

ROCKY VISTA UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE



Congratulations on your decision to pursue a career as a physician. Now that you have decided on a career path, the next step is to select a medical school that will best meet your needs. You will be faced with choices regarding the geographical location, campus size and the type of curriculum that will help you get the most out of your medical education. The important thing is that you find the school that is best for YOU.

Osteopathic Medicine

Only two types of physicians have unrestricted licenses and practice rights in all 50 states. While both D.O.s and M.D.s are qualified, competent and trained in all aspects of patient care, the osteopathic approach emphasizes holistic and patient-centered treatment while concentrating on wellness and prevention of disease or disability.



D.O.s historically have been distinguished by an emphasis on holistic care, using osteopathic manipulative medicine to improve the health and function of their patients and their tradition of caring for patients in underserved areas.

D.O.s respect the relationship between structure and function, viewing the human body as an interdependent unit rather than an assortment of separate parts and systems.



Accreditation

College of Osteopathic Medicine Accreditation

Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine has obtained provisional accreditation from the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). The college will be eligible for full accreditation before graduating its first class of osteopathic physicians in 2012. The AOA is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council of Post-Secondary Accreditation as the accrediting agency for colleges educating osteopathic physicians and surgeons.



“ I am drawn to the distinct philosophy of holistic, patient-centered care with a focus on preventing illnesses rather than simply treating diseases.”
Jack, OMS-I

CAMPUS

A state-of-the-art 145,000 square foot educational facility has been constructed to advance the education of our students and graduates. We have designed and equipped a standardized patient lab that is engineered similar to the testing facilities of the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners as well as the United States Medical Licensing Examination. An extensive simulator laboratory and computer graphics programs are also available to provide you with the opportunity to develop knowledge, skills, competencies and confidence. The auditoriums, laboratories, study and learning areas of the college have been professionally engineered to develop a positive learning environment.



Academics

At RVUCOM, our success is based on the success of the individual student. You will receive individual attention and our goal is that each student achieve their personal expectations. The curriculum is designed to stimulate active learning and to develop comprehension by the student. It utilizes case-based learning opportunities, biomedical and clinical sciences, an integrated systems approach to educational models and early and extensive clinical experiences as well as outreach opportunities.

As a RVUCOM student, you will be introduced to the practice of medicine and begin to acquire clinical skills during your first semester. Our educational approach will prepare you to not only acquire facts, but apply, integrate and utilize knowledge for the benefit of your patients. You will learn to evaluate the epidemiological, psychosocial, economic, cultural and physiological issues affecting diverse populations of patients with individual needs.

You will have the opportunity to observe and participate in the care of patients in private physicians' offices, community health centers, health departments and hospitals each semester. As part of the clinical experience, all students will spend two months in a rural practice setting working with medically underserved and indigent patients. Additionally, you will have an opportunity to choose electives in areas such as International Outreach, Humanities and Spirituality in Medicine, Research Methodology and Alternative Medicine.





“ I am convinced that I will end my medical education having attained solid fundamentals both in clinical knowledge and in practical skill. We are being honed and nurtured at the same time into excellent physicians, ones who understand the complexities of the human body and potential treatments, who show empathy, who understand the holistic nature of mind, body, and spirit that is integral to health, who build rapport with our patients ... ”
Bea, OMS-I



At RVUCOM, we are dedicated to meeting the needs of the residents of Colorado and the Mountain West states by producing graduates to enter community-based practices. Graduates will be qualified to enter any and all medical disciplines, but the College places an emphasis on primary care and secondary care fields including: family medicine, internal medicine, geriatrics, pediatrics, women's health, emergency medicine, surgery, psychiatry and general orthopedics.





Outreach Programs

Outreach programs provide students with opportunities to improve the health and lives of patients living in rural impoverished and underserved communities in Colorado, the U.S.A. and worldwide.

Dr. Camille Bentley, Chair of Community & Rural Medicine (seated front row right), recently returned from her 15th medical outreach trip to Guatemala where she worked with healthcare providers, students and volunteers to help meet the medical needs of Mayan villagers.

While in Guatemala, the group of medical volunteers hosted clinics in some of the most remote areas of the country.



