



UNITED STATES

Osteopathic Medicine

Osteopathic physicians (D.O.) are fully licensed for the unrestricted practise of medicine and surgery as well as osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT), throughout the United States. A D.O.'s decision to utilize osteopathic manipulative treatment as part of a patient's management is made in the context of overall medical/surgical evaluation not limited to a neuromusculoskeletal evaluation.

An international graduate who wants to practise osteopathic medicine must obtain a D.O. degree from an accredited college of osteopathic medicine located in the United States before they can apply for licensure with the Board of Medicine in any of the 50 states. Each state has its own licensure requirements for osteopathic physicians.

Osteopathic Physicians in the United States are also eligible for board certification in a number of medical specialties. An applicant for AOA certification must graduate from an accredited college of osteopathic medicine approved by the American Osteopathic Association's Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (AOA COCA) and is required to complete an AOA-approved rotating internship and an AOA-approved residency program. Completion of AOA-approved postdoctoral education, adherence to the AOA Code of Ethics and fulfilment of AOA continuing medical education requirements are all required to be eligible to be examined for and to maintain AOA-approved certification.

The AOA's Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists upon recommendation from the appropriate AOA-approved certifying board approves board certification. There are 18 certifying boards that are recognized by the AOA Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists and AOA Board of Trustees:

- American Osteopathic Board of Anaesthesiology
- American Osteopathic Board of Dermatology
- American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine
- American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians
- American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine
- American Osteopathic Board of Neurology and Psychiatry
- American Osteopathic Board of Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine
- American Osteopathic Board of Nuclear Medicine
- American Osteopathic Board of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
- American Osteopathic Boards of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology-HNS
- American Osteopathic Board of Orthopaedic Surgery
- American Osteopathic Board of Pathology
- American Osteopathic Board of Paediatrics
- American Osteopathic Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- American Osteopathic Board of Preventive Medicine
- American Osteopathic Board of Proctology
- American Osteopathic Board of Radiology
- American Osteopathic Board of Surgery



It is also important to note that osteopathic physicians in the United States may sit for the USMLE and the various ABMS specialty board certification exams, but their allopathic (M.D.) counterparts may not sit for osteopathic specialty certification exams.

Statutes/Regulations:

Most of the laws defining the practise of osteopathic medicine are described in each state's Medical Practise Act. The following chart defines the practise of osteopathic medicine in each of the 50 states: Definition of Physician-Osteopath.

There are also federal laws governing the practise of medicine in the United States. The following is a compilation of relevant federal laws that identify D.O.s as equivalent to M.D.s: Federal Laws and Regulations.

Each state has specific requirements in terms of education and examination in order to be licensed by a state as an osteopathic physician.

Schools of Osteopathic Medicine:

There are 23 recognized schools of osteopathic medicine in the United States. Click [here](#) for a list of colleges that are AOA COCA accredited and grant the degree of Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.).

For a detailed list on these schools, their educational requirements and their contact information, please read more [here](#): The American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM).

Organisations/Associations:

American Osteopathic Association

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Chicago, IL USA

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Ph: +1.312.202.8000

Toll Free: 1.800.621.1773

www.osteopathic.org

www.DO-Online.org

For a detailed list of osteopathic organisations and associations, please read more [here](#).