course of the program, students may have access to confidential information and materials. At all times students are expected to:

- Respect the privacy and dignity of all associated individuals
- Treat all records as confidential material, protecting them to ensure complete confidentiality.
- Refrain from reading, discussing, divulging, or disclosing any personal and private information unless doing so is legitimately related to performing assigned duties.
- Adhere to the scope of responsibilities designated by the student's current role as a student or committee member.
- Ensure that confidential information is not inappropriately accessed, used, or released either directly or by virtue of signature or secure access to premises or systems.
- Refrain from the use of confidential information for personal interests or the interests of others.

The patient's right to the confidentiality of medical records is a fundamental tenet of medical care. The discussion of problems or diagnoses of a patient by students or professional staff in public violates patient confidentiality and is unethical. Email and other electronic forms of communication that mention or transmit identifying patient information must be secure and properly encrypted and not used other than for the purpose of communicating with the patient or caregivers who have a legitimate need to know about the patient. Medical records may be copied only for direct patient care. For presentations or rounds, students are permitted to extract necessary information but shall not copy entire charts or portions of a chart that are not relevant to a legitimate clinical or educational purpose. All students are required to undergo periodic

training in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and they must adhere to its tenets.

Professional Demeanor

The student should be thoughtful and professional when interacting with patients, families, peers, and all UIW faculty, administration, and staff. Inappropriate behavior includes the use of offensive language, gestures, or remarks with sexual overtones, extreme lack of interest, or dishonesty.

Students should maintain a neat and clean appearance, including adhering to the daily dress code that is generally accepted as professional by the patient population served. Students must dress according to the dress code of the hospital and individual departments when on clinical rotations.

Representation of Level of Training and Knowledge

Students should accurately represent themselves to patients and others on the medical team as an “osteopathic medical student,” “student physician,” or “student doctor.” Students should never introduce themselves as “Doctor” at any time, regardless of any other degrees that they may hold, as this misrepresents the student’s position, knowledge, and authority.

If any entries are made into patient medical records, any student signature should be followed by “OMS-III” or “OMS- IV” written legibly or entered electronically.

Students should never provide care without supervision or render care that is beyond what is appropriate for their level of training, even under supervision. Students also must not provide medical diagnoses or treatment advice unless under the direct supervision of a clinical faculty member/preceptor.

Honesty

Students are expected to demonstrate honesty and integrity in all aspects of their education and in their interactions with patients, staff, faculty, and colleagues. They may not cheat, lie, steal, or assist others in the commission of these acts. Students must not commit fraud or misuse funds intended for professional activities. A student must ensure the accuracy and completeness of his or her part of the medical record and must make a good-faith effort to provide the best possible patient care.

Students must be willing to admit errors and not knowingly mislead others or promote themselves at the patient’s expense. The student is bound to know, understand, and preserve

professional ethics and has a duty to report any breach of these ethics by other students or healthcare providers through the appropriate channels. Plagiarism is dishonest and unethical. To consciously incorporate the words of others, either verbatim or through paraphrasing, without appropriate acknowledgment is unacceptable.

Research

The basic principle underlying all research is honesty. Scientists have a responsibility to provide research results of high quality, gather facts meticulously, keep impeccable records of work done, interpret results realistically, not force them into preconceived molds or models, and report new knowledge through appropriate channels. Co-authors of research reports must be acquainted with the work of their co-workers so that they can personally vouch for the integrity of the study and the validity of the findings and must have been active in the research or writing itself. More information on research at UIWSOM can be found at the [UIWSOM Office of Research and Innovation](#) website.

Commitment to Life-long Learning

A personal commitment to life-long learning is an essential precept for a physician and students at the UIWSOM. New medical and scientific knowledge is continually being discovered. To stay abreast of new technology, treatments, and tools, students must make a commitment from the very beginning of their education to be responsible for learning and maintaining the necessary skills to provide appropriate quality care throughout their careers as osteopathic physicians and scientists.

Conflicts of Interest

Avoidance of conflicts of interest represents a core component of professionalism. It is essential for students to recognize when potential conflicts of interest exist and to manage them appropriately. Transparency is important and conflict management typically requires disclosure to appropriate personnel. A student with a proprietary, financial, or other interest in any material he or she is presenting or discussing must properly disclose that conflict of interest. When a conflict of interest arises, patient welfare must always be paramount.

Sexual Misconduct

Students must never engage in romantic, sexual, or other non-professional relationships with a patient while involved in the patient's care, even at the apparent request or consent of a patient. Students must not engage in romantic, sexual, or other non-professional relationships with others

for whom the student is in a position of authority. Students should not tolerate inappropriate sexual behavior on the part of patients, their families, or other health professionals.

Students receive training in sexual harassment and assault during medical school, including during the first year, and again before they start their clinical rotations. UIW has a strict policy regarding sexual harassment and assault, which can be accessed on the [UIW Title IX website](#).

Impairment

Students must not use alcohol, drugs, or any other substance in a manner that could compromise patient care or bring harm to themselves or others. It is the responsibility of every student to protect the public and get appropriate help for themselves and assist a colleague whose capability or judgment is impaired because of alcohol, drugs, or ill-health. The student is obligated to report members of the healthcare team whose behavior exhibits impairment or lack of professional conduct or competence.

Behavior towards Colleagues

Students will interact with professionals, staff, mentors, and peer members of the academic and healthcare team in a cooperative and productive manner. All professional interactions should be civil, and each person should recognize and facilitate the contributions of others to the team and community.

Evaluation

Becoming a physician requires continuous personal growth and improvement. Students should seek feedback and are expected to respond to feedback and constructive criticism by appropriate modification of their behavior. Resistance or defensiveness in accepting criticism or in receiving feedback, remaining unaware of one's own inadequacies, and not accepting responsibility for errors or failure constitutes unprofessional conduct.

Students should actively participate in the process of evaluating their instructors, including faculty and preceptors. When evaluating an instructor's performance, students are obliged to provide prompt, constructive comments. Evaluations may not include disparaging remarks, offensive language, or personal attacks, and should maintain the same considerate, professional tone expected of faculty when they evaluate student performance.

Teaching

The very title "Doctor" – from the Latin *docere*, "to teach" – implies a responsibility to share knowledge and information with colleagues and patients. It is incumbent upon those entering this profession to teach what they know of the science, art, and ethics of medicine. It includes communicating clearly with and teaching patients so that they are properly prepared to participate in their own care and in the maintenance of their health.

Disclosure

Students must understand the ethics of full disclosure. The patient must be well-informed to make healthcare decisions and work intelligently in partnership with the medical team. Information that the patient needs for decision-making should be presented in terms the patient can understand. If the patient is unable to comprehend for some reason, there should be full disclosure to the patient's authorized representative. Students who participate in disclosing information to patients must do so with the guidance and supervision of the attending physician.

Informed Consent

Students must understand the obligation to obtain informed consent from patients even when they are not responsible for obtaining it. It is the physician's responsibility to ensure that the patient or surrogate is appropriately informed as to the nature of the patient's medical condition, the objectives of proposed treatment alternatives, and the risks and benefits involved. The physician's presentation should be understandable and unbiased. The patient's or surrogate's concurrence must be obtained without coercion. Students who participate in obtaining informed consent must do so only with the guidance and supervision of the attending physician.

Conscientiousness

Students are expected to be thorough and dependable and to commit the time and effort required to meet personal responsibilities. Students should not require continual reminders about responsibilities to patients, to the institution, other healthcare professionals, and to administrative staff. Responding in a timely and appropriate fashion to phone calls, pages, notices, and emails from faculty, nurses, other healthcare team members, and administrative staff is a responsibility that students must honor.

Avoidance of Arrogance

Arrogance means an offensive display of superiority and self-importance and will not be tolerated. Arrogance denotes haughtiness, vanity, insolence, and disdain. All these qualities run counter to the demeanor of the professional.

