

DEPARTMENT: Office of Student Affairs
NAME: Graduation Requirements Policy
POLICY NUMBER:
OWNER: Office of Student Affairs
EFFECTIVE DATE: 06.30.2025

SCOPE

This policy applies to all students enrolled at the Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine (MSOM).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to define the standards and expectations for graduation, ensuring that all students who are conferred the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degree have met the academic, ethical, and professional qualifications necessary for the safe and competent practice of osteopathic medicine.

POLICY

In order to graduate from MSOM, a student will be required to satisfy all graduation requirements issued by MSOM as applied in the judgment of MSOM based on the date of degree conferral. Graduation requirements may change from time to time following a student's matriculation. It is the student's responsibility to stay updated on current policies and procedures at MSOM. A student who has completed a minimum of 206 credit hours and successfully passed all academic requirements of MSOM will be granted the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degree, provided the student has met all the requirements below:

- A. Compliance with All Academic Requirements: The student has, in the judgment of MSOM, complied with all academic and clinical requirements.
- B. Compliance with All Legal and Financial Requirements and Obligations: The student has complied with all applicable policies and procedures of MSOM, including financial, conduct, and business requirements and obligations of MSOM, which include, but are not limited to, return of any MSOM-owned property and equipment.
- C. Examinations: The student has satisfactorily passed Levels 1 and 2-CE of the COMLEX examinations administered by the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME).
- D. Ethical, Personal, and Professional Qualities: The student has demonstrated the ethical, personal, and professional qualities deemed necessary for the successful and continued study and practice of osteopathic medicine as determined in the judgment of MSOM.

- E. Suitability for Practice of Osteopathic Medicine: The student has demonstrated suitability for the practice of osteopathic medicine as evidenced by the assumption of responsibility for patient care and integrity in the clinical activities, as determined in the judgment of the MSOM.
- F. Formal Approval for Graduation: The student has received a recommendation for graduation from the voting faculty of MSOM, according to MSOM's policies and procedures. Thereafter, the Board of Trustees will act to consider and confer the degree of Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine ("DO") on students who have satisfactorily completed the requirements for graduation and have been recommended for graduation as determined in the judgment of MSOM.
- G. Graduation Ceremony: The student is required to attend, in person, the graduation ceremony at which time the degree is conferred, and all students take the osteopathic oath. Rare exceptions to this requirement may be granted at the sole discretion of the Dean. The Dean's review will be based on whether there are extenuating circumstances that prevent the student from attending. Students are required to submit such requests to the Dean within a reasonable time after the student learns of any such extenuating circumstances. Students should include any relevant documents with their request for a waiver. The Dean will normally issue a written decision regarding whether this requirement will be waived for the student within ten (10) business days of receipt of the student's request.
- H. Graduation within Six (6) Years of Matriculation: A student must have completed all requirements for graduation and must graduate within 150% of the standard time to achieve the degree (i.e., six (6) academic years) from the date of matriculation. The MSOM Dean shall have the discretion to allow for exceptions to this time period upon a showing of extraordinary circumstances supporting such an exception.

POLICY MANAGEMENT

The Registrar is responsible for the development, implementation, and maintenance of this policy. It is reviewed periodically and housed in the electronic policy management system. Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Office of Student Affairs.