

Approval of Postdoctoral Training

Protocol for Approval of Postdoctoral Training

Information on this page will assist graduates of colleges of osteopathic medicine to understand the proper protocol to follow to gain AOA approval for postdoctoral training programs. It includes AOA requirements for entry into postdoctoral programs, the procedures necessary to gain approval, and an explanation of the role of the specialty affiliates, committees and bureaus of the AOA in that process.

The Internship

An intern training program is an extensive educational program requiring considerable participation in patient care. This is an opportunity for the osteopathic medical student to become involved in his/her first postgraduate clinical experience, which emphasizes the osteopathic concept in total healthcare. The intern training program enables graduates to enter in the currently accepted practice of osteopathic medicine.

Requirements

To receive credit for AOA approved rotating intern training programs, candidates shall:

1. [Participate in the AOA Match.](#)
2. Graduate from an [AOA accredited college of osteopathic medicine](#) and be members in good standing of the AOA.
3. Sign an intern contract and train with an [AOA approved institution](#), which is sponsoring the training.
4. Satisfactorily complete an internship, as described in the [AOA Policies and Procedures for Intern Training](#).

Procedures

Candidates taking an AOA approved internship must negotiate directly with those institutions approved by the AOA for intern training programs.

Gaining Osteopathic Medical Credentials

New graduates of colleges of osteopathic medicine are required to take an AOA-approved, one-year osteopathic rotating internship. A hallmark of the osteopathic profession, the internship provides exposure to a wide range of specialties, giving the future specialist a holistic foundation to his or her subsequent residency training.

Completing the osteopathic internship year is essential for the continuation of postdoctoral training and future credentialing. All AOA-approved residency training programs require satisfactory completion of an osteopathic internship. Likewise, completion of an AOA-approved internship is required to sit for osteopathic specialty certification board examination. Some states deny licensure to osteopathic physicians unless they have completed an AOA-approved internship. (Florida, Michigan, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, West Virginia).

NOTE: Since the 2000-01 Match, AOA students have been able to register for programs that link internships to AOA-approved, second-year, residency programs in institutions that elect to participate. To obtain an AOA-approved internship or linked residency program, you must register for and participate in the AOA Match.