

**Proposed Indiana University of Pennsylvania College of Osteopathic Medicine
(Proposed IUPCOM– Candidate Status – Seeking accreditation)**

COCA Pre-Accreditation Element 9.1: Admissions Policy
Pre-Accreditation Submission 9.1-2: Technical Standards

The IUPCOM technical standard requirements will be established to contribute to the success of our learners individually and in their collaborations as they progress in their training through the curriculum in both didactic and practical clinical learning experiences. Students aspiring to achieve full practice rights must be able to function professionally and competently in various, sometimes challenging, learning and clinical settings where they must respond rapidly, accurately, and consistently in independent and team-based situations where patient information is processed toward appropriate treatment. These treatment modalities may involve the application of pharmacotherapy, psychotherapy, surgery, ultrasound, electrocardiogram and other procedures, and physical touch interventions/examinations that include clinically appropriate osteopathic manipulative therapy as a portion of the professional’s treatment approach/training towards licensure. As a portion of their educational experience at IUPCOM, our learners will engage in reciprocal touch in approximately 200 curricular hours of OMT laboratory learning experiences. Participation in other touch-intensive experiences will include professional opportunities to elevate learner competency in performing palpation during physical examinations. Familiarity and personal professional comfort in performing these procedures appropriately and competently in all sexes is a necessary required skill for the medical professional.

The attainment of competency in performing these skills will require learners to palpate and examine partially disrobed “patients” of all sexes while maintaining mindful patient modesty is necessary for successful completion of the curriculum at IUPCOM. Faculty-supervised learners will be required to participate fully as observer, examiner, and examinee in various clinical laboratory skills and OMT laboratory learning experiences. Appropriate attire requirements for these laboratory learning experiences will facilitate understanding and appropriateness of accessibility and modesty and will be directed by IUPCOM’s Dress Code Policy.

The curriculum at IUPCOM will also require learners to participate in cadaveric anatomy laboratory learning experiences. Our learners must be able to accommodate direct gloved (with nitrile options) contact with cadavers as an integral part of their medical competence with the human body. Respectful professional requirements include competence in the considerations of privacy, handling, and communications of the cadaveric subjects in addition to the prohibition of photography within the gross anatomy laboratory.

Students are required to function with independence and perform all abilities and skills described below which IUPCOM holds as mandatory for the professional, safe, and effective practice of

osteopathic medicine training towards board examination and national accreditation/licensure standards.

IUPCOM is committed to patient safety and assuring a safe and effective environment that does not place patients, colleagues, or others at risk. Each technical standard has been chosen from standards osteopathic physicians deem necessary for the safe and effective practice of osteopathic medicine. An offer of acceptance may be rescinded should an accepted applicant be found not able to meet the technical standards. For matriculated students, inability to maintain compliance with educational training technical standards may result in dismissal from the program.

Applicants must, at a minimum, possess the following five abilities and skills:

1. Interpersonal Communication

The student must demonstrate capacity to communicate effectively in English, both spoken and written, as the curriculum and clinical experiences are offered in English. Students are encouraged to learn other languages for medical communication proficiency; however, all curriculum and assessment are given in spoken and written English. IUPCOM requires the functional ability to speak, hear, and observe patients in order to elicit accurate medical information. The student must be able to both describe changes in disposition, attitude, demeanor, movement/motion, posture, and other physical characteristics and to perceive nonverbal communication cues both effectively and efficiently.

2. Observation and Discernment

The student must demonstrate capacity to visually observe and discern laboratory and microscopically-enhanced demonstrations, and computer-based images used in laboratory demonstrations. The student must be able to independently visually and accurately observe physical signs and symptoms of a patient toward accurate and comprehensive diagnosis and management. This level of observation requires the functional use of vision, hearing, smell, and somatic sensations.

