



University of Pikeville
Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine
Office of the Dean

Admissions Policy

Policy Contact: Admissions, Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine
Policy Category: Administration
Policy Number: 9.1
Review: Annually

Purpose

University of Pikeville – Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (KYCOM) has published admissions requirements, policies, and technical standards for potential applicants to its osteopathic medical education program. KYCOM abides by its established admissions policies and procedures in order to fulfill its mission. As such, KYCOM’s admissions standards are designed to emphasize primary care, encourage research, promote lifelong scholarly activity, and produce osteopathic physicians who are committed to serving the healthcare needs of communities in rural Kentucky and other Appalachian regions.

Policy Statement

University of Pikeville – Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (KYCOM) participates with other osteopathic colleges in a centralized application processing service called the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service (AACOMAS). AACOMAS serves to collate materials, compute grades, and transmit standardized information to the applicant and the institutions the applicant chooses to receive them. AACOMAS has no role in the evaluation, selection, or rejection of KYCOM applicants. Applications may be obtained at AACOMAS, address 7700 Old Georgetown Road, Suite 250, Bethesda, MD 20814, phone (301) 968-4100.

Once KYCOM Admissions receives the application from AACOMAS, prospective students that meet the minimum requirements for admission will be contacted and provided instruction on how to access the KYCOM secondary application. In furtherance of its mission to provide osteopathic medical education that emphasizes primary care and produces graduates who are committed to serving the healthcare needs of communities in rural Kentucky and other Appalachian regions, KYCOM seeks students committed to serving underserved areas. Prospective students receiving a secondary application are asked questions related to the mission of the institution. These questions are designed to allow the admissions committee to ascertain the prospective student’s commitment to the mission.

General Disclaimer:

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The KYCOM Admissions Committee will only review complete applications for potential admission. Required submissions include:

- 1) Completed AACOMAS application and completed KYCOM supplemental application
- 2) Nonrefundable application fee of \$75.00
- 3) Letters of Recommendation – Must be dated within two (2) years of the AACOMAS application
 - A. Letter from a physician
 - B. A minimum of one of the following
 - Letters from two (2) different science faculty familiar with applicant's educational background
 - Letter from an undergraduate advisor and a letter from a science faculty member familiar with the applicant's educational background
 - Letter from the pre-med committee
- 4) Applicants must meet KYCOM Technical Standards requirements, as listed on the Secondary Application.
- 5) Applicants must commit to meeting all immunization requirements prior to enrollment, if accepted.

Minimum Academic Requirements for Admission:

- 1) A baccalaureate degree from a United States regionally accredited college or university
- 2) The Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). Potential students are required to take the MCAT and have the official scores submitted to AACOMAS.
- 3) Satisfactory completion of the following college courses, including laboratory work:
 - English Composition and Literature (6 Semester Hours)
 - General Chemistry (8 Semester Hours)
 - Organic Chemistry (8 Semester Hours)
 - Physics (8 Semester Hours)
 - Biological Sciences (12 Semester Hours)

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Osteopathic Medical Scholars Program

In furtherance of its mission to produce graduates committed to serving the healthcare needs of communities in rural Kentucky and other Appalachian regions, KYCOM partners with University of Pikeville (UPIKE) to offer the Osteopathic Medical Scholars Program. The Osteopathic Medical Scholars Program benefits students from Appalachia by offering a cooperative eight (8) year program (4+4) leading to a Bachelors and Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree. After completing the bachelor's degree at UPIKE, scholars will be automatically admitted to KYCOM if they have maintained a 3.4 cumulative and science grade point average, scored a minimum of 498 on the MCAT, participated fully in program activities, and exhibited proper ethical qualities and conduct. OMSP is open to graduating high school seniors who meet the following requirements:

- Minimum 1200 SAT or 26 ACT score
- Top 10 percent of their class, or have a 3.5 GPA on a 4.0 scale
- Resident of Kentucky, West Virginia, or Virginia

Professional Education Preparation Program

The Professional Education Preparation Program (PEPP) offered by KYCOM exists to remedy the significantly underserved medical needs of Kentucky's rural areas by addressing the chronic under-representation of Kentucky residents in medical schools.

PEPP accepts approximately 25-30 Kentucky high school students for a one-week summer residential program. The program offers participants a variety of educational experiences targeted to enhance their personal interest in a medical career, add to their understanding of the elements of a medical education and expand their awareness of how medicine is practiced in a rural setting. Typical PEPP activities include lectures, anatomical laboratory sessions, volunteer work in the local hospital, and participation in relevant social and cultural events.