Dress

Students are required to present themselves in a neat, clean, and well-groomed manner during all learning activities. A student's attire and appearance should be appropriate for the context, including the setting, activities to be performed, others in attendance, and expectations set by the UIWSOM or host. Students are expected to be prepared for learning and professional activities, and this means being dressed in proper attire at the beginning of all such activities. The UIWSOM dress code is as follows:

- Professional footwear is mandatory; flip-flops are not permitted in the classroom or laboratory. Open-toed shoes are not permitted in the Structures Lab, clinics, or hospitals for safety reasons.
- Jewelry, piercings, body art, and tattoos shall not interfere with or detract from learning or clinical activities.
- Nails are to be kept short to enable easy cleaning, prevent puncture of gloves, and prevent injury to the patient or colleagues.
- Perfumes, cologne, and aftershave shall not be worn.
- Specific academic and clinical settings, including laboratories and hospitals, may have additional dress codes and requirements that students are expected to follow.
- Hair should be clean and well-kept.
- Clothing should permit full range of motion and be appropriate for the setting and learning activities to be performed unless circumstances require otherwise. Business casual attire is acceptable (e.g., scrubs in the lab or formal dress at an event). Professional tops, button-downs, collared shirts, and blouses are appropriate. Tank tops, camisoles, crop tops, and exposed midriffs are not. Pants, slacks, skirts, and dresses are appropriate. Jeans and shorts are not. Ripped, torn, or frayed clothing is not permitted. Students should aspire to dress for the academic, clinical, and professional settings they will encounter during their education and careers in medicine.
- Hats (other than religious head covering) are prohibited for all students in classrooms, clinics, hospitals, and community assignments.
- Clean and pressed white coats with name tags should be worn while in the clinic setting at the SOM and community activities.
- When representing UIWSOM at events, such as interview days, information sessions, meetings, conferences, etc., appropriate business dress is required. Consult with the organization's advisor or the Office of Student Affairs for further details.
- With the dean's approval, student organizations may occasionally sponsor fundraisers that allow students to dress casually or in costume. If a facility requires a facility-specific badge, the student may wear that name badge instead of the UIWSOM name badge. Name badges shall be visible above the waist.
- Appropriate athletic tops, bottoms, and footwear are required at all times when using any UIWSOM recreational areas. This includes, but is not limited to, the gymnasium, yoga studio, outdoor courts, and walking trails.

This list is not exhaustive, and it is impossible to continually update it with every change in contemporary fashion. Therefore, if in doubt, err on the conservative side. Students who violate the dress code may be sent home and found in violation of the UIWSOM professionalism policy. For UIWSOM-approved events, students may be permitted to deviate from the daily dress code policy.

Violations in Professional Conduct

All UIWSOM students are expected to follow the [AOA Rules and Guidelines of Professional Conduct](#), and the components of professional conduct as outlined in the UIWSOM Student Handbook.

- First violation – the student is required to meet with the Assistant Director of Student Affairs. A record of the meeting, the violation, and the Notice of Action due to Unprofessional Conduct may be kept in the student's file. Phase II students may be required to meet with the appropriate Core Site Director and/or the Clerkship Director in lieu of meeting with the Assistant Director of Student Affairs.
- Second violation – the student is required to meet with the Director of Student Affairs. A record of the meeting, the violation, and the Notice of Action due to Unprofessional Conduct may be kept in the student's file.
- Third violation – the student is required to meet with the SPC. Record of the SPC meeting, the violation, and the Notice of Action due to Unprofessional Conduct will be kept in the student's file with possible notation made on the student's MSPE. Other disciplinary actions up to and including dismissal from the program, depending on the nature of the violation, may occur.

If a singular violation is deemed egregious, a student may be required to meet with the SPC or Dean immediately, in lieu of the above actions for a first and second violation. A student may be removed from the unit or a clinical rotation until further review and action by the OSA, OCA, or the SPC. Unresolved incidents of a student's unprofessional conduct may prevent the student from academic advancement. That is, the student may not progress to the next unit, clerkship or phase without documented resolution of any professionalism issue.

UIWSOM DO Program Policies

Alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco

The UIWSOM subscribes to the [Alcohol and Drug Policy](#) found on the UIW Student Advocacy and Accountability website. While there may be alcohol served at UIW-sponsored activities, there is a **ZERO tolerance** of any consumption of alcohol, illegal or non-prescribed other than over-the-counter medications, at UIWSOM during school and clinic hours. Professional behavior is expected at all times. Students are expected to maintain unimpaired cognitive, behavioral, and professional function at all times while on campus and during any academic, clinical, or school-sponsored activities. Students who are found to be under the influence of alcohol or any substance—legal or illegal—that impairs judgment, behavior, or performance, or who possess open containers of alcohol or non-prescribed substances intended to alter mood or behavior, will

be subject to disciplinary action by the Student Progress Committee (“SPC”). Sanctions may include administrative leave, dismissal, or other actions deemed appropriate by the SPC.

To ensure the health and safety of students, staff, patients, and all members of the UIWSOM community, UIWSOM reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion, to require any student enrolled to submit to drug and/or alcohol testing. Testing can be requested by a UIWSOM administrator, faculty, or medical professional associated with the UIWSOM, a hospital or other medical facility to which UIWSOM sends students for clinical experiences and clerkships. Osteopathic medical students may sign in to Pre-Check for tracking and documentation of test results.

If a student refuses to submit to drug and/or alcohol testing or if such drug testing indicates a positive result (not based on prescription medications written by a physician for a medical reason), the student will be at risk of being dismissed from the UIWSOM and being administratively withdrawn from any current UIWSOM activities or clinical sites.

Sex Discrimination, Sexual Misconduct, Sexual Harassment, Stalking and Relationship Violence

In accordance with the Campus SAVE, Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), as amended, Title IX, the Clery Act, and other state and federal laws, UIW is committed to providing an environment that emphasizes the dignity and worth of every member of its community, and that is free from sexual misconduct, including sex-based discrimination; sexual harassment; sexual assault; sexual exploitation; stalking; relationship violence (including domestic and dating violence), and retaliation. UIW is committed to addressing and working towards preventing crimes of sexual violence. The university encourages prompt reporting of any incidents.

For more detailed information, visit the [UIW Title IX website](#).

The University’s Title IX and Compliance Coordinator manages all concerns related to alleged violations of the University’s Sexual Misconduct Policy. To report a complaint or incident of that nature, please go to the [Title IX website](#) and click on the “Report an Incident” button or contact:

Matthew Carpenter

Director of Title IX

University of the Incarnate Word

Broadway Campus Administration Building, Room 444

macarpen@uiwtx.edu 210-832-2105

The Title IX Coordinator shall review all reports received and determine if the Title IX jurisdictional requirements have been met to investigate a complaint. Should the incident not meet the Title IX requirements, it may still violate other university policies and will be sent to the proper department to investigate that complaint. For more detailed information on the Title IX requirements, visit www.uiw.edu/titleix.

Academic Integrity

The UIWSOM requires its students to observe high standards of academic honesty and professionalism in all curricular sessions and extracurricular activities. Academic dishonesty will be addressed according to the academic integrity and professionalism provisions outlined in this handbook.

Any member of the student body or the staff of the UIWSOM who is concerned that a student has engaged in some form of academic dishonesty should report the incident to the Office of Student Affairs.

Assessment Policies

Assessment Integrity for Phase I and II

Assessment materials are the property of UIWSOM. Students are not allowed to possess these materials outside of secure conditions, nor are students allowed to transmit, in any form, information regarding these materials. Accessing, copying, recreating, storing, and/or sharing questions from exams of the current or previous academic phases constitutes academic misconduct. Such behavior is considered a violation of professional and ethical expectations with consequences up to and including dismissal from the program.

Assessments can occur in different settings on the SOM campus or in a remote environment. These settings may include CIELO, the STRX Laboratory, UIW libraries, classrooms, or online settings. Each curriculum component assessment has specific requirements including permitted items and dress code. Students are provided specific instructions prior to the start of assessments begin. Below are general guidelines.

Permitted items for Assessments at the SOM

Items allowed on the desktop

- Student ID

- Personal laptop and charger
- Laptop stand
- Mouse and mouse pad

Items allowed on the back of the chair

- One light jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt with empty pockets.

*Note: permitted items are subject to change depending on the nature of the assessment and faculty instructions).

Non-Permitted Items

- Beverage bottle
- Laptop cases
- Large/bulky coats
- Backpacks, bags, purses, satchels, luggage, or briefcases
- Reference materials (e.g., books, notes, papers)
- Scrap paper or paper for taking notes (this includes sticky notes or writing directly ON your computer)
- Smartwatches, beeping watches, calculator watches
- Electronic devices include but are not limited to cellular/smartphones, smart devices (e.g. smart glasses), headphones (including noise-canceling headphones), earbuds, cameras, video recorders, iPads, iPods, MP3 players, electronic organizers, calculators, fitness tracking devices, or other devices that may record or transmit data.
- Hats, baseball caps, and hoodies (students are permitted to wear religious or cultural head attire as long as it does not interfere with the assessment process)

Provided Items (on campus)

Pencils, earplugs, tissues, and scrap paper will be available for use during each assessment. Students must return scrap paper to the proctors after each block of the exam.

Restroom Usage (on campus)

Only one male and one female student may be released to the restroom at a time. It is expected that students will not discuss the assessment or attempt to share or obtain information or

materials while outside of the assessment environment. Restroom breaks for timed or laboratory examinations may have additional guidelines as outlined in assessment instructions.

Assessment Start Time

The official start time of assessments at UIWSOM is defined in the unit's calendar in the learning management system (LMS) and/or an official email communication sent from OME. Students will be allowed into the assessment area 30 minutes before the start of each assessment. Students are expected to be in their seats or at their designated start location, ready to take the assessment, at the designated start time.

- If students arrive after the official start time, they will have to complete the assessment by the official end time.
- Students will not be allowed into the assessment environment if they arrive 15 minutes or more after the official start time.
 - Extenuating circumstances will be adjudicated by OME at the time of the assessment.
- Students with a pattern of late arrivals will be referred to the SPC.

