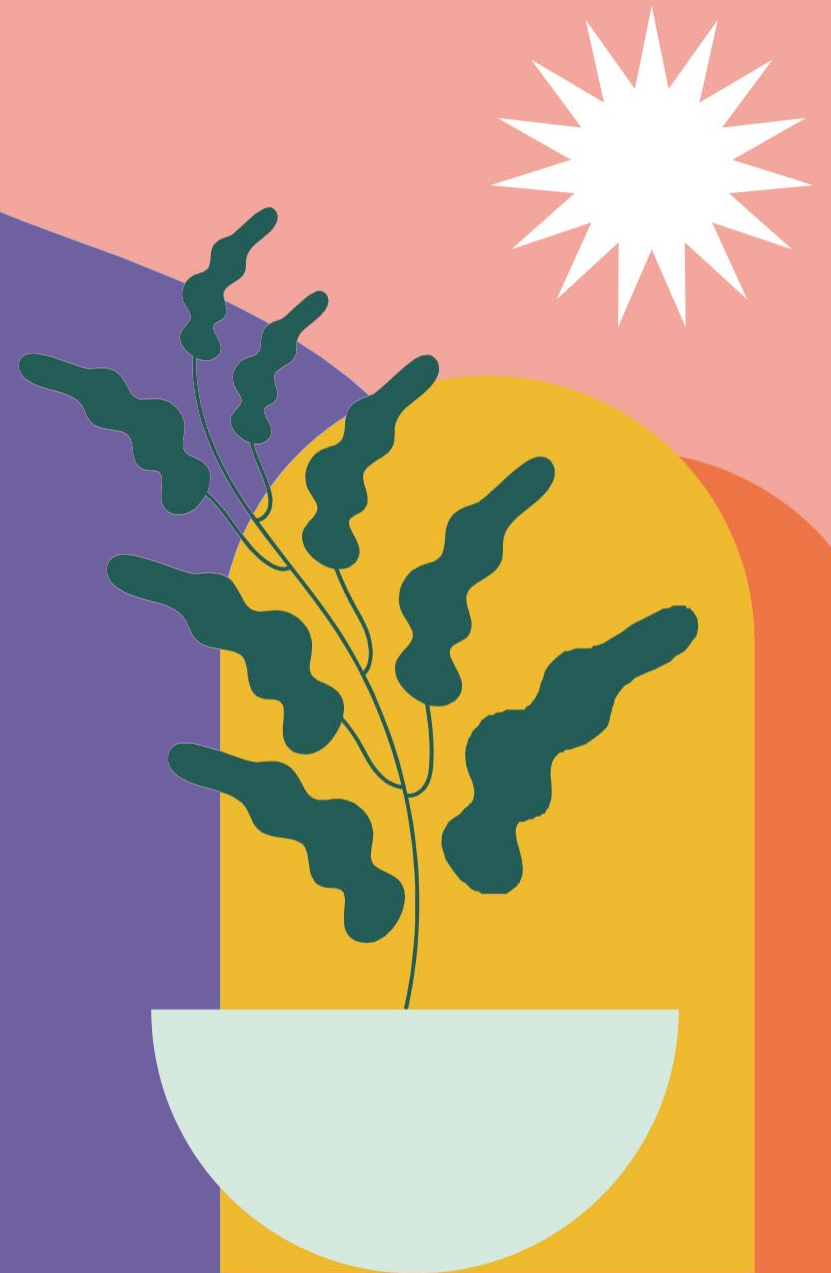


BURRELL COLLEGE
of
HEALTH SCIENCES

SCHOOL of OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

T.O.U.C.H. Program

Translating Osteopathic Understanding Into Community Health



WHAT IS T.O.U.C.H.

TRANSLATING OSTEOPATHIC UNDERSTANDING
INTO COMMUNITY HEALTH

Translating Osteopathic Understanding into Community Health (TOUCH) Program is a national initiative of the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP).

TOUCH encourages us to observe a basic tenet of osteopathic philosophy – A commitment to improving the health of our communities through service.

