

Predoctoral Accreditation

Accreditation of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

Mission of the AOA Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA)

The AOA COCA serves the public by establishing, maintaining and applying accreditation standards and procedures to ensure that academic quality and continuous quality improvement delivered by the colleges of osteopathic medicines (COMs) reflect the evolving practice of osteopathic medicine. The scope of the AOA COCA encompasses the accreditation of COMs.

Committee on College Accreditation Training (CCAT)

Accreditation Training Workshop

Tuesday, June 21, 2005

Bethesda, Maryland

In an effort to provide continued support to Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) involved in the accreditation process, the AOA Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (AOA COCA) and the Committee on College Accreditation Training (CCAT) are hosting an Accreditation Training Workshop on **Tuesday, June 21, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency Bethesda** in Bethesda, Maryland. This year's training workshop is titled, *The Self-Study Process: Evaluating Assessments and Outcomes*.

The purpose of the Accreditation Training Workshop is threefold. 1) To educate COMs on some aspect of the accreditation process, 2) to address questions and concerns regarding COM accreditation, and 3) to identify "best practices."

The AOA COCA focus is on an outcome measures-based accreditation process; therefore, the focus of this year's workshop will be on the self-study process and on educational outcomes assessment in particular as it relates to the self-study. Session topics include:

- Linking Strategic Planning to Outcome Assessment
- Faculty Assessment Evaluation
- Implementing Assessment Strategies and Measuring Outcomes
- An Evaluation of Methodologies and Outcomes

Dr. George Thomas, AOA President, is scheduled to address attendees. See the [Calendar of Events](#) for more information.

Note: Participation of at least one representative from each osteopathic medical college is mandatory.

A Brief History of AOA College Accreditation Activities

The history of the accreditation of colleges of osteopathic medicine shows that from the founding of the AOA in 1897, its Articles of Incorporation have identified advancement of quality osteopathic education as a corporate purpose of the organization.

A number of osteopathic colleges had been established by 1898. However, there was a lack of uniformity in the admission and graduation requirements of the various colleges. In these early years, osteopathic educators and leaders recognized the fact that the attainment and maintenance of high educational standards was essential. By 1901, the American Osteopathic Association and the Executive Committee of the Associated Colleges of Osteopathy were working together to begin the early processes of an accreditation process. Initially, the process was only to investigate schools applying for membership in the Associated Colleges of Osteopathy, to annually investigate schools

that were members of the Associated Colleges of Osteopathy, and to make an annual report to the Board of Trustees of the American Osteopathic Association. By 1902, the American Osteopathic Association's bylaws included language to begin the inspection and approval of osteopathic colleges. The first college was inspected in 1903. In 1952, the American Osteopathic Association was initially recognized by the United States Department of Education, a status which the COCA continues to maintain today.

During the early years of the profession and its accreditation activities, the colleges of osteopathic medicine were primarily single purpose institutions. That changed in the 1970s when the first state supported college of osteopathic medicine was granted accreditation. Since that time, the profession has changed considerably, from those single-program schools in which the AOA Bureau was the only accreditor, to today, where the vast majority of COMs are now part of a larger institution with both undergraduate and graduate programs. Currently, there are 20 colleges of osteopathic medicine, of which only two are single-program institutions.

Third Party Comments

The AOA COCA will receive, review, and consider any written or oral third-party comment in regard to an initial or continued request for accreditation, pre-accreditation, provisional accreditation, requests for substantive change, requests to establish a branch campus, or requests to enter into a teach-out agreement. Written notice must indicate to which COM the comment is addressed, and a general overview of the comments to be made. Persons wishing to present third party testimony at either meeting must provide written notice thirty (30) days prior to the meeting they wish to attend. Although, persons wishing to present third-party commentary are not required to present oral testimony; it is expected that all third-party testimony will include a written portion. The COM will be notified of the third party presentation, and receive a copy of the written comments, so that they can have an opportunity to comment. Notice of opportunity to comment will be provided with announcements of the meeting as issued in the publications of the Division of Predoctoral Education, the AOA Web site, press releases from the AOA Department of Communications, and other vehicles as may be developed.

Meeting Notices

The next meeting of the AOA Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) will be held on Saturday, August 27, 2005 at the O'Hare Hilton Hotel in Chicago, IL. Review of accreditation activities will begin on August 27 at 9:00 am Central Time.

Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (Philadelphia, PA) will have its on-site evaluation report reviewed for decision on continuing accreditation status.

Several progress reports will be reviewed. The AOA COCA will also review Annual Supplemental Reports submitted by each COM.

Detailed information about third-party testimony and procedures for its submission may be found in the section titled, "Third Party Comments", located immediately above this meeting notice.

For more information about this meeting, including a request to present written third-party testimony, please contact the Secretary to the Commission: Konrad C. Miskowicz-Retz, PhD, CAE; Director, Department of Accreditation; American Osteopathic Association; 142 East Ontario Street; Chicago, IL 60611; phone 312.202.8048; fax 312.202.8202; e-mail kretz@osteopathic.org.