In a remote environment, remote proctoring will be implemented with assessment instructions adjusted to meet the needs of a remote environment.

Student Laptops

Student laptops are required for assessments and must be in good working order. There are a limited number of laptops available for major computer malfunctions during assessments. Students are expected to abide by the Policy on Student Laptops to ensure their laptops meet the minimum requirements for examination software.

Procedure for disruptive behavior during an exam

A student engaging in behavior that interferes with the assessment environment of other examinees will receive a verbal warning from a proctor. If the disruptive behavior continues, the student will be removed from the assessment area and escorted to OSA. The Director of Student Affairs or Assistant Dean of OME, in consultation with the proctor(s), will evaluate and decide the appropriate next step, which may include a referral to the SPC.

Absence Policy

Attendance and Expectations

Attendance is mandatory for the following UIWSOM curriculum components in Phase I and II: SIGS, DOCS, STRX, Academic Support Sessions, Assessments, Readiness for Clerkship, Clerkships, Reflection Integration and Assessment, Readiness for Residency, and any other sessions as deemed mandatory by the UIWSOM Administration.

Planned Absences

Unless acutely ill, students must request approval in advance and in writing for ANY missed days or alterations in the schedule (including religious observances). Undocumented absences and recurrent tardiness in either Phase I or Phase II are considered unprofessional behavior and will result in referral to the appropriate offices or committees as outlined in the violations of the professional conduct policy in this handbook. Listed below are other considerations affecting student absences:

- **UIWSOM Academic Calendar and Holidays:** The UIWSOM publishes the official academic calendar with start and end dates for the units in Phase I and II, the major holidays for the year, and any break recognized by the SOM for the academic year when educational sessions will not be scheduled during Phase I. In Phase II, outside of recognized SOM break times, students are expected to follow the schedule assigned by their preceptor or clinical site, which may include holidays and weekends.
- **Professional Meetings:** Professional development is essential in medicine. In addition to engaging in UIWSOM's curriculum, it is important for students to explore interests, develop skills, and serve the community through participation in service projects, research, mission trips, and advocacy efforts. To receive approval to attend a professional meeting, a student must be in satisfactory standing and follow the process as outlined by OSA. Students are prohibited from attending professional conferences during the first two units of Year 1, during assessment days, or during special mandatory sessions. Special considerations may be granted through OSA.
- **Religious Observances Policy** statements for the absence of religious observances may be found [here](#).

Unplanned Absences

In the event of an acute illness or other unanticipated and unavoidable situations, the absence must be reported as soon as possible via the absence request form located on [Elentra](#). All absence requests and necessary documentation must be submitted within 3 business days of the absence.

UIWSOM may require a doctor's note from the student's healthcare provider for absences in certain situations, such as an absence that results in missing an assessment.

Disputed Absences

Students must contact the Director of Student Affairs via email for any session for which the student claims to be present but was marked absent. This absence dispute must be sent within 5 days of the session. Additional information may be requested to verify student attendance.

Absence From an Assessment

UIWSOM assessments include, but are not limited to, all examinations, quizzes, COMATs, COMSAEs, and OSCEs. A student who is unable to be present for an assessment due to either serious health conditions or other extenuating circumstances must contact OSA to report the absence and submit the request through Elentra. Absences from assessments require appropriate documentation prior to the start of the examinations. Acute illnesses and emergencies require appropriate documentation within 3 business days of the first missed assessment. The appropriate faculty leads will determine the appropriate date/time for a rescheduled assessment.

A student who does not follow the procedures outlined in the attendance policy may not be granted the opportunity to reschedule an assessment and will be referred to SPC. A student who either (a) does not follow the attendance policy or (b) is determined to have an unexcused absence for the assessment will receive a score of zero for the missed assessment.

A student who is late for an assessment may not be allowed to sit for the assessment at that time. If a student is not allowed to sit for the assessment, they must contact the OSA to report an absence. Please refer to the "Assessment Start Time" section of the Assessment Policies above for further information.

A student that has multiple missed or rescheduled assessments will be referred to the SPC.

Types of Absences

Short-term Absence

A short-term absence is an absence of no more than:

OMS-I

- Three business days from one singular unit

OMS-II

- Four business days from the CRR unit
- Three business days from the ERR, MBB, and MKC units

OMS-III and OMS-IV

- Three business days from RfC, MKCII, RIA, or RfR
- Three clinical days from any clerkship or one-and-a-half (1.5) approved absences within a two-week clerkship
- Note that exceeding these limits may result in required remediation or repeating of the clerkship. Non-approved/ unexcused absences and recurrent tardiness may result in referral to the SPC.

This includes single day absences and consecutive absences. Short-term absences from class may consist of personal days, medical issues (self or immediate family), military obligations, civic duties, professional activities, traffic accidents, and other exceptional situations.

Special Considerations

Students are allowed up to five (5) business days for bereavement per academic year. Phase 1 students must submit the request electronically using the Elentra platform. Phase 2 students must submit the request electronically using the Elentra platform and notify the Assistant Dean of Clinical Affairs. Documentation (obituary, funeral program, or death certificate) is required for this form of absence.

Students who test positive for COVID-19 are permitted up to five (5) calendar days of absence for isolation. The five-day isolation period begins on the first day symptoms develop or, if the student has no symptoms, on the date of the positive COVID-19 test. Phase 1 students must submit the request electronically using the Elentra platform. Phase 2 students must submit the request electronically using the Elentra platform and notify the Assistant Dean of Clinical Affairs. Documentation of a positive COVID-19 test is required for this form of absence. Students are expected to return to academic and clinical activities after the five-day isolation period if they meet current CDC recommendations. Any additional time away from required activities due to ongoing illness may require appropriate medical documentation and will be reviewed in accordance with UIWSOM's attendance and absence policies.

Approval for Short-term Absence

- **All short-term absence requests must be electronically submitted using the Elentra platform and approved by the OSA.** The request is not considered approved until receipt of an affirmative response from the OSA.

- It is the student's responsibility to respond to inquiries through Elentra regarding the absence request. If further details are not provided by the student, the request may be denied.

When an absence is necessary and anticipated, a student must submit a short-term absence form for approval at least 10 business days prior to the event. When an absence is the result of an unexpected occurrence, a student must complete a short-term absence form as soon as possible but no later than seven days from the date of absence.

The Office of Student Affairs will audit student attendance twice per academic unit. Violations of the attendance policy will be communicated electronically.

Exceeding the short-term absence limit will result in the following:

- The student will be referred to the Director of Student Affairs to discuss LOA options if necessary.
- The student will be placed in an Unsatisfactory Standing status for the duration of the current academic unit and subsequent unit.
 - If in the subsequent unit, the student does not violate the attendance policy, the student will return to satisfactory standing.

A student who violates the attendance policy in two or more units will be referred to the SPC to take appropriate action, which may include administrative withdrawal or dismissal.

Phase I Extended Absence

An extended absence consists of an absence from 4 to 20 consecutive days during Phase I. An extended absence may be requested for administrative reasons (including, but not limited to, academic status, professionalism, personal, finances, or active military deployment) or medical reasons (including, but not limited to, student or immediate family health, maternity/paternity leave, or religious observances).

Approval Process for an Extended Absence

Extended absence requests must be electronically submitted through the absence tracking system via the [Absence Request Form](#) prior to the start of the leave period.

- **Administrative Extended Absences**: Documentation may be requested for approval by UIWSOM Administration. Documentation is required if the administrative extended absence overlaps with scheduled assessments.
- **Medical Extended Absences**: Documentation is required for all medical extended absences and is to be submitted through the absence tracking system prior to the start of

the leave period. For emergency situations, documentation is required within 3 business days of the start of the extended absence.

- Maternity/Paternity leave meets the criteria for medical extended absences.

All extended absence requests require:

- Meetings/communication with appropriate departments before the leave can be approved
- Approval from the Director of Student Affairs and other appropriate administrators within the UIWSOM
- Follow-up meetings/communication throughout the duration of the leave
 - Specifics will be determined by the Director of Student Affairs and the SPC/ACC
 - To facilitate communication, the student is required to provide up-to-date contact information to UIWSOM, including email, phone number, and emergency contact
 - Failure to respond to communication from UIWSOM in a timely manner will result in administrative withdrawal or dismissal.

During an extended absence period, a student will be able to audit LGS as per the auditing policy, will have access to LGS recordings, and can attend R&R sessions.

For any extended absence that includes a scheduled assessment and the scheduled makeup dates, the student will take the assessment during the reassessment week outlined in the academic calendar. This will be considered a first attempt of the assessment.

Leave of Absence

An approved leave of absence is a temporary interruption in a medical student's program of study and is intended for a student who needs to interrupt their program of study for a period greater than 21 consecutive business days for Phase I or greater than 5 consecutive business days for Phase II. A leave of absence can be categorized as administrative, educational, or medical.

