Vision 2020
College of Osteopathic Medicine
The Changing Landscape of Health Care

Health care is undergoing unprecedented changes. Training the next generation of osteopathic physicians requires that we anticipate the inflection points of the evolving health care system, the technologies that will impact both education and health care, and skills that will be needed for tomorrow’s physicians. The delivery method of both education and health care will drastically change in the next decade. Des Moines University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine intends to meet those changes and challenges by being a leader and innovator in medical education. It is our goal to create tomorrow’s physician by creating impactful strategies and innovative changes in the education of our students today. This document outlines the strategies and focus areas that the Des Moines University (DMU) College of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) will undertake over the next five years to meet those challenges.

Mission

To improve lives in our global community by educating diverse groups of highly competent and compassionate osteopathic physicians, health educators, researchers and scholars.

Vision

The College of Osteopathic Medicine will be a leader in innovative medical education, both undergraduate and graduate, by meeting the highest standards of academic and clinical achievement.

The College of Osteopathic Medicine will be a cultivator of distinctive educators and students who discover, disseminate, and apply new knowledge.

The College of Osteopathic Medicine, through innovative design, will develop methods/processes to educate our students in the pursuit of delivering services that enhance health, wellness and education in our local, national, and global communities.

The College of Osteopathic Medicine will engage in and enable research and scholarly activity to advance the knowledge of health care, osteopathic medicine and in the sciences and technologies that will shape medicine, science, and education.

The College of Osteopathic Medicine will encourage, enable, and enhance the creation and development of graduate medical education, by lending support, education, and resources to further the goal of creating graduate opportunities in osteopathic medicine.

Building the Medical School of Tomorrow
Innovation in Medical Education

Strategic Focus Area One

For over one hundred years, the education of a physician has entailed an instructor standing before a seated group of students in a lecture format. However, new technologies allow the content of those lectures to be delivered in a myriad of ways, directly to the student by their phones, iPad’s®, or computers. Educational programming and content, such as heart sounds, can be learned directly from an applet on the student’s device, which shifts learning to a more personal format. Videos, lectures, and case scenarios can now be accessed anywhere in the world by the student, not just imparted in the traditional classroom. The goal for DMU will be to take advantage of these technologies to enhance student learning, while simultaneously maintaining a hands-on approach to labs and patient examination, to remain true to our osteopathic roots and philosophy.

Strategic Goals

Within the next three to five years, DMU will actively pursue the inclusion of many new mobile and point of care technologies into the curriculum. The incorporation of such technologies like portable ultrasound into the curriculum has a dual purpose; to enhance the learning of the functional anatomy and physiology, and to give the students the skills to use diagnostic technology at the point of care. In this way, technology will augment the hands-on holistic skill of the future osteopathic physician.

DMU will move to implement active based learning strategies into the curriculum within the next five years, moving away from the typical lecture format and into methods that utilize mobile and distance technologies, case-based scenarios, problem-based learning, applets and clinically relevant teaching strategies. The goal is to continue to build on foundations of basic science knowledge, but to do so in a way that enhances the learning of the student, and ties the learning objectives into clinical practice.

“In this way, technology will augment the hands-on holistic skill of the osteopathic physician”
Inspirational Leadership in Education and Health Care

Strategic Focus Area Two

Culture is incredibly important at any academic institution. When faculty and students are engaged and feel that the institution is leading in the areas of education and health care, they become more inspired. That inspiration leads to more innovative ideas and leadership such that it becomes a perpetual cycle. It is not enough to create good students and have great faculty, we will become known for creating great health care leaders.

“...inspiration leads to more innovative ideas and leadership such that it becomes a perpetual cycle.”

Strategic Goals

Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine will support its medical students in the pursuit of national offices and engagement in American Osteopathic Association, with a goal of having at least two national officers each year come from DMU.

Des Moines University will continue the Physician Leadership elective, with a goal of having at least 70% of the student body enrolled in the course in either their first or second year.

The College of Osteopathic Medicine will collaborate and help teach the Masters in Science in Clinical Leadership in conjunction with the College of Health Sciences.

The College of Osteopathic Medicine will have its Dean, Associate Deans, and/or faculty engaged in leadership positions within the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation, the American Osteopathic Association, the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners, osteopathic specialty boards, or national leadership positions on an on-going basis.

