

How the change will affect the M.D. and D.O. accreditation process

1. Complete undergraduate course requirements. All medical schools have certain course requirements that must be completed before matriculation.
2. Take the Medical College Admission Test. Most medical schools will post the average MCAT scores of their students online.
3. Complete the primary application. Allopathic and osteopathic schools use different application programs.
4. Complete secondary applications. Schools will send individual secondary applications to applicants who meet their minimum GPA and MCAT requirements.
5. Interview. Less than one-fourth of applicants are offered interviews. Students are notified within a month if they are offered a spot in the matriculating class.
6. Earn a medical degree. Typically, the first two years of medical school are completed on the school's campus, and then students spend their last two years doing clinical rotations, working directly with patients under a doctor's supervision.
7. Complete a residency program. Residents spend between three and eight years working with patients in a specialty area such as surgery, internal medicine or gynecology.
8. Obtain licensure. Candidates must complete a medical school education, a residency program and pass exams.

***This is where students would have to choose the allopathic or osteopathic route, which the new system would eliminate.**



*according to education-portal.com

ACCREDITATION | Allopathic and osteopathic medical governing boards are working toward a unified accreditation process for 2015

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is this unification could broaden the opportunities for those students.

She said if less students who are interested in a D.O. degree are turned away from osteopathic schools by the perception that there are fewer opportunities after graduation, then there could be a growth in the University's ability to recruit.

"There's a lot to be worked on between now and July 2015 in terms of details, but from what I've seen on the national level, there's a positive, collaborative effort between the allopathic and osteopathic worlds to really improve graduate education opportunities for all medical students," Wilson said. "I would hope we all think that's a step in the right direction."

Arthur Freeland, a Kirksville allopathic family doctor, said he thinks the change will mean little for the future of allopathic

medicine, but ultimately could affect the osteopathic profession as D.O. residency programs will have to broaden mandates to comply with ACGME requirements, as part of the unification.

"The osteopathic world has wanted to keep their students training in the osteopathic philosophy, and I completely understand that," Freeland said. "The requirements for each residency were different, which made it difficult."

If an osteopathic physician did an M.D. residency right out of school, they could go into a sub-specialty after that, Freeland said. He said osteopathic specialties have grown, but allopathic specialties are much wider, however, D.O. physicians would have to go through an M.D. residency from the beginning if they only previously had pursued a D.O. residency.

Justin Puckett, osteopathic physician and director and

founder of Complete Family Medicine, said the decision to make these changes doesn't come as a surprise to him, as the medical organizations have been discussing it for about 15 years when he began his medical career.

Puckett said he understands the benefit for medical students during the coming years, but worries about what the repercussions of these changes could mean down the road.

"My concern is where we are going to be in a decade," he said. "There's more that makes us unique than just the manipulation. The way we're selected and the way we're trained is, in many ways, unique and different than the M.D.s. Not better, but as we've always said 'separate, but equal.'"

Puckett said he and many other D.O.s have sent statements of concern to the governing medical bodies declaring that they hope creating one process won't cause for a loss in osteopathic

distinctiveness. He said the AOA has said they have been given a veto power for aspects that could impact D.O.s.

"My personal plea to our osteopathic leaders is to slow down and make sure we cross our t's and dot our i's," he said. "I'm still hopeful and optimistic about the outcome, but we're going to have to tread very, very carefully."

While the details of the change remain unknown as the medical organizations work toward an agreement during the coming months, students at A.T. Still have had the chance to ask administrators, such as Wilson, questions about what changes, if any, they should make in their plans for the future.

Meaghan Raney, a second year medical student at A.T. Still, said it's scary not knowing what the specifics are, especially as their class is on-track to take their medical boards during this coming June and might not be sure

whether they should take the M.D. in addition to the mandatory D.O. board.

"All in all, it's a good path to get us looking more like equals," Raney said. "[D.O.'s] have made a lot of strides during the last 20 years, and this is another step in the right direction."

Although he's still in the interview stages of looking into medical schools, Truman State senior Josh Wilson, president of the American Medical Student Association, said he sees the unification as a positive opportunity to continue to produce the best doctors by widening the options to osteopathic students. Wilson said he's planning on pursuing the allopathic route, regardless of this merge, but he has time to decide.

For more information about the unified accreditation process, check out the press release available on each of the governing medical body's websites.

FARM | Truman's Farm-to-School program makes efforts to obtain funding to continue operating

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need, as well as about 70 statements of support, Krueger said.

Farm-to-School advisor Michael Seipel said the program is asking the University to only fund the Local Foods Coordinator position that is part of the program and the amount the program is asking for has not been publicized. He said the \$66,000 from the original grant was able to purchase all necessary equipment for the program and the program earns enough income from selling produce that it can pay for interns and operating costs on its own.

Seipel said the program is continuing to look for other sources of funding through other grants in case the University will not provide it. He said if funding cannot be secured for next year, the short-term plan is to utilize the expertise of past program interns to fill the Local Foods Coordinator position. However, he said this plan will work for only about a year before the position will need to be permanently filled.

"The physical needs of the program were able to be bought through the grant, so those things are taken care of," Seipel said. "It's the human resource that will be needed and is needed to be paid for."

Senior Garrett Grider, former Local Foods Coordinator, said the amount of work done through the position is necessary for the program to continue operating. He said the coordinator manages all fruit and vegetable production by the program at the University Farm, which includes crop planting, maintenance, harvesting and transportation. He said the coordinator also serves as a mentor for the Farm-to-School interns.

He said the position is a full-time job that would be impossible for the interns or the University Farm manager to fulfill.



Submitted Photo
Junior Anna Lotts, one of the three Farm-to-School program interns, starts flats of herbs during last summer at the University Farm. The program was previously funded by a grant which has run-out, so they are currently looking for alternate ways to fund the program in order for it to continue.

The program also is hoping to expand the duties of the Local Foods Coordinator position with the money from the University, Grider said. He said the goal is to change the position to be a Sustainability Coordinator position that would oversee the Farm-to-School program as well as other student run sustainability programs like Bulldog Biodiesel and the Compost

Project. He said they also hope to make the job a full-time University staff position instead of a Sodexo position.

"Truman's really big in pushing the sustainability mission that they have," Grider said, "But probably the biggest element of that is [the Farm-to-School program]. They're going to have to show that they really support it."

FUNDING | State legislature doesn't find funding formula for higher education during final meeting

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low for the formula to change throughout time as necessary.

Young said if the Committee does come up with a formula, it is important for the formula to accommodate colleges with specialized missions such as Truman's.

"If 100 percent of the fiscal year 2015 budget is determined on a credit hour generating basis, they will destroy the mission of Truman State University," Young said. "It's that simple."

MARUT | Graduate student Victoria Marut is facing a Class C felony charge for forgery of a doctor's note

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other conditions.

"She's saying she did it to get attention from her mother," Johnson said. "Right now that's the most plausible story that I have, but I'm not sure I believe that."

Johnson said he is working closely with the Adair County Prosecuting Attorney's office, and that Marut has been compliant to answer questions.

There is no timeline for the investigation, Johnson said. He said he's working toward finding what financial gain Marut received, if any.

Marut received gifts — potentially including a \$700 wig — which she could receive additional charges for, but it's currently all being investigated, Johnson said.

"Every time I peel off a layer [of the case], another one is there," he said.

Marut does not currently have an attorney according to Missouri Case Net. She was unavailable at the point of contact, and the Truman State Office of Student Affairs was unable to comment about the investigation and discipline process for Marut.

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