During a leave of absence, a student will be withdrawn from all UIWSOM courses. Campus resources and auditing courses will be at the discretion of the UIWSOM Dean. An application for readmission must be submitted for all types of Leave of absence from the UIWSOM.

Approval Process for Leave of Absence

Leave of absence requests must be electronically submitted through the absence tracking system via the [Absence Request Form](#) prior to the start of the leave period. All leave of absence requests require:

- Meetings/communication with appropriate departments before the leave can be approved
- Approval from the Director of Student Affairs, and other appropriate administrators within the UIWSOM
- Follow-up meetings/communication throughout the duration of the leave
 - Specifics will be determined by the Director of Student Affairs, and the SPC/ACC
 - To facilitate communication, the student is required to provide up-to-date contact information to UIWSOM, including email, phone number, and emergency contact
 - Failure to respond to communication from UIWSOM in a timely manner will result in administrative withdrawal

Administrative Leave of Absence

Reasons for an Administrative Leave of Absence include but are not limited to:

- Death of a spouse, partner, child or immediate family member.
- Critical illness of a spouse, partner, child or immediate family member.
- Significant life events that warrant an interruption in the student's education.
- Activities or programs required by OME, OCA or SPC.

If the leave of absence exceeds 180 days within a 12-month period, the leave of absence may convert into and be deemed a withdrawal from the program. A student who is withdrawn under these circumstances must apply for readmission. The decision to readmit shall be made by the SPC with the approval of the Dean and appropriate administrators from the OSA. Factors relevant to readmission may include the student's academic status, the nature and duration of the leave of absence, demonstrated academic progress or personal growth during the leave of absence, and commitment to completing the remaining program of study.

When a student returns from a leave of absence, the student may be required to repeat or audit units or rotations that the student had previously completed. The SPC, in consultation with the ACC, shall determine the student's appropriate academic placement and requirements for return.

Educational Leave of Absence

When accepted to a dual degree academic program (such as DO/MAA, DO/MPH) or in a structured research program that has prior approval by UIWSOM administration, the student may be placed on an approved Educational Leave of Absence from the DO program to complete the dual degree program. An Educational Leave of Absence is generally limited to one year.

The Educational Leave of Absence may exceed 180 days within a 12-month period since the student is actively enrolled in an accredited degree program or structured research program. The 12-month period begins on the first day of the student's leave of absence. An Educational Leave of Absence is granted by the OSA in consultation with the SPC and approval by the Dean.

Medical Leave of Absence

When a medical condition requires an absence that extends beyond 21 consecutive days for Phase I or 5 consecutive days for Phase II, the following applies:

- The student must provide the appropriate medical documentation, including but not limited to, a letter from the treating physician stating the nature of the medical condition and reasons it requires a leave of absence.
- The student may be required to provide additional information from the treating physician to determine the appropriate timeframe for return.

Clarification or substantiation for medical leave of absence may be required if the medical leave is not common for the medical condition, to confirm that a medical condition exists, or if a second opinion from a physician is warranted.

For a student who receives an approved medical leave of absence and is in good standing at the time of the medical leave of absence, the SPC will recommend the student's academic placement and other requirements for return if the medical leave does not exceed 180 cumulative days within a 12-month period.

If the medical leave of absence exceeds 180 days in any 12-month period, the student must apply for readmission.

If the student was in good standing at the time of the requested medical leave of absence, they are eligible for readmission for the next academic year.

- The student must be approved for readmission by the SPC, which determines the academic placement of the student.
- The return may require repeating or auditing of units or clinical rotations already taken.

A student who is applying to return from a medical leave of absence must provide documentation from the treating physician that (a) the student is eligible to fully participate in the medical school program and (b) the student meets the technical standards for enrollment at UIWSOM. The Dean and/or the SPC may require the student to obtain a second opinion from a physician at their cost.

A student who does not comply with the requirements for the medical leave of absence will be dismissed.

Time Limits for Approved Leave of Absence

The curricular program at UIWSOM requires students to complete all academic requirements to be promoted to the next year. Students must also follow attendance guidelines and leave of absence procedures.

- In Phase II, a student may be placed on an Altered Degree Plan of Study. The Alternate Curriculum Committee (ACC) will design the Altered Degree Plan of Study, with final approval by the SPC. Depending upon the length of the approved leave of absence, graduation may be delayed.
- A student whose Altered Degree Plan of Study extends their graduation beyond June 30 is not eligible to participate in the residency match for that academic year, according to National Residency Match Program (NRMP) guidelines, and will be required to find placement outside of the Match or participate in the Match the following academic year.
- If a student's cumulative absences exceed 180 days within a 12-month period, the student will be withdrawn with the ability to reapply. Depending on the conditions of the withdrawal and the length of the withdrawal, readmission is not guaranteed.

Time Limits and Consequences for an Unapproved Leave of Absence

A student who is absent for more than three days without approval shall meet with the OSA and may be referred to the SPC to address the student's absenteeism. Failure to follow the absence policies may result in a referral to the SPC. Consequences may include but are not limited to the requirement to make up missed time, inability to sit for an assessment, repeating the academic year, removal from any leadership position or membership in student organizations, delay in graduation, and formal filing of a complaint of a breach in professionalism, with its associated processes and consequences. This includes possible notation in the Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE). In extreme cases, absenteeism or tardiness may result in dismissal from the program.

Academic Considerations for Returning to the Curriculum after a Leave of Absence

A student will be considered a **returning** student and subject to the standard reassessment thresholds and extracurricular policies if, at the time of the leave, the student has maintained academic and professional standards set forth by this handbook.

A student will be considered a **repeating** student and subject to the reassessment thresholds and extracurricular policies for learners remediating an academic year if, at the time of the leave, the student has not maintained academic and/or professional standards set forth by this handbook.

Withdrawal Policy

A withdrawal is designed for other situations when a student needs to end enrollment during a particular semester. This section defines the categories of withdrawals.

Voluntary withdrawal – an action taken when a student voluntarily leaves the medical school for non-medical reasons.

- A request to withdraw from the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree program must be made in writing via Cardinal Mail to the UIWSOM OSA.
- A student who withdraws from a unit or clerkship by the deadline shall receive a grade of “W” for each unit or clerkship in progress at the time of the withdrawal. The grade of “W” will remain on the transcript. Any unit or clerkship not already in progress will be dropped from the student's record.
- A student who withdraws from the university after the approved UIWSOM published dates and financial aid deadlines for the DO Program may be responsible for the repayment of financial aid awards, tuition, and fees. Students are advised to meet with the UIWSOM Enrollment Services and officers from the OFA and Business Office to discuss financial responsibilities at the direction of UIWSOM Enrollment Services.
- A student who fails to follow the proper withdrawal procedure will receive a Fail (F) grade in the current unit or clerkship and be administratively withdrawn from the UIWSOM. Informal notice to an administrator, faculty member, a staff member does not cancel registration or the student's financial obligation to the OFA or Business Office.
- The SPC will determine if the student should continue in the curriculum until the date of withdrawal and if they are eligible for readmission.

Voluntary medical withdrawal – only approved with the recommendation of a licensed physician. Requests for withdrawal for medical reasons must be made in writing to and approved by the OSA, in concurrence with the UIWSOM administration, as appropriate.

Involuntary medical withdrawal – although a voluntary medical withdrawal is preferable, the OSA, in concurrence with the Dean, may place a student on an involuntary medical withdrawal. An involuntary medical withdrawal is used in emergency situations when it is in the best interest of the student or when other students, staff, faculty, and others are directly affected by the

student's behavior. Any faculty, staff, or administrator may make a recommendation to the Dean to consider an involuntary medical withdrawal. This category of withdrawal requires that the student discontinue the program immediately and may be temporary until the incident that precipitated the leave can be thoroughly investigated and/or the osteopathic medical student has received the appropriate medical evaluation.

Academic or Administrative withdrawal – refers to an action taken by the Dean or SPC for specific reasons, including violations of the Policy on Student Professionalism and Ethical Expectations, Technical Standards for Admissions, and policies under Successful Completion of the DO Program and DO Program Policies. An osteopathic medical student will be immediately withdrawn for academic or professionalism deficiencies. This category of withdrawal requires that the student discontinue the program immediately until the circumstance that precipitated the leave can be thoroughly investigated.

Withdrawal and Financial Aid

For financial aid implications related to withdrawal from the DO Program, please refer to the [Financial Aid website](#).

Dismissal from the UIWSOM

Dismissal is defined as permanent separation from UIWSOM for legal, moral, health, social, academic, or comparable reasons. Dismissal may include but not be limited to the following reasons:

- Failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing.
- Failure to comply with academic policies.
- Failure to follow professionalism expectations as outlined by the Student Professional and Ethical Expectations.
- Any other reason or action deemed egregious by the Student Progress Committee (“SPC”).

Permanent separation includes immediate removal from all remaining academic units, clinical duties, community engagement, UIWSOM-sponsored scholarship, and extracurricular activities, and access to program materials through the UIWSOM learning management system.

