

Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Admissions Policy

Policy Information			
Policy# :	COMBOD.1001	Reviewed Date(s):	March 15, 2022
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Responsible University Administrator:	President	Board of Directors Approved Date:	June 27, 2023

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To provide consistent admission criteria and processes for students applying to Baptist Health Sciences University (Baptist University) College of Osteopathic Medicine (BUCOM) to pursue the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree (DO).

2. Policy

- 2.1. Baptist University seeks academically well-prepared, highly motivated graduate students who are committed to improving the health of the diverse populations in the Mid-South Delta Region of Western Tennessee, Eastern Arkansas, and Northern Mississippi with special emphasis on primary care in urban, underserved, and rural areas.
- 2.2. The number of applicants admitted to the DO program at BUCOM during any academic year are limited. Thus, the admission and selection process is competitive.
 - 2.2.1. The criteria outlined are minimum criteria for consideration of an applicant, but in no way guarantee admission.
 - 2.2.2. Students must meet the minimum criteria and provide all required paperwork by the published deadlines.
 - 2.2.3. Preference may be given to students from rural and/or underserved environments that are more likely to advance the mission and goals of BUCOM, especially those from AR, MS, TN and other Mississippi Delta regions.
 - 2.2.4. In support of the educational mission of BUCOM, each applicant must meet the following admission criteria.
 - 2.2.5. An earned bachelor's degree or higher or a minimum of completion of 75% of the credits needed for a baccalaureate degree, at a college or university accredited by an agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.
 - 2.2.6. An earned total cumulative GPA of 3.0 (4.0 grade-point scale) on all collegiate course work. A preferred cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher demonstrates a greater opportunity for success.
 - 2.2.7. Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) official score. A preferred MCAT score of 504 or greater with no individual score of less than 125 will demonstrate a greater opportunity for success. MCAT scores must be earned within three years of application to the DO program.
 - 2.2.8. An earned total cumulative GPA of 3.0 (4.0 grade-point scale) on all the following undergraduate course work. A preferred cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher demonstrates a greater opportunity for success.

- 2.2.8.1. English composition – 6 semester credit hours
- 2.2.8.2. Biological Sciences – 8 semester credit hours with lab, including a course in general biology or zoology.
- 2.2.8.3. Biochemistry – 4 semester credit hours with lab
- 2.2.8.4. Inorganic Chemistry – 8 semester credit hours with lab (8 hours of general/college chemistry will fulfill this requirement)
- 2.2.8.5. Organic Chemistry – 8 semester credit hours with lab
- 2.2.8.6. Physics – 8 semester credit hours with lab
- 2.2.8.7. Additional science course work – 4 semester credit hours with lab. Recommended courses to enhance student success include, but are not limited to, Anatomy, Physiology, Immunology, Cellular Biology, Microbiology, or Genetics.
- 2.2.8.8. A course in statistics is highly recommended.
- 2.2.9. Letters of recommendation
 - 2.2.9.1. A letter from a non-family member DO/MD is strongly recommended.
 - 2.2.9.2. A pre-health committee letter/composite letter (preferred) OR
 - 2.2.9.3. A minimum of three individual letters to include:
 - 2.2.9.3.1. Two individual faculty letters (at least one from science) who have taught the applicant
 - 2.2.9.3.2. One letter from a supervisor summarizing work, service, research or clinical experience.
- 2.2.10. Demonstrated commitment to service consistent with the BUCOM mission as evidenced by action and involvement in outreach, service, and professional shadowing.
- 2.2.11. Must be either a United States citizen or a Permanent Resident.
- 2.2.12. Completed admission interview.
- 2.2.13. Accept the BUCOM Technical Standards for admission and matriculation.
- 2.3. The Dean of BUCOM may grant exceptions to the admission criteria at any time.
- 2.4. Upon acceptance, the applicant must submit the following:
 - 2.4.1. Enrollment deposit/Fee.
 - 2.4.2. Criminal background check clearance
 - 2.4.3. Documentation of all required immunizations.

3. Definitions

- 3.1. AACOMAS – American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application System

4. Procedure

- 4.1. Students apply to BUCOM through the AACOMAS online application system and pay non-refundable application fee. Once the application is processed and verified, the admission office will receive the application.
 - 4.1.1. Complete the AACOMAS online application.
 - 4.1.2. Submit official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended to AACOMAS.
 - 4.1.2.1. Transcripts from colleges/universities outside of the United States must be accompanied by an official evaluation by WES (World Education Service) or ECE (Educational Credential Evaluators).
 - 4.1.3. Submit recommendation letters to AACOMAS.

- 4.2. Students also complete a BUCOM Supplemental Application and pay the non-refundable application fee.
- 4.3. Once both applications (AACOMAS and BUCOM Supplemental Application) are completed, fees are paid and documents verified, applicant files will be reviewed and selections made for interviews.
- 4.4. Interviews will be held either in person or virtually with faculty/staff, or designee(s) of BUCOM.
- 4.5. BUCOM Admission Committee will review application documents and interview feedback to select students for admission.
- 4.6. Admission decisions will be communicated to student applicants by BUCOM.
- 4.7. Accepted students will then be required to submit:
 - 4.7.1. Enrollment deposit/Fee.
 - 4.7.2. Criminal background check clearance
 - 4.7.3. Documentation of all required immunizations.
 - 4.7.4. Official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended.
 - 4.7.4.1. Transcripts from colleges/universities outside of the United States must be accompanied by an official evaluation by WES (World Education Service) or ECE (Educational Credential Evaluators).
- 4.8. To complete matriculation, accepted students must also attend orientation.

5. Related Information

- 5.1. SACSCOC Standards 10.5
- 5.2. COCA Standards 9.1
- 5.3. Criminal Background Check Policy
- 5.4. Immunization and Education Requirements Policy
- 5.5. BUCOM Catalog