



University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine

Osteopathic Educational Continuum

Policy Contact: Dean, Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine
Policy Category: Administration
Policy Number: 10.1
Review: Annually

Purpose

University of Pikeville – Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (KYCOM) is committed to ensuring that its curriculum is consistent with its mission and sufficient to prepare students for the subsequent practice of osteopathic medicine. KYCOM has policies, procedures, personnel, and budgetary resources to support the continuum of osteopathic medicine. This policy summarizes the methods in which osteopathic principles are integrated throughout the continuum of osteopathic medical education at KYCOM.

Policy Statement

University of Pikeville – Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine’s mission is to provide students with an osteopathic medical education that emphasizes primary care, encourages research, promotes lifelong scholarly activity and produces graduates who are committed to serving the healthcare needs of communities in rural Kentucky and other Appalachian regions. As such, KYCOM emphasizes the importance of the osteopathic focus in all of its educational efforts. The position of Assistant/Associate Dean of Osteopathic Principles and Policies Integration is charged with overseeing all osteopathic education associated with KYCOM throughout the educational continuum. As such, KYCOM supports and maintains the continuum of osteopathic education throughout a student’s educational career at the university.

First and Second Year

The curriculum for in person instruction in Osteopathic Principles and Practices (OPP) classes is well established, and is critically reviewed annually. This review consists of evaluation of student feedback and utilizing the KYCOM curriculum committee process. Prior to disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, didactic material was integrated into the student’s lab experience, which allowed for real-time application of the principles and techniques being taught.

During the 2020-2021 academic year, adaptations were required to successfully fulfill the educational goals of KYCOM. All lecture material was provided to students virtually. Lab groups and learning teams were made smaller. This new method of providing education and skills to

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KYCOM students allowed for a greater level of personal interaction and critical lab time was focused solely on hands-on application. Lecture material related to the lab was effectively delivered either live or virtually the week prior to the lab. This structure allowed all curricular material to be successfully provided to students.

KYCOM chooses fifty (50) to sixty (60) OMS II students to serve as teaching assistants in the OPP first year courses. OMS I students are periodically surveyed to ensure effectiveness of the teaching assistants and constructive measures are recommended as indicated by the survey results. Teaching assistants consistently report an increase in comprehension of the educational material and appreciate the opportunity to gain experience in educating and providing service to the OMS I class.

Additionally, KYCOM maintains a Predoctoral Teaching Fellowship Program for students. Four (4) KYCOM students from each class receive the fellowship and have the opportunity to spend one (1) extra year at KYCOM as a fellow in Anatomy and OPP. Fellows assist in the anatomy lab which allows for correlation of anatomic relationships to osteopathic manipulative treatment in both the Anatomy gross lab and the OPP lab. Fellows are also often invited to assist in teaching physical examination skills in the Osteopathic Patient Care courses, as well as providing physical examination lectures and labs to the students of the University of Pikeville – Kentucky College of Optometry. The fellows have proven to be a valuable resource as peer instructors to OMS I and II students, while obtaining greater skill in osteopathic patient care by treating their own patients under faculty supervision in the KYCOM Free Community Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (OMT) Clinic.

An important aspect in the first two (2) years of OPP coursework is the requirement to assist the fellows in the OMT clinic. This provides KYCOM students with early clinical exposure and participation in patient care. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were also numerous community events in which KYCOM students provided health screenings, supervised structural examinations, and treatment under the direct supervision of KYCOM clinical faculty. Community outreach will be reinstated once it is determined to be safe to do so.

The OPP department chair or designated representative has an ex-officio appointment on the KYCOM Curriculum Committee in order to facilitate integration into the entire KYCOM curriculum. A subcommittee of the KYCOM Curriculum Committee examining potential curriculum revisions was co-chaired by the OPP department chair in order to ensure the maintenance of an osteopathic focus throughout the predoctoral curriculum. All clinical faculty continue to participate in ongoing curriculum revision discussions for the same purpose. In addition, OPP course directors work with

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basic science faculty to co-present portions of the clinical curriculum. Examples include the second-year course director creating clinical case assignments with the pathology course director. The neuroscience course director participates in both the first and second year OPP classes to explain the neurologic principles of the individual techniques. Biomedical science faculty have attended the AAO Convocation to further their knowledge in the field and occasionally attend the first-year courses to obtain a better understanding of osteopathic principles and how they can be incorporated into biomedical science courses.