Any unit or clerkship in progress at the time of the dismissal will receive a final grade of *Withdrawn* (“W”).

A student may appeal a final SPC determination to the DO Program Appeals Council (“DPAC”) following the procedures outlined in the Appealing Student Progress Committee Decisions section of this Handbook. The DPAC serves as an independent appellate body, and its determination constitutes the final institutional decision.

A student has the right to withdraw from the UIWSOM prior to completion of the dismissal process if a dismissal is imminent.

Auditing

A student who will restart a year as a result of a Leave of Absence may submit a request to audit Large Group Sessions (LGS) for the remaining unit(s) in the current year. Requests must be sent in writing to the UIWSOM SPC for approval. While auditing, a student has access to all electronic library resources, learning management system services and support services. They will not take assessments or fulfill other curriculum requirements.

Audio, Video, and Digital Recording(s)

Most classrooms and breakout rooms in Buildings 2 and 4 are equipped with video cameras, which may be used for recording all learning and assessment activities. The administration of the SOM has the authority to audio and/or video record educational sessions. Students, faculty, and staff can expect that any educational session may be audio and/or video recorded. These recordings are managed in accordance with the [UIW Technology Policies](#).

Laptop Specifications and Requirements

	Windows PC	Apple Computer
Operating System	Minimum: Windows 10 with 22H2 service pack Recommended: Windows 11	Minimum Accepted: macOS 13 Ventura Recommended: 16 GB with M2-M3 processor
RAM	Minimum: 8 - 12 GB Recommended: 16 GB	Minimum 8 GB with M1 processor Recommended: 16 GB with M2 - M3 processor
Hard Drive Space	Minimum: 512 GB Recommended: 1 - 2 TB	Minimum Accepted: 256 GB Recommended: 512 GB - 1 TB

Classroom Recording Policy and Definition of Terms

The recording of LGS and discussions may involve both privacy and copyright issues. . SOM is responsible for distributing recordings of LGS when applicable. Students must not share or upload recordings or learning materials.

Limitations on Use

Permission to allow a recording of a class experience is not a transfer of any copyrights related to contents in the recording.

Public distribution or commercial use of recordings by students in *any medium is a violation of this policy and may constitute a violation of state or federal law*. A violation may subject a student to receive disciplinary action under the SOM policies on Student Professionalism and Ethical Expectations, and legal action regarding any unauthorized use of copyrighted material.

Students must destroy recordings at the end of the term in which they are enrolled.

Gift Policy

UIWSOM students are prohibited from soliciting gifts, gratuities, favors, loans, or other objects of value. To avoid a conflict of interest, undue influence, or any appearance of a conflict of interest or undue influence, employees and students shall not accept or give personal gifts, beyond token objects of nominal value, from/to anyone with whom there might be a conflict of interest. When in doubt about the propriety of giving or accepting a gift or an invitation, the student should consult with the UIWSOM Office of Student Affairs.

In some instances, UIWSOM students may accept a gift on behalf of UIW with the understanding that the item will become the property of UIW or the UIWSOM and will be handled or disposed of as best meets the needs of the institution. A recipient may be required to inform the giver that the gift will become the institution's property and may be required to return the gift if that arrangement is unacceptable to the giver or cannot be effectuated by the institution.

Social Media Policy

This policy applies to all University of the Incarnate Word (UIW) students who use social media in either a professional or a personal capacity. Professional use includes contributing to UIW sponsored or other social media sites while representing UIW in an official capacity. Personal use refers to students who use social media as part of their personal life. UIWSOM subscribes to the [Social Media Policy](#) and [Acceptable use of Information Resources of UIW](#).

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for the responsible use of social media resources. These resources include, but are not limited to, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, blogs, wikis, Instagram, Snapchat, and LinkedIn.

UIW encourages the use of social media to enhance UIW's local, national, and global reputation and connection with current and future students, parents, alumni, donors, and other key constituents. When used responsibly, social media sites provide an effective way to promote the university and to share information and perspective across a broad range of topics.

All UIW-sponsored social media sites must be approved and registered with the Office of Communications and Brand Marketing. All UIW-sponsored social media sites must include the names and contact information of at least two (2) site administrators. Social media sites affiliated with a student organization should register a site sponsor through the Office of Student Affairs. Sites representing UIW and UIWSOM may be reviewed and amended for content at any time.

Guidelines for the Responsible Use of Social Media in a Professional Capacity

All UIW students or employees who manage or post to UIW-sponsored social media sites should:

- Exercise good judgment. Protect and enhance the value of UIW's mission by avoiding comments, photos, videos, or images that could be interpreted or perceived as slurs, demeaning, inflammatory, unduly suggestive, unethical, inappropriate, or otherwise contrary to UIW's Mission.
- Protect confidential information and relationships. Do not post confidential, proprietary, or controversial information about the university, its students, alumni, or employees. Respect copyright and fair use laws by obtaining proper permissions and giving appropriate credit for work. Follow University policies and federal and state laws, such as FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act), and the medical records privacy provisions of the Texas Health and Safety Code.
- Stick to your area of expertise and provide unique, individual perspectives on non-confidential activities at UIW. If you have a vested interest in what you are discussing, be the first to say so; it adds to your credibility.
- Use official UIW logos only as specified in the university style guide.
- Consider the public nature and longevity of social media activity before posting. Exposing too much information on social media platforms creates risks, including financial and safety risks to individuals and the institution.
- Keep sites current by refreshing content regularly, responding to questions in a timely manner, and updating information.

- Do not post patient images, medical records, or clinical information on personal social media accounts.

Guidelines for the Responsible Use of Social Media in a Personal Capacity

When using social media sites in a personal capacity, students should:

- Maintain clear lines between professional and personal social media activities.
- Avoid using the university's name or image to promote or endorse any product, cause, religious view, political party, candidate, etc.
- Avoid using the university's name or image in connection with comments, photos, videos, or images that could be interpreted or perceived as slurs, demeaning, inflammatory, illegal, unduly suggestive, sexual innuendo, inappropriate, or otherwise contrary to the university's Mission.
- Remember that legal requirements remain in effect and may apply even when your social media accounts are set to "private."
- Do not post patient images, medical records, or clinical information on personal social media accounts.
- Maintain appropriate boundaries. Be advised that personal information can be used to perpetrate identity theft, which can compromise the security of students and the institution.
- Use appropriate security settings to maintain personal privacy and restrict content that should not be publicly available. When in doubt, don't post.
- Personal social media outlets are increasingly used to Social Media checks may be conducted pre-matriculation, during enrollment, and when applying to residency programs UIWSOM does not control what employers, residency programs, graduate programs, and others consider or access when making hiring or admission decisions. Use discretion when deciding what to post and what to make publicly available. Use social media outlets to establish a positive and effective individual brand.
- Students should be selective with who they "friend". Remember that posts on personal accounts can be easily made public via screenshots.
- Be sensitive to the current political and cultural climate, as well as issues of national importance when you post. Any subject where individuals have passionate, yet divisive opinions can quickly turn nasty and regretful. Exercise self-control.

Reporting Concerns about Social Media

Concern with any content on the UIWSOM-sponsored social media sites can be directed to the Office of Student Affairs via the [Maxient Report Form](#).

Violations of Social Media Policy

Any violation of the social media policy may result in disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the institution. The University investigates and responds to all reported concerns about social media use and content. A student may be held responsible for any personal legal liability imposed for any published content. Violations of the social media policy are reviewed by the Office of Student Affairs and the UIWSOM's Student Progress Committee.

UIWSOM Netiquette Guidelines

UIWSOM students may be required to engage in online environments as part of their educational requirements or as representatives of UIWSOM. In such cases, student engagement with those online environments is guided by UIWSOM Netiquette Guidelines. Netiquette is the etiquette of communication in an online format. These guidelines should be used by students when participating in any online environments that are educationally required or in meetings or events where they are representing UIWSOM. Failure to abide by these guidelines may result in a professionalism violation.

- Do not use unprofessional backgrounds for learning sessions/online meetings.
 - Although this is an entertaining feature, backgrounds like these can be inappropriate or distracting, and may negatively impact the professional environment.
- Use chat and comment features appropriately and professionally.
- Do not use public chat or comment features for topics that are not related to the session topic being discussed.
 - Be polite and respectful in comments and posts.
- When writing comments, please ensure they are always respectful of others. Tone of voice cannot be communicated in written form. A joking remark may be misinterpreted without tone of voice. As such, it is more appropriate and professional to strive for polite and respectful dialogue.
- Do not type in all caps.
 - This is the online written form of shouting and should be avoided.
- Stay on topic.
 - Do not post links, articles, etc., that are unrelated to the topic being discussed.
- Be respectful of the opinions of others.
 - Dialogue should always be respectful and professional. Disagreeing with another's point of view is acceptable – being dismissive or rude is not.
- Strive for brevity.
 - When writing or contributing verbally, try to make your comment brief and on-point.