Integrity of Prospective Students

Prospective students seeking admission to KYCOM are expected to demonstrate integrity and professionalism throughout the application and matriculation process. Any intentional misrepresentation, falsification, or omission may result in rejection. KYCOM reserves the right to deny admission to any applicant for any reason. Further, matriculation will be denied to applicants who have failed to maintain a good record of scholastic performance and personal conduct between time of acceptance and matriculation at KYCOM.

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Enrollment Requirements

Criminal Background Screenings

KYCOM requires criminal background screenings for all students prior to matriculating and prior to the beginning of the third-year clinical rotations. Students are responsible for securing and providing payment for the criminal background screens.

Drug Screening

KYCOM requires a urine drug screen immediately after matriculation and prior to the beginning of the third-year clinical clerkship. In addition, students may be required to submit to a random drug screen at any time.

Health Insurance

Students of KYCOM are required to maintain personal health insurance throughout their enrollment. Potential students must provide documentation of health insurance coverage prior to beginning courses at the university.

Immunizations

KYCOM, in conjunction with requirements of all hospitals accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) and/or Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP), requires the following immunizations:

- Hepatitis B immunization: Series of three (3) immunizations in addition to a titer measurement indicating immunity is present.
- Tetanus toxoid immunization: Must be dated within ten (10) years of matriculation date.
- Varicella and Rubella immunity established by two (2) reported dates of vaccination and documented antibody titer.
- Annual influenza vaccination

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KYCOM Technical Standards

KYCOM is committed to equal access for all qualified applicants and students however, a doctor of osteopathic medicine (DO) must have the knowledge and skills required to perform in a broad variety of clinical situations. Therefore, students must be capable of consistently meeting certain technical standards. Candidates for admission may receive reasonable accommodations as determined by the Disability Resource Center; however, potential students must be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner throughout their enrollment at KYCOM. Technical standards include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Observation: KYCOM candidates must be able to comprehend a level of required information as represented through demonstrations, experiments and other experiences in the basic sciences. Students must have adequate visual capabilities to observe a patient accurately, at a distance and close at hand; acquire information from written documents; and view information presented in images on paper, film, slide, or video. Observing and acquiring information from these sources typically requires functional visual, auditory, and somatic sensation, enhanced by other sensory modalities.
2. Communication: KYCOM candidates must be capable of communicating effectively, efficiently, and sensitively with patients, their families, and other members of the healthcare team. It is also imperative for students to be able to communicate with patients in order to elicit and acquire information, perform examinations, describe changes in mood, activity, posture, and perceive nonverbal communication cues.
3. Motor: Candidates applying for admission to KYCOM should possess the ability to demonstrate reasonable endurance, strength, and precision. As such, students should have sufficient motor function necessary to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients. This includes, but is not limited to performing palpation, percussion, auscultation, and other diagnostic maneuvers. Such movements require coordination of both gross and fine muscular activity, equilibrium and functional use of touch and vision.
4. Sensory: KYCOM candidates should display enhanced sensory skills. Potential students who are otherwise qualified, but have significant tactile sensory or proprioceptive disabilities must be evaluated medically. These disabilities include, but are not limited to those with significant burns, have sensory motor deficits, cicatrix formation, or malformations of the upper extremities.

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5. **Strength and Mobility:** KYCOM candidates are required to have sufficient posture, balance, flexibility, mobility, strength and endurance for standing, sitting and participating in the laboratory, classroom and clinical requirements. In addition, osteopathic treatment often requires upright posture with sufficient lower extremity and body strength. Therefore, candidates with significant limitations in these areas would not be likely to successfully complete the requirements of a doctor of osteopathic medicine.
6. **Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities:** These necessary abilities include reading, writing, measurement, calculation, reasoning, analysis, and synthesis. In addition, KYCOM candidates should be capable of comprehending three-dimensional relationships and understanding the spatial relationships of structures.
7. **Behavioral and Social Attributes:** KYCOM candidates must possess the emotional health required to fully use their intellectual abilities, ability to exercise good judgement, promptly complete responsibilities attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients, and be capable of developing mature, sensitive, and effective relationships.

In addition, students are required to be capable of tolerating physically demanding workloads, and to function effectively under stress. They must be able to adapt to every changing environment, to display flexibility, and to learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of patients.

Compassion, integrity, concern for others, interpersonal skills, interest, and motivation are personal qualities that will be assessed during the admissions process.

Additional Information

Information regarding disabilities and academic adjustments with the Disability Resource Center have no bearing on the application process for KYCOM. Communication regarding disability accommodations should be directed to Disability Resource Center, University of Pikeville, 147 Sycamore Street, Pikeville, KY 41501, DRC@upike.edu, or 606-218-5232.

Dean

Last Approved Date

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