Third and Fourth Year

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Assistant/Associate Dean of Osteopathic Integration provided lectures and workshops at KYCOM's clinical training sites. KYCOM has consistently required an OPP/OMT clinical rotation which was also disrupted by the pandemic. However, an online version of the rotation was developed which involves reading modules, quizzes, generation of exam questions, and weekly article reviews related to topics from the week. In addition, there are interactive virtual discussions twice per week to discuss the assigned modules and to review osteopathic principles and techniques that apply to the clinical topic. Students are required to log ten (10) patient visits in which they participated in providing OMT. This provided students with maximum flexibility for meeting this requirement. Students unable to fulfill the ten (10) hour requirement were permitted to see patients at a temporary campus clinic.

The Assistant/Associate Dean oversees the monthly synchronous A-OPTIC OPP Grand Rounds and asynchronous osteopathic lectures, modules, and quizzes that are assigned to students on clinical rotations. In addition, the Assistant/Associate Dean coordinates the development and recording of updated audiovisual lectures according to a pre-determined OPP curriculum.

OPP faculty are also vital to the development and administration of the Capstone Course students complete at the end of the third year. The Capstone course includes an OPP mandatory review, and clinical encounters that include OPP content. Due to the pandemic, patient encounters were switched to telehealth visits, but osteopathic content was still included. OPP faculty also participate in monthly journal clubs focusing on journals with osteopathic content. These journal clubs are held via videoconference and are attended by third- and fourth-year students. Every third- and fourth-year clinical rotation also includes an evaluation form that includes a section for the preceptor/clinical faculty to evaluate the student's Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Skills.

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Graduate Medical Education

The KYCOM Assistant/Associate Dean of Osteopathic Integration also serves as the Appalachian Osteopathic Postgraduate Training Institution Consortium (A-OPTIC) Chief Academic Officer in order to ensure that OPP education is seamless from undergraduate to our affiliated graduate medical education programs. In this role, the A-OPTIC Chief Academic Officer has oversight of the monthly synchronous A-OPTIC OPP Grand Rounds and asynchronous osteopathic lectures, which are made available to all KYCOM GME residents, as well as the KYCOM third- and fourth-year medical students.

The Assistant/Associate Dean for Osteopathic Integration also visits affiliated and sponsored residency training sites in order to provide local hands-on education. This practice was also disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but will resume once safe to do so. These visits allow the Assistant/Associate Dean of Osteopathic Integration to work with both A-OPTIC residents and KYCOM third- and fourth-year students. As Chief Academic Officer of the OPTI, the Assistant/Associate Dean of Osteopathic Integration provides valuable assistance with ACGME accreditation and achievement of ACGME Osteopathic Recognition. In addition, due to the dual role, the Assistant/Associate Dean of Osteopathic Integration is a member of the A-OPTIC Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC), is a member of the A-OPTIC Board of Directors, attends annual GME focused events for professional development (i.e. ACGME Annual Educational Conference, AOGME/AACOM Annual Meeting, NRMP Stakeholders Conference).

Locally, KYCOM family medicine and OPP faculty provide clinical services at Pikeville Medical Center Family Practice Clinic, including providing patient care and precepting residents/students in both Family Medicine and Osteopathic Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine (ONMM) residencies. KYCOM faculty members also provide inpatient OMT service at Pikeville Medical Center.

Continuing Osteopathic Medical Education

KYCOM sponsors an annual CME weekend. One half-day of the conference is devoted to osteopathic hands-on education in the KYCOM OPP lab. However, this was temporarily disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

KYCOM has hosted an annual Opioid Summit that qualifies attendees to receive Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit. This conference is offered in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), consistently has over three hundred (300) attendees, and is broadcast from KYCOM to approximately thirteen (13) sites in six (6) states. KYCOM OPP faculty have presented at this conference and other CME events regarding the use of osteopathic care as an adjunct or alternative to pain medications.

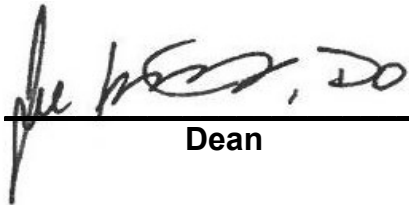
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Additionally, KYCOM Predoctoral OPP Fellows and OPP faculty provide lectures and an OMT room at the Kentucky Osteopathic Medical Association CME program. OPP Fellows are under the supervision of the OPP department faculty at this program.



Dean

November 19, 2021

Last Approved Date

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