- Dress appropriately.
 - For online learning sessions/meetings, maintain a professional dress code.
- Refer to the UIWSOM Handbook.
 - See appropriate communications through social media platforms.

Safe Environment for Patients, Staff, and Students

The UIWSOM is committed to providing a safe environment for patients, staff, and students. All patients are entitled to have their medical interactions conducted with appropriate privacy and confidentiality protections. Informed consent will be obtained for all treatments and sensitive examinations performed. Patients are entitled to have a chaperone (informal or formal) present for any consultation, examination, treatment, or procedure where the patient considers it necessary. All providers are entitled to have a formal chaperone present at their discretion. Chaperones are required for sensitive exams, treatments, or procedures. Whenever possible, clinical staff members should serve as chaperones rather than front office staff or family members. Providers who are contracted to work in non-UIWSOM organizations must follow the policies of that organization.

All medical interactions have the potential to be uncomfortable or difficult for patients. Sensitive examinations, treatments, or procedures may predispose patients to feelings of vulnerability and emotional discomfort. Patient response to those feelings will vary based on individual beliefs, religion, culture, and experience. Attention to privacy offers important benefits to both patients and providers.

Implementation

- Always employ appropriate disrobing and draping practices to respect the patient's privacy.
- Do not allow medical students or other parties to observe sensitive examinations, treatment, or procedures without the patient's informed consent.
- Universal precautions are followed for all examinations, including treatments or procedures involving the genital, rectal, or direct digital contact with oral mucosal areas.
- Notification to patients of the availability of chaperones will be included in a clinic's 'welcome letter' and posted in examination rooms.
- A clear explanation of the nature of any examination or treatment must be given to the patient. This explanation must also be provided to an informal chaperone when appropriate (e.g., pediatric patient or impaired patient who may be unable to understand or comprehend the explanation).
- Chaperones are required for all sensitive examinations, treatments, or procedures.
- For any physical examinations of a minor, the parent, guardian, or approved alternate should always be present and may serve as the chaperone. If they are unavailable or the

provider has concerns with their ability to appropriately serve as a chaperone, a formal chaperone is required.

- Sensitive examinations of patients 11 years of age or older require a formal chaperone.

A formal chaperone will be made available to any patient upon request. If one is requested and none is available at that time, the patient must be given the opportunity to reschedule their appointment within a reasonable timeframe.

- If a patient declines/refuses a chaperone for an examination where one is required, the provider must document in the record that an offer was made and declined. The provider retains the final decision on whether to proceed without a chaperone. If the provider proceeds with the examination, the patient or guardian must first sign a waiver.
- Informed consent will be obtained and documented for sensitive examinations or treatments.
- In the event a patient requires successive visits for the same sensitive examination, treatment, or procedure, a single informed consent document may be used, given that the duration of the visits does not exceed six months.
- In the event a provider or clinic medical director believes there exists a compelling reason to waive components of this policy for specific types of patients, approval must be requested and granted by the UIWSOM Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs or designee, before such a waiver may take effect.

If government laws or regulations change, or court decisions alter the requirements in a way that impacts this document, this document will be construed to comply with the most recent government regulations. This policy does not create legally enforceable protections beyond the protection of the background state and federal laws that frame such policies and codes, generally.

Safe Osteopathic Clinical Training for Students

UIWSOM desires to foster a culture of safety and respect within osteopathic clinical skills training sessions. These sessions may include osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM), simulated patient encounters, and precepted patient encounters, leading to the development of skills as a practicing physician.

OMM diagnosis and treatment are no different than clinical exams of other systems and include the need for respect, autonomy, and communication. The teaching of osteopathic physical diagnosis and treatment, however, allows a unique training opportunity to model best practices and develop trusting professional relationships.

During osteopathic medical training, there exist two separate and distinct types of consent.

1. The first is the consent of the student as they participate in peer-to-peer learning.

- a. Student consent pertains to what occurs while practicing osteopathic clinical skills during peer-to-peer educational activities, including physical examination and treatment procedures. Starting in the first year, students are expected to perform palpatory assessments, manual diagnosis, and the practice of treatment techniques on each other as well as permitting other students to practice these skills on them.
 - b. Permission to allow peers to practice clinical skills is implied by enrollment through the requirement that students meet the technical standards. However, students must still seek verbal permission from peers prior to practicing.
2. The second is instruction on informed consent, specifically as it applies to the utilization and practice of osteopathic manipulative treatment on patients.

The Developing Osteopathic Clinical Skills (DOCS) Student Guide, the UIWSOM Student Handbook or other posted policies include language outlining student consent and the expectation of receiving consent before proceeding with any osteopathic clinical skills on their fellow students.

Student Employment

Students are prohibited from outside employment throughout their academic career unless approval is granted by the UIWSOM Dean. In the rare circumstance that an employment request is approved, a continuation of employment is contingent on successfully maintaining a satisfactory status as defined in the UIWSOM student handbook. Should the student fall into an unsatisfactory status, the student must discontinue employment immediately.

Transportation

Students are required to participate in off-campus learning activities and provide their own transportation. Students should have personal vehicle insurance to cover any damage or accidents. The UIWSOM is not responsible for accidents or injuries that occur while students are in transit to or between curricular or extra-curricular activities. There may be occasions where the SOM uses UIW campus buses to transport students. In this case, students will be notified in advance.

Transcripts

Students may obtain a transcript of academic records from the UIW Office of the Registrar by completing the online [Transcript Request Form](#). The University reserves the right to withhold

transcripts for those students who have not met all conditions for admission, graduation, or have outstanding financial obligations.

Student Organizations and Membership

Registration of Osteopathic Medical Student Organizations

Students who wish to form a recognized student organization (e.g., special interest groups, clubs, sports teams) must follow the steps outlined in the current UIWSOM Organization Training Manual and Handbook. All student organizations are required to follow university policies, which include finances, event planning, faculty advising, etc. Please refer to the UIWSOM Student Organization Handbook found on the [Student Life](#) website for complete details on how to start a recognized student organization (RSO) Student Life. Osteopathic medical students can participate in meetings as general members at any time; however, first-year students (OMS-I) cannot officially join ANY student organization until Unit 2 exams have concluded.

Student Leadership Requirements

Osteopathic medical students are encouraged to develop, organize, and participate in student associations, interest groups, and government organizations. Students serving as SGA officers, club and interest group officers, student ambassadors, UIWSOM representatives at national meetings, or in any similar position must be in satisfactory standing.

For students interested in serving in multiple leadership positions, the following rules must be followed:

- Hold no more than two organizational officer positions.
- Officer positions must not be of equal status (rank). Students found to hold multiple equal rank positions will be asked to resign from one or both positions.
- Hold no more than one position that requires travel (i.e., SGA President or Vice President and SOMA President or National Liaison).

A student may hold one president and one secretary position but not dual presidential roles.

UIWSOM Student Government Association

The UIWSOM Student Government Association (SGA) is the official voice for osteopathic medical students. UIWSOM SGA is open to all osteopathic medical students and welcomes proposals and participation from the entire student body. SGA is responsible for dispersing funds

for student activities, acting as a liaison for the osteopathic medical student body, supporting club and classroom activities, and promoting osteopathic medicine.

Elections for recognized student organization officers are held each Spring for the following academic year. Class officers represent their fellow students regarding issues and concerns and help plan community service, fundraising events, and professional and social activities.

For details of the operations and policies of recognized student organizations, please refer to the Organization Training Manual and Handbook.

Campus Policies and Procedures

Safety Mission

UIWSOM is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for faculty, staff, students, and visitors where security, freedom of movement, and individual interests are balanced with community needs. UIWSOM enhances safety through the visibility of security personnel, preventive patrols, positive conflict resolution, and crime prevention and awareness programs. UIW police and security personnel enforce UIW policies and established federal and state laws and collaborate with local law enforcement to fulfill the university's Mission. Mutual respect and responsibility are the hallmarks of the UIWSOM community.

Building and Grounds Etiquette

When UIWSOM's learning spaces (e.g., ILS #2, SIGS Rooms) are not used for formal instruction, they are available to students to use for quiet study. Periodically, these areas are used for other events; therefore, students who use these spaces shall remove their personal possessions daily and clean off whiteboards. UIWSOM is not responsible for items left behind. Students should check with the Office of Student Affairs to determine if missing items have been turned in. Items not retrieved from OSA within 30 days may be disposed of or donated to charity.

Study areas are available for students throughout the campus. Some areas may require specific procedures (i.e., reservations) for use, while other areas are open access on a first-come, first-serve basis. Students will be made aware of the procedures regarding the use of these study areas annually. Students are asked to be considerate of others and refrain from placing belongings in study areas when not in the room to occupy or reserve the room for future use. Concerns regarding student misuse of study areas should be brought before student leadership and the Office of Student Affairs.

