



# 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

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### **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.

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### **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. Didactic material is consistently integrated into the student's lab experience, which allows for real-time application of the principles and techniques being taught.

#### *General Disclaimer:*

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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. Six (6) 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.

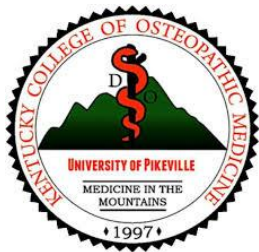
An important aspect in the first two (2) years of OPP coursework is the requirement to assist the fellows in the OMT clinic. This provides KYCOM students with early clinical exposure and participation in patient care. There are also numerous community events in which KYCOM students provide health screenings, perform supervised structural examinations, and offer treatment under the direct supervision of KYCOM clinical faculty.

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. All clinical faculty participate in ongoing curriculum revision discussions to further ensure osteopathic principles are integrated throughout the continuum of medical education at KYCOM.

In addition, OPP course directors work with 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.

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### **Third and Fourth Year**

The Associate Dean of Osteopathic Integration provides lectures and workshops at KYCOM's clinical training sites. Additionally, KYCOM requires an OPP/OMT clinical rotation and 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.

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. 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.

### Graduate Medical Education

The Associate Dean for Osteopathic Integration also visits affiliated and sponsored residency training sites to provide local hands-on education. These visits allow the Associate Dean of Osteopathic Integration to work with residents and KYCOM third- and fourth-year students.

Locally, KYCOM family medicine and OPP faculty provide clinical services at Pikeville Medical Center Family Practice Clinic, including providing patient care and precepting students. 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.

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.

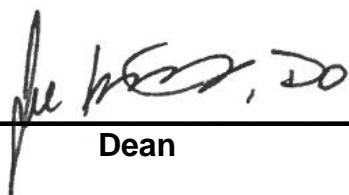
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## University of Pikeville Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine

KYCOM through the collective activities of the KYCOM Departments of Academic Affairs, Clinical Affairs, and Osteopathic Principles and Practice, work collaboratively to support the continuum of osteopathic medical education.



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Dean

April 25, 2025  
Last Approved Date

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