



MERITUS SCHOOL OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

ELEMENT 9.1 ADMISSIONS POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Application Process

The Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine (MSOM) uses the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service (AACOMAS). AACOMAS provides centralized services including data collection, analysis, and distribution of the online primary application to osteopathic medical schools the applicant designates. Please visit www.aacom.org or contact AACOMAS at aacominfo@liaisoncas.com or via phone at 617-612-2889.

Application Deadline

The deadline for submission of the AACOMAS application is March 1; however due to MSOM's rolling admissions process and early admission decisions, applicants are strongly encouraged to apply early.

Upon review of the AACOMAS application, MSOM will send qualified applicants a secondary (supplemental) application. A non-refundable application fee, at least one letter of recommendation (LOR) from a science faculty member (or from the pre-medical committee), and at least one LOR from a physician (strong preference for a letter from a D.O.) must be submitted with the secondary application.

The deadline for submission of the secondary (supplemental) application is April 1.

Admission Requirements

Applicants for admission to the first year DO class must meet the following requirements prior to matriculation.

- The applicant must have achieved a minimum 2.8 cumulative grade-point average (GPA) and a minimum 2.8 science GPA on a 4.0 scale.
- Applicants must have completed a Bachelor of Arts or Science from a US college or university accredited by a US Department of Education institutional accreditor.
- Applicants must have successfully completed one full academic year (or equivalent) with a grade (or equivalent) of "C" or better in each of the following courses prior to matriculation:
 - English
 - Biology/Zoology (with laboratory)
 - Inorganic/General Chemistry (with laboratory)
 - Physics (with laboratory)
 - Organic Chemistry (with laboratory)

Additionally, MSOM recommends the following elective courses:

- Anatomy
- Behavioral Science
- Biochemistry
- Genetics
- Immunology

- Microbiology
- Molecular Biology
- Multicultural Studies
- Physiology
- Public Health/Epidemiology

Applicants are required to submit scores from the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT). The exam must have been taken within three years of application.

Applicants must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident.

Applicants must be fluent in the oral and written use of English.

Applicants must have basic computer literacy.

Advanced Standing Admission

The curriculum model and structure of MSOM does not allow for the awarding of advanced standing into the school.

International Student Admission

All MSOM applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents.

Transfer Student Admission

The curriculum model and structure of MSOM does not allow for transfer student admission.

Transfer Credit

The curriculum model and structure of MSOM does not allow for transfer course credit.

Transferability of Credits

The transferability of credits earned at MSOM is at the discretion of the receiving college, university, or other educational institution. Students considering transferring to any institution should not assume that credits earned in any program of study at MSOM will be accepted by the receiving institution. Similarly, the ability of a degree, certificate, diploma, or other academic credential earned at MSOM to satisfy an admission requirement of another institution is at the discretion of the receiving institution.

Accreditation does not guarantee credentials or credits earned at ATSU will be accepted by or transferred to another institution. To minimize the risk of having to repeat coursework, students should contact the receiving institution in advance for evaluation and determination of transferability of credits and/or acceptability of degrees, diplomas, or certificates earned.

Selection of Applicants

The MSOM Admissions Committee seeks individuals who will be a good match to our mission and are capable of meeting our academic and professionalism standards. Applicants are screened for academic achievement, clinical involvement, interpersonal skills, leadership qualities, service, perseverance, maturity, motivation, and knowledge of the osteopathic profession. Applicants who pass this screening will be invited for an interview. The interview day is designed to be a two-way process to help the

Admissions Committee determine if the applicant is a good fit for MSOM while enabling the applicant to determine if MSOM is a good fit for the applicant. Attendance at an interview day is mandatory for admission unless other arrangements have been made by MSOM.

Following the interview day, the Admissions Committee will review the applicant's entire packet and determine the disposition of the application. The Admissions Committee will accept (with or without contingencies), reject, or place candidates on an alternate list. Applicants are notified of the Committee's decision as soon as possible (usually within two weeks of the interview day).

Successful applicants are granted a specified time period to notify the Office of Admissions of their intention to enroll. This letter of intent must be accompanied by payment of a non-refundable acceptance fee.