While on campus, it is important for everyone to consider the effort it takes to keep the property and its landscape in order. These are provided for the student's sake, and UIWSOM encourages students to take advantage of the campus and enjoy the atmosphere and walking paths. For safety reasons, students are asked to refrain from walking on plant beds, across lawns, or entering restricted areas. The pathways are provided for student safety. UIWSOM encourages and often hosts outdoor activities that are planned.

Use of campus facilities for unauthorized activities and events are not permitted. Students should contact the OSA with requests for campus access beyond learning activities.

Campus Safety and Access

All UIWSOM students, faculty, and staff are responsible for campus safety. The campus is available for student access during announced times. UIWSOM IDs are required to access the buildings.

Students receive a UIWSOM student photo identification badge at the beginning of the first year, which is used for identification and access privileges such as entry to campus buildings, access to facilities and services located at Broadway Campus, and identification while on clinical rotations.

UIWSOM identification badges must be worn or displayed in plain sight by students, faculty, and staff at all times when at the UIWSOM and while on clinical rotations. Students and employees shall badge into campus buildings individually. Students and employees who cannot display their badge for whatever reason must acquire a temporary access badge from the Office of Student Affairs for use for 24 hrs. After 24 hours, the temporary badge must be returned, and a new badge issued (if the existing badge is lost). Current UIWSOM building access hours and security officers can be found on the UIWSOM Policies page under the heading **Facilities, Health, Security and Safety Policies**. The page can be accessed at <https://osteopathic-medicine.uiw.edu/about-us/policies.html>.

Lost or stolen badges shall be reported to the Office of Student Affairs immediately so that they may be deactivated for security reasons. Prompt reporting is essential and is a duty of all UIWSOM community members.

Student Parking

Parking is permitted in designated student areas only. This includes the outer circle of Lot 1 (in front of Bldg 1) as well as Lot 2a (north of Bldg 2), Lot 2b (east of Bldg 2), Lot 3 (east of Bldg 110/south of Bldg 4) and Lot 4 (west of Bldg 4/Bldg 110). UIW parking decals are required for all vehicles parked on the Brooks campuses. Any violation of the vehicle registration or parking

regulations policies will result in the issuance of warnings (2 max) before further action will be taken, per the parking rules and regulations for UIWSOM Brooks Campus. Repeated violations of parking policies may be considered a professionalism violation and referred to the Student Progress Committee for adjudication. Further information regarding parking and decals for the Brooks campus can be found on the [UIWSOM Policies page](#) or by logging into Cardinal Cars from UIW Apps.

Security

The UIW Police Department's mission is to provide effective support, public assistance at every opportunity, and a safe environment through safety awareness and law enforcement. Please refer to the [UIW Police Department](#) website for more information about security, emergency notifications, and campus safety. Brooks Campus security is provided by Watchmen Security, a privately- operated contractor providing service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The UIWSOM Security Desk number is 210-283-6340 and the mobile number is 210-667-0320. Security officers are available to walk students and employees to their vehicles if requested. For more information, please see the [UIWSOM Policies page](#).

Cardinal Mail

UIW students are issued a university email address called *CardinalMail*. Medical students may register an alternative (personal) email address with the Office of Student Affairs with the stipulation that this would serve only as a possible backup for the UIWSOM email.

***CardinalMail* is the official method of communication between campus administrative offices and students.** Students must check their official email account daily; it is an expectation that students read all notices within 24 hours of receipt.

Adverse Weather and Class Cancellation

The safety of UIW faculty, staff, and students is the priority during adverse weather conditions. Adverse weather is defined as any weather condition that would make it necessary to delay or suspend classes and services. When an adverse weather event occurs in San Antonio, the Provost will make the decision to suspend or delay classes.

If a student is unable to travel safely to any learning activity due to adverse weather conditions, it is the student's responsibility to contact the appropriate faculty or clerkship director and the Office of Student Affairs. The student is accountable for all learning outcomes for that day.

Pets

Pets are not permitted in campus buildings or clinical sites, except as permitted by law and as set forth in the [UIW Pet Policy](#).

Visitors on Campus

While there may be times students will want to bring children on campus, UIW takes the position that minors/children should not be brought into offices, classrooms and other instructional and support areas*. The interactive SOM curriculum can be easily interrupted, resulting in unintended consequences.

Knowing the long hours students are on campus, children and spouses can join medical students for a limited time (up to one hour) during mealtimes in the Building 2 dining hall and patio, and Chapel only. Children must always be supervised.

In addition, there may be special campus events where family members, including children, are invited to participate. These events will be clearly identified as such, and minors/children are expected to be supervised during their time on campus. Visitors invited by specific departments, such as high school students invited to tour the campus, are to be chaperoned and are the responsibility of the sponsoring department.

Finally, since medical students are responsible for the behavior of any accompanying minor/child on campus, they may be subject to disciplinary actions for any disruptive or destructive behavior by the minor/child.

For the safety of all members of the UIWSOM Community and their guests, all visitors invited to the Brooks campus for reasons unrelated to curricular or admissions activities must be approved, in writing, by either the Director of Student Affairs or the Office of the Dean, as appropriate. Security must be given prior notification by one of these two offices and guests must sign in and out with Security upon arrival and departure. Between the hours of 6 AM and 5 PM Monday - Friday, a security officer will be in the main lobby of Building 1, after 5 PM and on weekends, a security officer will be stationed in the lobby of Building 3 to sign guests in and out.

**This policy addresses health and safety matters relating to minors/children (a person under the age of 18) on all premises owned and/or operated by the University of the Incarnate Word, including main campus, Incarnate Word High School and St. Anthony Catholic High School. The policy applies to all students, visitors, vendors, guests, and volunteers on all campus locations.*

External Guest Speakers on Campus

An “external guest speaker” is deemed as anybody who is not a paid employee of the UIW who will be addressing a group at a session or meeting. Faculty, student organizations, and

administrators may schedule external speakers. However, all external guest speakers must submit a request via Engage through OSA. For more information, please refer to the [External Guest Speaker](#) policy.

Student Progress Committee and Resolution Procedures

Roles and Responsibilities

Acting on behalf of the UIWSOM faculty, the SPC is responsible for reviewing matters related to a student's academic and professional progress. This includes but is not limited to: compliance with technical standards, performance on national board examinations, academic performance and standing, determining eligibility for promotion and graduation, and evaluation of professional conduct. This is not a comprehensive list and may include other matters. In carrying out these functions, the SPC may consider a student's cumulative record. Based upon an overall consideration of relevant factors, including but not limited to the student's grades, demonstrated knowledge, clinical performance, suitability to practice medicine, and other pertinent factors, the SPC may decide whether a student should be promoted, continue with remedial work assigned, repeat an academic year, be dismissed, and/or be considered for other sanctions as circumstances warrant.

The SPC also serves as an advisory body and provides recommendations to the SOM administration with respect to grading, evaluation, policies, procedures for promotion, and other areas related to the academic progress and professional development of students.

Verifying Degree Audits

The SPC is responsible for reviewing an audited list of candidates eligible for graduation and submitting the list to the Faculty Assembly for approval. The Faculty Assembly will in turn forward the list of candidates approved for graduation to the appropriate UIWSOM offices for approval and transmission to the UIW Registrar, Provost, and University President.

SPC Meetings

SPC meetings are open to SPC members and invited students only. Third parties are generally not permitted to attend. The SPC may, however, ask third-party witnesses to appear before the SPC to provide information as necessary.

Committee Composition

The SPC is comprised of no less than seven voting members, at least two of whom must be physicians, including a Chair appointed by the Dean of the School of Osteopathic Medicine, along with the following members:

- Three to five UIWSOM DO Program Faculty representatives from phase I and II
- Alternate Curriculum Committee chair
- A representative from the Office of Graduate Medical Education
- A representative from the Office of Medical Education
- A representative of the Office Clinical Affairs

Nonvoting members:

- A representative from the Office of Student Affairs
- Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs or designee

These voting members may occupy dual roles on the SPC.

Alternate Curriculum Committee

The Alternate Curriculum Committee (ACC) is a subcommittee of the SPC. The ACC is charged with developing alternate plans of study for students with unique situations or academic challenges that would otherwise prohibit successful and/or timely completion of the DO program. Failure to adhere to an ACC action plan will result in a referral to the SPC. The ACC is also responsible for conducting annual graduation audits and informing the SPC of students eligible to graduate.

Academic Progress Committee

The Academic Progress Committee (APC), a subcommittee of the SPC, is charged with identifying students at academic risk and creating individualized plans to promote their success. Any student that fails to adhere to an APC action plan will be referred to the SPC. The APC maintains regular communication with the SPC, ensuring that decisions regarding student progress are well-informed.

Petition and Resolution Procedures

All petition processes must begin with the Office of Student Affairs. If applicable, an informal resolution will be explored.

If an informal resolution is not reached, the Office of Student Affairs will follow the process as outlined below.

Filing a Grievance

A student may file a grievance challenging unfair conduct. The grievance process shall not be used to (1) appeal a grade or academic standards, (2) dispute a rule, policy, or procedure established by the Student Handbook, or (3) challenge an official or administrative body for carrying out their assigned duties.