Through this program, YOU are recognized for your hard work and dedication in serving your surrounding communities during your years spent in medical school.

TOUCH Logistics

- TOUCH Year: May 1st - April 30th of the following year
- Hours MUST be submitted within 30 days from the event
- Receive recognition of their commitment to community service.
 - 50+ = Silver *
 - 100+ = Gold *
 - Highest at BCOM = Platinum

*Hours we had this year 35/70 (silver/gold) were decreased because of COVID –not sure if we are going back to prior hours yet – will keep you posted

- A letter of commendation will also be sent to the Dean from the President of AACOM suggesting the Dean include the student's commitment to service in his/her Dean's letter.

Participation in TOUCH

- A minimum completion of fifty (50) hours of community service will be required to receive credit for the TOUCH program
- A record of completed hours must be submitted to the College of Osteopathic Medicine Student Government (COSGP) online on Track It Forward to be approved.
 - Utilize the TOUCH template provided by event coordinators or fill out the form online following the [guidelines](#).
- You must submit your volunteer hours online for a specific event **within 30 days of completing the activity.**

How to get TOUCH-approved



- Event must be verified by the SGA Director of Community Outreach *before any volunteer sign-ups are sent out*
 - [Link to TOUCH event Request form](#)
- **Request must be completed 1 week in advance** of your event
 - *All requests will be checked every Tuesday and Friday.*

After Event Organizers:

- Must provide a TOUCH template to *all participating volunteers* **within 2 days** of the event being completed
- Email full list of participants to SGA Director of Community Outreach by replying to original event approval email

TOUCH Template Guidelines

Hours:

Date:

Service Type: TOUCH

Event Name:

Event Location:

Event Country:

Event Setting: Urban, Urban-Underserved, OR rural

Event Coordinator Name: Your name or the person on your board that organized event. (NOTE: If you are the organizer, and attend the event add one of your other board members when you fill out Track it Forward)

Event Coordinator's Email:

What type of service was provided?: Choose up to three of the following: Animal Welfare; Arts, Culture, Heritage; Corporate; Disabilities; Education; Elderly; Emergency Services; Environmental and Conservation; Health Care; Health Education; Health Maintenance; Mentoring; Osteopathic Education; Sports and Recreation; Youth (NOTE: there is an option for Other too and a blank to specify)

How does this event serve to benefit the community: Must be at least 2 sentences (up to 4).

Notes: **Add Planning hour here with ½ time conversion -> see next slide for details on conversion**

What counts for planning hours?

- Credit for planning a community service activity will be given $\frac{1}{2}$ hour for every hour involved in the preparation of materials and setup for an actual event
 - *For example, you are organizing a blood pressure check drive and it takes 5 hours to organize venues, volunteers, gather equipment, etc.. → you will be eligible for 2.5 TOUCH hours*
- Administrative tasks during the event (checking students in, registration) are valid for full consideration.
- ***However, just a general meeting or board meeting do NOT count***

TOUCH Approved Events



- For the purposes of the TOUCH program, “Community Service” will be defined as any **activity that works to improve the health and wellness of a community outside of the medical school coursework.**
- The spirit of this program is to get involved with the community and spread the DO name and philosophy.
- Community service activities can be associated SOM student organizations or external organizations.
 - *Blood Pressure Check Drive*
 - *Senior Health Fair*
 - *Mobile Clinic*
 - *Global Health*

TOUCH Non-Qualifying Events



- Leadership responsibilities in student organization will not count towards TOUCH hours unless those responsibilities involve participation in a specific community service activity.
 - *Normal student organization activities (such as meetings, bringing in speakers, etc.) are not considered community service.*
- Fundraising: simply collecting money for a philanthropic cause will not suffice as an “activity/event/community service.”
- TOUCH credit will not be given for volunteering in research or shadowing, as TOUCH is meant to encourage activity in the community
- Personal favors such as driving someone to an appointment or helping someone move is admirable, but ineligible for TOUCH.

That's all folks!

Questions regarding TOUCH?
Reach out to the current
SGA Director of Community Outreach

****Please start the subject of your email with 'TOUCH'****

