

The Distinctive Difference of Osteopathic Licensure in the U.S.

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History of the Osteopathic Medical Profession

- ▶ Founded by Andrew Taylor Still, MD, DO
- ▶ State Recognition Campaign: 1901-1989
 - ▶ California (1901)
 - ▶ Nebraska (1989)
- ▶ Federal Recognition Granted in 1966

Who We Are

▶ Fully Trained Physicians

- ▶ Four years of osteopathic medical school
- ▶ Three to eight years of postgraduate medical training (residency)
- ▶ Licensed for the unlimited practice of medicine
- ▶ Parallel branch of American medicine with a distinct philosophy and approach to patient care

What We Do

- ▶ Holistic approach to patient care—treating the whole patient
 - ▶ Emphasis on primary care
 - ▶ 60% of US-trained DOs practice in primary care specialties
 - ▶ Providing care in rural/unserved areas
 - ▶ Provide a disproportionate amount of primary care services in underserved communities
 - ▶ Develop Education/Training Programs in Areas of Greatest Need
 - ▶ Goal is to train DOs in areas so that stay to provide care

Differences in State Regulation

▶ Postgraduate Training

- ▶ States require one to three years of PGT
 - ▶ Accredited by AOA & ACGME
- ▶ DOs must pass all three levels of COMLEX-USA
- ▶ 14 States have separate licensing and disciplinary boards of osteopathic and allopathic physicians
- ▶ Fives states require DOs to complete an AOA accredited first year of PGT for licensure

Growth of the Osteopathic Medical Profession

- ▶ Largest growth segment of the U.S. health care professionals
 - ▶ More than 100,000 DOs in active medical practice by 2016
 - ▶ 30 Osteopathic Medical Schools offering instruction at 42 campus locations
 - ▶ Shortage of PGT Funding/Slots

Current/Future Issues

- ▶ Transition to Single Accreditation System
 - ▶ AOA/ACGME/AACOM Developing New GME System
 - ▶ Will Maintain Osteopathic Distinctiveness
 - ▶ Offer osteopathic-focused tracks
 - ▶ MDs will now be eligible to gain osteopathic-focused training

Current/Future Issues

- ▶ Patient Centered Health Care
 - ▶ Patient-Focused, Physician-Led, Team-Based
 - ▶ Natural Fit with Osteopathic, Whole-Patient Approach to Care
- ▶ Interstate Medical Licensure Compact
 - ▶ System to establish a central clearinghouse of physicians seeking licensure in multiple states
 - ▶ States must join, physician participation is voluntary

Current/Future Issues

- ▶ Specialty Board Certification
 - ▶ Osteopathic Continuous Certification/Maintenance of Certification
- ▶ Maintenance of Licensure
 - ▶ OCC/MOC Substantially meet state MOL requirements
 - ▶ States using OCC/MOC to meet CME relicensure requirements

Osteopathic Pledge of Commitment

I pledge to: Provide compassionate, quality care to my patients;

Partner with them to promote health;

Display integrity and professionalism throughout my career;

Advance the philosophy, practice and science of osteopathic medicine;

Continue lifelong learning;

Support my profession with loyalty in action, word and deed; and

Live each day as an example of what an osteopathic physician should be.