AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 303
(I-19)

Introduced by: Medical Student Section

Subject: Investigation of Existing Application Barriers for Osteopathic Medical Students Applying for Away Rotations

Referred to: Reference Committee __________
(__________, Chair)

Whereas, By June 30, 2020, all U.S. osteopathic and allopathic residencies will be accredited under a single graduate medical education (GME) system that is managed under a single National Resident Matching Program (NRMP); and

Whereas, The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) states that the benefits of the single GME accreditation system include offering all U.S. medical graduates a uniform education pathway, increasing collaboration among the medical education community, providing consistency across all residency and fellowship programs, reducing costs and increasing opportunities for osteopathic graduate medical education; and

Whereas, Undergraduate medical education will continue to be accredited by the two separate accreditation bodies of the Liaison Committee of Medical Education (LCME) for allopathic schools and the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) for osteopathic schools2,3; and

Whereas, The Executive Summary of the Agreement among ACGME, American Osteopathic Association (AOA), and American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) specifically outlines that graduates of osteopathic medical schools will be eligible for all ACGME-accredited programs4; and

Whereas, Both osteopathic and allopathic physicians practice medicine across all specialties, in all 50 US states and are licensed under the same state licensing boards, as well as have completed similar undergraduate paths, medical school, clinical rotations and a residency program5; and

Whereas, Elective visiting clinical rotations -- also known as ‘Sub-Internships’ or ‘Away Rotations’ -- are beneficial to fourth year medical students by providing additional clinical experiences in varying specialties, often at their residencies of interest, promoting networking opportunities, and allowing students to obtain letters of recommendations to submit with their residency program application6; and

Whereas, The majority of U.S. medical schools offering visiting medical student clinical rotations participate in the Visiting Student Application Services program (VSAS), serviced by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), which enables students to browse and apply to electives offered by host institutions7; and

Whereas, The AAMC strives “to assure that all medical students possess equal freedom and opportunity to pursue the career directions of their choice”8; and

DRAFT
Whereas, Despite AMA policy Equal Fees for Osteopathic and Allopathic Medical Students
H-295.876 that states: “Our AMA, in collaboration with the American Osteopathic Association,
discourages discrimination against medical students by institutions and programs based on
osteopathic or allopathic training. Our AMA encourages equitable fees for allopathic and
osteopathic medical students in access to clinical electives, while respecting the rights of
individual allopathic and osteopathic medical schools to set their own policies related to visiting
students,” other programs participating in VSAS have differing rotation fees between allopathic
and osteopathic medical students\(^2\),\(^3\),\(^25\),\(^29\), and

Whereas, Despite having such policy in place, osteopathic medical students continue to face
financial barriers in applying for away rotations\(^2\),\(^25\),\(^29\) and

Whereas, An osteopathic student upon finding such language while searching for potential
rotation sites, would likely be deterred from pursuing the away rotation and thus would not
possess equal freedom of opportunity to pursue their desired career direction; and

Whereas, In our primary research, including contacting aforementioned programs, we were not
able to determine a cause for the discrepancies between accepting osteopathic students for
away rotations at specific programs; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association work with relevant stakeholders to explore
reasons behind application barriers that result in discrimination against osteopathic medical
students when applying to elective visiting clinical rotations, and generate a report with the
findings by the 2020 Interim Meeting. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note:

Received: 08/28/19

References:
11. Ortho audition rotation [Letter to Jacob Mushaben, OMS-III].


RELEVANT AMA POLICY

AMA Membership Strategy: Osteopathic Medicine G-635.053
Our AMA’s membership strategy on osteopathic physicians (DOs) includes the following: Our AMA:
(1) encourages all state societies to accept DOs as members at every level of the Federation;
(2) encourages state societies with schools of osteopathic medicine to support development of Medical Student Sections at those schools; Both the MSS Governing Council and existing MSS chapters in states with osteopathic schools should assist in this effort;
(3) encourages that DO members of our AMA continue to participate in the Membership Outreach program;
(4) will provide recruiters with targeted lists of DO non-members upon request;
(5) will include DOs, as appropriate, in direct nonmember mailings; and
(6) will expand its database of information on osteopathic students and doctors.

Equal Fees for Osteopathic and Allopathic Medical Students H-295.876
Our AMA, in collaboration with the American Osteopathic Association, discourages discrimination against medical students by institutions and programs based on osteopathic or allopathic training. 2. Our AMA encourages equitable fees for allopathic and osteopathic medical students in access to clinical electives, while respecting the rights of individual allopathic and osteopathic medical schools to set their own policies related to visiting students.


Equal Fees for Osteopathic and Allopathic Medical Students H-295.876
Our AMA, in collaboration with the American Osteopathic Association, discourages discrimination against medical students by institutions and programs based on osteopathic or allopathic training. 2. Our AMA encourages equitable fees for allopathic and osteopathic medical students in access to clinical electives, while respecting the rights of individual allopathic and osteopathic medical schools to set their own policies related to visiting students.

Citation: Res. 809, I-05 Appended: CME Rep. 6, A-07 Modified: CCB/CLRPD Rep. 2, A-14
Expanding the Visiting Students Application Service for Visiting Student Electives in the Fourth Year H-295.867
1. Our American Medical Association strongly encourages the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) to expand eligibility for the Visiting Students Application Service (VSAS) to medical students from Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA)-accredited medical schools.
2. Our AMA supports and encourages the AAMC in its efforts to increase the number of members and non-member programs in the VSAS, such as medical schools accredited by COCA and teaching institutions not affiliated with a medical school.
3. Our AMA encourages the AAMC to ensure that member institutions that previously accepted both allopathic and osteopathic applications for fourth year clerkships prior to VSAS implementation continue to have a mechanism for accepting such applications of osteopathic medical students.
Citation: Res. 910, I-09 Reaffirmed: CME Rep. 01, A-19

ACGME Residency Program Entry Requirements H-310.909
Our AMA supports entry into Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) accredited residency and fellowship programs from either ACGME-accredited programs or American Osteopathic Association-accredited programs.
Citation: Res. 920, I-12