



---

# ***FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS***

**AFFILIATION AGREEMENT**

---

## 1 WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THE BURRELL COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE?

The Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (BCOM), founded in 2013 in Las Cruces, New Mexico is a four-year medical school accredited by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA).

Upon its founding, BCOM established a unique private-public partnership and affiliation with New Mexico State University (NMSU). Although separately owned and governed, the affiliation agreement allows BCOM students access to student life services and housing on the NMSU campus. BCOM matriculated its first class of medical students in July of 2016 and graduated those students in May of 2020.

To date, BCOM has graduated 430 osteopathic physicians. Of its graduates, 99.5% have been successfully placed into medical and surgical residency training programs.

The cornerstone of BCOM's mission is to diversify the physician workforce. Based upon data from the AACOMAS Applicants & Matriculant report, from 2018 to 2022, the College is ranked number two in the nation among all osteopathic medical schools in the percentage of underrepresented minority medical students. In recognition of its commitment to diversity, BCOM was awarded the Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award (HEED) in 2022.



**430** NEW PHYSICIAN GRADUATES  
(2020, 2021, 2022)

**99%** GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION  
(GME) PLACEMENT

**13,000+** STUDENT VOLUNTEER  
HOURS IN 2021-2022

## 2 WHAT IS OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE?

Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine, or DOs, are fully licensed physicians who practice in all areas of medicine. Osteopathic medicine is a philosophy in the approach to patient care and one of two distinct pathways to medical practice in the United States. Osteopathic medicine incorporates all modalities of medicine into patient care including prescription drugs, surgery, and the use of technology to diagnose disease and evaluate injury.

It emphasizes hands-on diagnosis and treatment which includes an additional therapeutic modality known as osteopathic manipulative medicine. The nation's approximately 142,000 fully licensed active and practicing osteopathic physicians practice the entire scope of modern medicine, bringing a patient-centered, holistic, hands-on approach to diagnosing and treating illness and injury. For more information, please visit [ChooseDo.org](http://ChooseDo.org).

## 3 WHY DID THE BURRELL COLLEGE CHOOSE FLORIDA FOR AN ADDITIONAL FOUR-YEAR MEDICAL SCHOOL LOCATION?

Like other osteopathic medical schools in the United States, BCOM's strategic plan calls for growth via additional locations. Through common acquaintances, the first introduction between BCOM and Florida Institute of Technology ("Florida Tech") leadership occurred in 2016. Florida Tech believed in the College's mission and its affiliation model with NMSU and invited BCOM to explore a future, four-year medical school location in Brevard County, specifically on the campus of and in affiliation with Florida Tech.

For the past three years, BCOM has operated a regional academic center in Brevard County for clinical clerkship rotations.

Currently, BCOM has 34 third and fourth-year students in Brevard County conducting clinical clerkship rotations. Based on the success of these rotations, the natural next step was to develop an additional four-year medical school location in Florida.





#### 4

## WHY DOES FLORIDA NEED MORE MEDICAL SCHOOLS?

In addition to creating physician diversity, BCOM is committed to building a regional physician workforce.

Based on a 2021 study by The Safety Net Hospital Alliance of Florida and the Florida Hospital Association, Florida will have a significant shortage of physicians in the coming decade.

By expanding medical education in Florida, BCOM will attempt to reduce the physician shortage, given that medical students demonstrate a tendency to stay in the state where they graduate from medical school.

Per the AAMC 2021 Workforce Report, 47.4 percent of Florida-based medical school graduates practiced medicine in Florida and 78.8 percent of physicians who completed both medical school and residency in Florida remained in the state to practice.

Additionally, based on recent data from the AACOM, 62% (439/707) of Floridians enrolled in an osteopathic medical school did so outside of the state in 2021. With the Florida Tech affiliation, BCOM will now be able to offer an increase in the enrollment of those Florida residents to remain within the state.



5

## WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THE PROPOSED NEW MEDICAL SCHOOL AND NUMBER OF STUDENTS?

The Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine executed an affiliation agreement with Florida Tech in 2022. The proposed new medical school campus, subject to final approval from accreditors, is planned for an initial class size of 100 students. This first class is expected to matriculate in July of 2024 and graduate in May of 2028.



6

## WHAT DOES THE AFFILIATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BURRELL COLLEGE AND FLORIDA TECH ENTAIL?

A key component of the affiliation agreement is the Osteopathic Medicine Pathway Program whereby Florida Tech pre-med students will be guaranteed admission into the medical school provided they meet the established criteria for academic performance. Like its affiliation agreement with NMSU, BCOM will reside on the campus of Florida Tech. The medical school's primary base of educational operations will be in the L3 Harris Commons Building on South Babcock Street via a sub-lease agreement. BCOM will compensate Florida Tech for BCOM students' use of Florida Tech's libraries, fitness facilities, student health services, dining facilities and access to student housing.

The master affiliation agreement also allows for collaborative research and teaching opportunities between the faculty of BCOM and Florida Tech.



## 7 WHAT PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES DOES FLORIDA TECH CURRENTLY HAVE THAT ARE FOCUSED ON HEALTH SCIENCES AND MEDICINE?

Florida Tech has six premedical studies options for students that tap into both the school's heritage of cutting-edge STEM education and its burgeoning biomedical and health sciences programs. The courses premed students take vary depending on which of six majors they choose: biochemistry, chemistry, biomedical engineering, biomedical science, genomics and molecular genetics and premedical physics. For biology students, for example, there are lectures and laboratories in anatomy, microbiology, genetics and more. In chemistry, students explore courses including analytical and physical chemistry, while physics students take advanced courses in modern physics, thermodynamics and optics.

Upper level biomedical engineering majors explore biomechanics and biomedical measurements and instrumentation, and take courses in biomedical engineering design. Additionally, with the university's new Gordon L. Nelson Health Sciences building, Florida Tech has signaled its commitment to nearly doubling the number of undergraduate biomedical engineering and premed students it can enroll in order to meet this surging demand. This 61,000-square-foot facility enhances the university's capacity for undergraduate and graduate education and research with state-of-the-art laboratories, augmented and virtual reality teaching tools and facilities for orthopedics, tissue studies and advanced computational simulations.