3. Motor Function

Students must have professionally-adequate motor function to gather information from patients by palpation, percussion, and other diagnostic measures requiring motor proficiency and ability. The student must have sufficient motor function to carry out maneuvers of general care, emergency care, and application of appropriate osteopathic manipulation (which requires the sufficient use of the extremities in palpation, positioning, and carrying out maneuvers of manipulation). Examples of emergent motor functions include, but are not limited to, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, administration of parenteral fluids medications, management of an obstructed airway, hemorrhage control,

wound suturing, and obstetrical procedures. These actions require fine and gross motor and sensory functions, as well as the senses of touch and adequate vision for inspection. Additionally, students must be able to generate sufficient force, and be able to receive these same forces, to successfully learn and provide effective osteopathic manipulative treatments for all techniques taught in the curriculum; these techniques include, but are not limited to, muscle energy, counter strain, Still technique, and high-velocity, low amplitude (HVLA) techniques.

4. Intellectual Capacity

Students must have the abilities to: timely and judiciously reason; analytically calculate, estimate, and assess; evaluatively measure; and synthesize/integrate information delivered in a variety of forms, including, but not limited to, electronic/digital sources, medical images, and others as they are presented within the curriculum. The student must be able to comprehend, memorize, synthesize, and recall large amounts of information without external assistance, to successfully complete the curriculum and treat patients in the future with a diversity of often complex clinical presentations. This will require proficiency in the ability to problem-solve through pattern recognition, professional recall and discrimination of data, decision-making, and application of evidence-informed clinical best practices in diagnosis and treatment – often in the presence of significant distractions and commotion.

5. Behavioral and Social Attributes

The student must demonstrate stability in their emotional/mental/behavioral health and well-being needed for comprehensive use of intellectual capabilities at all times. These are necessary elements of a medical professional that allow for effective communication and mature, sensitive, and compassionate trust development and relationship maintenance between the physician and their patients and colleagues. Student doctors and physicians must hold the ability to adequately adapt and display compassion and integrity at all times while maintaining the necessary intellectual capacity to interact professionally within academic and clinical environments; these are characteristics that are evaluated during the interview process and throughout the student's academic progress as indicative, in part, of the developing ability to deliver competent, high-quality, and safe patient care.

Students must be able to function effectively and resiliently under stressful academic and clinical training settings that can be both physically and mentally demanding. Additionally, students must have the emotional health to be able to function without illicit psychoactive substances or the aid of medications that are known to impede intellectual abilities and judgment. IUPCOM considers drug and alcohol abuse as high risk factors for poor patient care and outcomes. As such, IUPCOM will develop

clear policies regarding alcohol and substance abuse which will be described further in the student handbook.

Maintenance of Standards

If an applicant has concerns or questions about their ability to meet the above minimal technical standards, the applicant will be required to notify the Offices of Admissions or Student Affairs in advance of applying so that timely and reasonable testing and evaluation may occur. IUPCOM will determine the type of testing required based on the consideration(s) identified by the applicant. All testing must be performed by a licensed healthcare professional practicing at the highest level of their respective licensure. The applicant must provide IUPCOM with a written, signed, and dated document by the treating provider stating that their professional review/examination support the student's capability of meeting the technical standards and physical/mental requirements of the curriculum either with or without appropriate and reasonable accommodation(s).

Indiana University of Pennsylvania is committed to equal opportunity for its students, employees and applicants. The university provides equal educational and employment rights to all persons without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national or ethnic origin, citizenship status, genetic information, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, military/veteran's status, or any other status protected by law. Each member of the university community has a right to study and work in an environment free from any form of discrimination.

IUP is committed to ensuring equal access to education as intended by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. IUPCOM provides reasonable accommodations for otherwise qualified students with verified physical, psychological, and/or learning disabilities. IUPCOM must maintain the integrity of its curriculum and preserve those elements deemed essential to the acquisition of knowledge in all areas of osteopathic medicine, including the demonstration of basic skills required for the practice of osteopathic medicine. So, for example, technology-related accommodations may be made for students with disabilities in some of these areas, but a candidate must be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner and at a professional level that is in the best interest and safety of patients. One or more trained intermediaries may be provided to assist the student during the educational program, but not under circumstances where the student's judgment must be mediated by an expert's professional knowledge and skills/competency in rendering a clinical course of action.