A grievance filed under this section is limited to alleging that a rule, policy, procedure, or decision has been applied impermissibly, improperly, or inequitably. The SPC may dismiss any petition that does not conform to this policy.

The following is the process for filing a grievance with the SPC:

1. Student meets with a representative of OSA within five business days of an adverse decision or action.
2. Student must submit to the SPC chair a position statement and supporting documentation within 5 business days of receiving the challenged decision or action. The petition must consist of a written statement that should include all relevant facts and mitigating circumstances that the student contends are pertinent to the SPC's review. Evidence that supports the student's position should also be submitted at this time. Evidence that was available but not submitted with the student's grievance may be excluded from SPC consideration. The final document must be signed and dated by the student.
3. Once the SPC chair receives the grievance, the SPC has 30 calendar days to send a written response to the student.
4. The SPC may investigate the student's allegations and may extend the 30-day response period to permit adequate investigation. If the SPC extends the 30-day period, the Chair shall notify the student and provide a reasonable estimate of the time required to complete the SPC's investigation.
5. The SPC may refer the grievance to OSA to pursue informal resolution. SPC may determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether, how, and for how long informal resolution procedures shall be utilized and shall maintain oversight of referred grievances. If informal resolution cannot be achieved within the time allotted by SPC, the matter shall be returned to the Committee for adjudication.
6. A student who files a grievance with the SPC may remain in the curriculum pending the outcome of the petition, unless the SPC determines that the student's ongoing presence in class or on campus poses risk. If the SPC determines that a student's continued presence creates a risk to the safety of others or property or creates the potential for disruption, the

SPC shall recommend to the Dean that the student be barred from attending class and appearing on campus pending the outcome of the petition.

7. Retaliation against any student who files a grievance for any reason is prohibited.

In addition to the steps enumerated above, grievances are subject to additional requirements. After the filing of a grievance, SPC may refer the grievance to OSA to pursue informal resolution. SPC may determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether, how, and for how long informal resolution procedures shall be utilized and shall maintain oversight of referred grievances. If informal resolution cannot be achieved within the time allotted by SPC, the matter shall be returned to the Committee for adjudication.

For any grievance that is neither referred nor resolved through informal resolution procedures, the SPC shall conduct a hearing to adjudicate the student's allegations within 10 calendar days of completing its investigation. If a calendar day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or school holiday, this period shall automatically extend to the next business day.

A grievance can be filed in writing through *CardinalMail* or via the [OSA Reporting Form](#). OSA receives grievances and initiates the investigation. While all parties to the process should maintain confidentiality, circumstances may compel further disclosure to other parties to properly investigate the allegations. The resolution of a grievance will be communicated to all parties in writing.

All grievance documentation is filed and maintained via the online reporting system for a period of five years.

If a grievance involves a UIWSOM administrator or SPC member, the student may file the grievance with the UIWSOM Dean. If a grievance involves the UIWSOM Dean, the student may file the grievance with the UIW Provost.

Registering a Complaint with the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA)

In addition to the petition process laid out above, UIWSOM complies with the complaint review procedures of the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA), which are established to protect the integrity and the maintenance of accreditation standards and procedures as they relate to approved Colleges and Schools of Osteopathic Medicine having recognition from the COCA. Complaint procedures provide a mechanism for concerned individuals or organizations to bring to the attention of the accrediting agency information concerning specific actions and programs, which may be in non-compliance with the COCA's accreditation standards. Information regarding this process is published on the UIWSOM website and the UIWSOM Student Handbook.

The complaint must be in writing and signed by the complainant. All signed complaints must be submitted to the COCA Secretary, AOA, 142 E. Ontario Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

Complaints that are received that are not signed by the complainant(s) or are submitted anonymously will not be processed. The complainant will present the concern regarding a violation(s) of an accreditation standard or procedure based upon direct and responsible information. The complainant must provide a narrative of their allegation, as it relates to accreditation standards or procedures and include any documentation that could support their allegation. This information must be accurate and well documented.

The complainant will be provided evidence that an effort has been made to resolve the problem through the recommended route in UIWSOM administration and will include information about all other actions initiated to resolve the problems. Official correspondence to the COCA should be addressed either to the Secretary or Director of the COCA at the address below.

Secretary of the COCA	VP Accreditation	Department of Accreditation, American Osteopathic Association, 142 E. Ontario St., Chicago IL 60611
Division of Predoctoral Education	Phone: (312) 202-8097 Fax: (312) 202-8397	Website: predoc@osteopathic.org

Appealing Student Progress Committee Decisions

A student may appeal a final Student Progress Committee (“SPC”) determination to the DO Program Appeals Council (“DPAC”), an independent appellate body within UIWSOM established to provide secondary review of SPC determinations.

The DPAC shall function separately from SPC and shall not be comprised of any members that concurrently serve on SPC.

Composition

The DPAC shall consist of:

1. Five (5) members appointed annually by the UIWSOM administration;
2. At least:
 - three faculty members,
 - two administrators

A minimum of two members of this committee must be physicians.

The Chair of the DPAC shall be selected annually from among its members.

Any member with a conflict of interest or prior involvement in the matter shall recuse themselves from participation. In the case of a recusal, an ad-hoc member may be appointed as a replacement by the UIWSOM administration.

Grounds for Appeal

Appeals to the DPAC shall be limited to allegations of:

1. Procedural error that materially affected the outcome;
3. New pertinent information unavailable during the SPC review;
4. Arbitrary, inequitable, or inconsistent application of institutional policy;
5. Bias or conflict of interest.

Disagreement with the SPC’s judgment alone shall not constitute sufficient grounds for appeal.

Appeal Procedure

1. The student must submit a written appeal to the Office of Student Affairs within five business days of receiving the SPC determination.
2. The appeal must clearly identify the basis for review and include all supporting documentation.
3. The DPAC may:
 - review the written record;
 - request additional documentation;

- interview relevant parties;
 - or return the matter to SPC for clarification or additional review.
4. The DPAC shall issue a written determination within 15 business days unless additional investigation is required.
 5. The determination of the DPAC shall constitute the final resolution of the matter within UIWSOM.
 6. An appealing student may continue in the curriculum while the appeal is pending unless the student's continuance in the program or presence on campus poses a safety concern or may be deemed disruptive.

Authority

The DPAC may:

- affirm the SPC determination;
- remand the matter to SPC for reconsideration;
- require corrective procedural action;
- or modify the outcome where substantial procedural or equitable concerns are substantiated.

Additional Information

UIWSOM Administration, Faculty and Staff Directory

A list of all UIWSOM administrators, faculty and staff may be found on the [UIWSOM Faculty and Staff Profiles](#) page of the website.

UIWSOM Administration and Faculty Office Hours

All faculty and UIWSOM Administrators are available by appointment in addition to regularly occurring R&R sessions.

UIWSOM Recognized Abbreviations & Translations

ACC	Alternate Curriculum Committee
ACF	Adjunct Clinical Faculty
ACLS	Advanced Cardiac Life Support
AOA	American Osteopathic Association
APC	Alternate Progress Committee
BLS	Basic Life Support
CASE	Clinical & Applied Science Education
CEP	Community Engagement Partnerships
CME	Continuing Medical Education

COCA	Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation
COMAT	Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Achievement Test
COMLEX-USA	Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination
COMSAE	Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Self-Assessment Examination
DAS	Director of Academic Support
DO	Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine
DOCS	Developing Osteopathic Clinical Skills
HIPPA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
LGS	Large Group Sessions
NBOME	National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners
OSA	Office of Student Affairs
OCA	Office of Clinical Affairs
OME	Office of Medical Education
OMM/OMT	Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine/Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment
OPP	Osteopathic Principles and Practices
OSCE	Objective Structured Clinical Exam
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
PALS	Pediatric Advanced Life Support
R&R	Review & Reinforcement
SGA	Student Government Association
SIGS	Small Interactive Group Sessions
SPC	Student Progress Committee
SP	Standardized Patient
STRX	Structures
Student	Osteopathic Medical Student

Record of Change

A changelog is used to provide a trail of all approved changes made to the Student Handbook. All policy changes are reviewed by the DO Curriculum Committee and approved by the Leadership Council prior to incorporating it into this document. Updated versions will be communicated to the UIWSOM community of students, faculty, and staff.

Date Published	Policy Edited/New	Pages Affected	Reason for Change
July 2021	Handbook reviewed and updated for 2021-22 school year	Multiple Sections	
July 2022	Handbook reviewed and updated for 2022-23 school year	Multiple Sections	Annual Update
July 2023	Handbook reviewed and updated for 2023-24 school year	Multiple Sections	Annual Update
July 2024	Handbook reviewed and updated for 2024-25 school year	Multiple Sections	Annual Update
July 2025	Handbook reviewed and updated for 2025-26 school year	Multiple Sections	Annual Update
July 2026	Handbook reviewed and updated for 2026-27 school year	Multiple Sections	Annual Update