The College of Osteopathic Medicine will be a continued speaker at the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine and will present at least one novel or innovative change in the curriculum or educational process annually.
Integrated Research

Strategic Focus Area Three

Research in the basic sciences, clinical sciences, and pedagogy is the cornerstone of evidence-based medicine. The osteopathic physician of the future will be part educator, part clinician, and part scientist. Clinical practice guidelines, outcomes metrics, and quality improvement programs will dominate the landscape of the health care future. The evolution of medical care requires the physician to have the ability to question, to test, to challenge, and to evaluate, in order to assess and devise new paths in treatment and care. Des Moines University has a commitment to research in all of these areas in order to both further the science of medicine, but also to enhance the research education of the osteopathic physician.

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Strategic Goals

Des Moines University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine will increase its contribution to research and scholarly activity by 25% over the next 5 years, with increasing grants, publications, presentations, and scholarly contributions.

The College of Osteopathic Medicine will increase its strategic research partnerships by partnering with the other colleges within the university, as well as outside colleges and institutions in order to combine resources to make the research grants and contributions more competitive.

The College of Osteopathic Medicine will complete a feasibility study within the next three years on the potential of adding a PhD in Biomedical Sciences.

Within the next three to five years, the College of Osteopathic Medicine will fund and allocate more enabling resources (statistician, grant writer, equipment) to enhance the effectiveness of the research and scholarly pursuits within the college.
Des Moines University will become one of the top three osteopathic medical schools in the country within the next three to five years based on outcomes metrics. The constantly evolving quality of the student education will allow DMU graduates to obtain highly sought after quality residency programs. The overarching goal is to provide the highest quality compassionate care to patients, by creating highly qualified, compassionate, and empathetic osteopathic physicians. DMU will continue to augment its traditional curriculum over the next five years by enhancing coursework in ethics and quality, and incorporating professionalism and compassion into its simulated patient scoring rubrics and environments.
Increasing Clinical and Graduate Medical Opportunities

Strategic Focus Area Four

The clinical rotations are where the osteopathic medical student is finally able to apply what they have learned over the past several years, and hone their skills in the art of medicine in preparation for their graduate medical education. It is paramount that the students have quality rotational experiences in order to develop the diverse skill set required to succeed in residency, but also to deliver high quality compassionate care. Growing the clinical rotation sites and graduate medical education opportunities is critical to the success of creating excellent osteopathic physicians.

Strategic Goals

The College of Osteopathic Medicine will increase the caliber and quantity of clinical rotations by 20% over the next three to five years by actively recruiting clinical sites, engaging in annual evaluations and site visits, and developing key evaluation metrics to assess the quality of clinical experiences.

Over the next three years, the College of Osteopathic Medicine will develop key educational offerings in the form of continued medical education, library resources, and medical resources applets to enable clinical preceptors in their delivery of care, while simultaneously decreasing our reliance on monetary payment, in order to prevent escalations in tuition and student debt, and foster more clinical rotation sites.

The College of Osteopathic Medicine will increase the number of Osteopathic Postgraduate Training Institute (OPTI) partners by 10% over the next three to five years, and create a template to actively pursue the creation of new GME programs in Iowa and the surrounding states.

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Strategic Partnerships

Des Moines is a thriving and vibrant community with a great deal of highly engaged businesses and corporations that can enhance the educational opportunities and experiences of the College of Osteopathic Medicine students. Within the next three to five years, DMU COM will increase its strategic partnerships and collaborations by 50%. This will include Inter-Professional Education partnerships with other universities and colleges, collaboration with the American Red Cross and American Heart Association, collaboration with non-profits such as the World Food Prize, and strategic partnerships with business and industry.
Acting Locally and Globally

Strategic Focus Area Five

Des Moines University has one of the most active Global Health programs of any medical school in the country, osteopathic or allopathic. The experiences allow the students to compare the United States health care system to that of health care systems in other countries, as well as the opportunity to provide compassionate humanitarian medical care in austere environments. In addition, experiences at the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, allow students to realize that potential impact of health care policy on the lives of thousands and potentially millions of patients. In this way, DMU Global Health allows the students to make an impact in health care policy, and in local humanitarian action…“Doing a World of Good”.

Strategic Goals

Within the next three to five years, DMU will be the number one college of osteopathic medicine in terms of its number of Global Health rotations and its relationship and opportunities at the World Health Organization.

DMU will be a leading medical school in the areas of health impacts due to climate change and global health threats, and will develop strategic partnerships that will examine strategies to decrease the medical and health morbidity and mortality of this evolving global threat.

“DMU Global Health allows the students to make an impact in health care policy, and in local humanitarian action…Doing a World of Good.”

In the next three to five years, DMU will increase by 25% the number of students that will have Global Health rotation opportunities abroad.

DMU will also increase the number of opportunities for the students to make a significant contribution to the health care locally, especially with at-risk or high need populations, such as the homeless, those impacted by disasters, and in those populations where health care disparities exist.
College of Osteopathic Medicine