

**Proposed Indiana University of Pennsylvania College of Osteopathic Medicine
(Proposed IUPCOM—Candidate Status—Seeking Accreditation)**

COCA Pre-Accreditation Element 6.3: Maximum Length of Completion
Pre-Accreditation Submission 6.3-1: Maximum Length of Completion Policy

Policy

The Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) program is designed to be four (4) years in duration, consisting of the pre-clerkship curriculum (OMS-I and OMS-II) and the clerkship curriculum (OMS-III and OMS-IV). Program duration will be monitored as academic years. An academic year is defined as the period of consecutive summer, fall, and spring semesters.

A student's duration in the program begins with matriculation which is the first day of semester 1 and is inclusive of all periods thereafter, including active enrollment in the DO curriculum, academic extensions, probations, withdrawals, and leaves of absence. Total program time counted ends with program completion or termination through discontinuation or dismissal.

A candidate for the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degree must complete their education within 150% of the standard time frame (six years following matriculation), as specified by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) Pre-Accreditation Element 6.3: *Maximum Length of Completion*.

Exceptions to Policy

The College notes that in some cases, extenuating circumstances may cause a student to exceed the six-year maximum duration of D.O. degree completion and defines the following criteria and process for consideration of exceptions to this policy.

The student must be in good academic standing, including academic performance, professionalism, and timely progression throughout the program. All students must submit a written request for an exception to the six-year maximum to the Student Progress Committee for consideration. Extenuating circumstances that may be considered include a personal leave of absence related to health issues; parental leave associated with the birth or adoption of a child; family leave associated with a significant medical or personal issue; circumstances related to military service; and other circumstances deemed appropriate by the COM Dean.

Students seeking a dual degree (D.O., in conjunction with a master's or doctoral degree) *may* be eligible to extend this timeframe and must submit a request for an extension to the Student Progress Committee (SPC) for consideration.

Additionally, the Dean shall have reasonable discretion to allow for limited exceptions to this period upon a showing of extraordinary circumstances which would support an extension of the maximum length of completion of the D.O. degree program for reasons in addition to

those noted above. Exceptions to this rule will be documented and recorded with the Registrar's Office as part of the student's permanent record. IUPCOM allows for additional time for students participating in dual degree programs.

Additionally, IUPCOM may allow additional time toward a degree for members of the United States military called to active duty during their term of enrollment as required by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for administration of GI Bill®, Post-9/11 GI Bill® and other related benefits. If exceptions to the six-year rule are made for any single degree DO student, IUPCOM will provide a list of these students to the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) with a detailed explanation as to the reason for allowing the student(s) to graduate past the six-year (150%) time frame.

All exceptions to the 6-year graduation requirement will be documented and furnished to the COCA upon request.

Program Completion Data and Reporting

As required under COCA Pre-Accreditation Element 11.4c (*Cohort Graduation Rates*) and 11.4d (*Cohort Retention Rates*), graduation rates will be continually published on the proposed IUPCOM website both by:

1. matriculation cohort at years 4, 5, and 6 for students only pursuing the D.O. degree, as well as
2. retention rates by matriculation cohort.

Policy/Procedure Details	
Policy Owner	Registrar Director of Student Affairs
Effective Date	08/29/2025
Last Reviewed	08/29/2025
Review Frequency Requirements	5 Years
Related Policies	1. IUPCOM Faculty Bylaws 2. IUPCOM Admission Policy 3. IUPCOM Graduation Policy 4. IUPCOM Student Promotion Policy 5. IUPCOM Retention Policy 6. IUPCOM Students' Rights and Responsibilities Policy 6. IUPCOM Grievances and Appeals Policy
Reviewed and Approved by Dean's Leadership Council	08/29/2025
Revision Number	2025.01