Admission after acceptance is subject to the satisfactory completion of all academic requirements. Admission to MSOM may be revoked for fraud, misrepresentation, or other violation of MSOM professionalism standards.

Matriculation Requirements

The following are required prior to attendance on the first day of class at MSOM. Failure to comply with any of the listed requirements may lead to withdrawal of acceptance and will prevent a student from initially enrolling or remaining enrolled at MSOM.

- Successful completion of a Bachelor of Arts or Science (B.A., B.S.) degree and all prerequisite courses from a US college accredited by a US Department of Education institutional accreditor. This must be verified with submission of all final official transcripts to the Admissions Office. Matriculants are required to submit complete official transcripts from each school attended by the date of matriculation.
- Attendance at all MSOM osteopathic medical student, year 1 (OMS I) orientation activities: These activities occur during the week prior to the first day of class.

Background Check: MSOM requires that entering students submit to and provide the results of background check prior to enrollment. Recognize that this is a minimum standard and that some clinical facilities may have additional requirements that students must meet prior to beginning clerkships (clinical rotations) at those sites. These requirements may include (but not be limited to) additional background checks and drug screening.

The background checks are conducted by a vendor selected by MSOM. The student will pay the cost of the criminal background check directly to the vendor. Failure to comply with this mandate will result in denial to matriculate. A matriculant with a positive criminal background screen will be reviewed prior to completing the enrollment process and may no longer be eligible for enrollment.

Immunizations: MSOM requires all entering students to provide proof of their immunizations in order to enroll in courses. This is necessary for the student's protection, as well as the protection of any individuals with whom they come in contact. It is the responsibility of the student to maintain up-to-date immunization protection throughout the entire duration of enrollment. Non-compliance at any time during a student's enrollment could result in suspension and/or dismissal. Documents related to immunizations and screenings will be maintained and monitored by MSOM administration. All testing and immunizations are at the expense of the student.

1. Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis: Students are required to receive either the primary series of Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis or booster dose within ten (10) years prior to the beginning of the academic year. A single dose of Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, acellular Pertussis) between ages 19 and 64 is required if the student has not previously received Tdap, or to replace one decennial Td booster.
2. Polio: Students are required to provide documentation that they have received the primary series of polio vaccine. If documentation cannot be produced, the student must receive the primary series of inactivated polio vaccine.
3. Measles, Mumps, and Rubella: Students born after 1956 are required to provide documentation of the MMR vaccine prior to matriculation. If the vaccination was given prior to 1975, evidence of a re-booster is recommended.
4. Hepatitis B: Students are required to initiate a series of Hepatitis B vaccine prior to matriculation. Students must complete the series according to the prescribed timeline (completed within 6 months of matriculation).
5. Tuberculosis (TB) Screening: 2-Step PPD Tuberculosis Screening OR IGRA/Chest X-Ray; must be dated within matriculation year.
6. Varicella immunization, serum titer, or healthcare provider documentation of date of contraction.
7. COVID-19 vaccine: Required for all enrolled students at MSOM*
 - Pfizer: 2 shots and booster,
 - Moderna: 2 shots and booster, or
 - Johnson & Johnson: 1 shot and booster (Pfizer/Moderna)

*Refer to CDC guidelines for continued booster recommendations

Recommended Immunizations (some clinical training sites may require some or all of these):

- Influenza
- Hepatitis A
- Meningococcal
- Pneumococcal

Titers

Some clinical training sites require that students show proof of immunity (e.g. measles) before being allowed to train at the site. Therefore, it is recommended that students have this testing done in advance of their clinical training portion of the curriculum. Not all insurance plans cover the costs of titers. Students will be responsible for those costs not covered by insurance.

Immunization Exemptions

For medical conditions or religious beliefs, a request for exemption from the immunization requirements will be considered. However, MSOM cannot guarantee the ability to participate in patient encounters and placement in clinical rotations if this exemption is granted. Consequently, students receiving an exemption from vaccine requirements may take longer to complete the curriculum and graduate, or the student may not be able to complete the curriculum and graduate.