Faculty Overview

The College of Osteopathic Medicine has a diverse and talented faculty; established affiliations with medical centers, hospitals, and healthcare systems; a structured and supported rural medicine program; and a mission



to educate the finest osteopathic physicians possible. RVUCOM faculty and staff include a wide variety of educators who are mentors and role models for our students. They demonstrate excellence in their knowledge, medical practices, professional conduct, and dedication to the education of our students. The faculty are organized in two departments: Biomedical Sciences and Clinical Medicine and overall, average over 15 years of teaching experience.



“RVUCOM is a wonderful institution. The faculty, staff and students all feel like a second family to me and I feel that the curriculum is truly preparing me for my career as a physician. I could not have asked for more!”
Matthew, OMS-I

Student Life/Organizations

RVUCOM has a variety of student organizations that address osteopathic professional and practice-related interests. There are also social or recreational organizations, allowing students to reach out to the community and the world around them.

The Student Government Association (SGA) is the official governing body for all osteopathic medical students. The meetings are open to all students in the college, and SGA welcomes proposals and participation from the entire student body.

In addition to student-focused organizations, the Student Advocates Association was established for the spouses, significant others and families of the students to further the goals of the college and the osteopathic profession and to promote fellowship, goodwill, and unity within the school.

A complete list of student organizations can found on the RVU web site (RockyVistaUniversity.org).



Members of American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians organized a holiday toy drive and delivered gifts to children at The Children's Hospital in Denver.



Halloween potluck and costume contest.



Students at Dave and Busters.



Student Advocates Association annual Fall Arts & Crafts Fair.

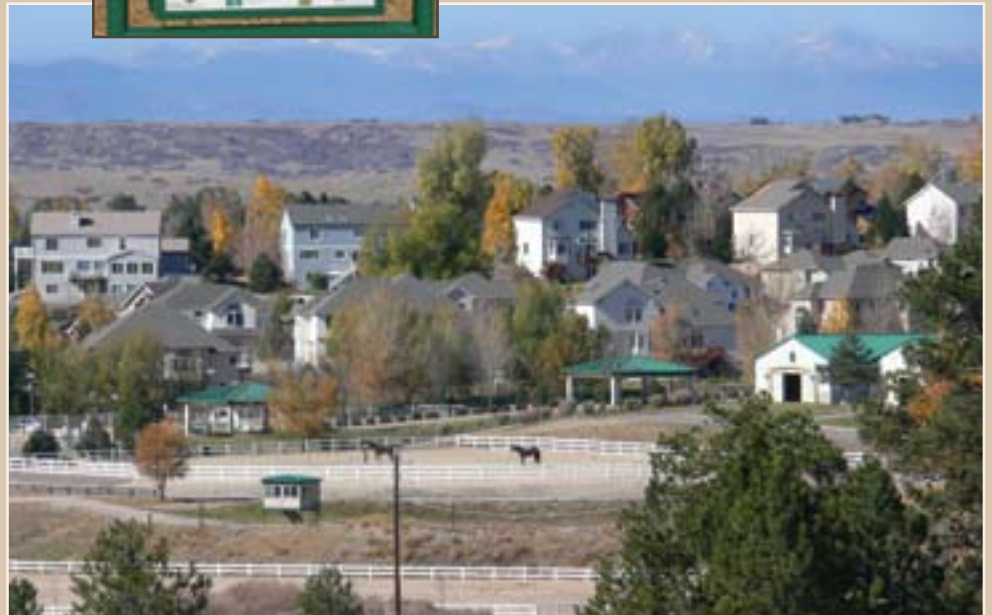
Location

RVU is located in Parker, Colorado, which is in Douglas County, just 20 miles southeast of Denver. Douglas County is a mix of rural and suburban areas, village centers and open spaces.

With a population of over 48,000 in the city of Parker and approximately 90,000 in the surrounding areas, Parker boasts an extensive biking/ jogging trail system, recreational facilities, dining and entertainment, and a wide variety of arts and community events held throughout the year. Douglas County has excellent schools and offers open enrollment, charter schools and other special programs.



Downtown Parker, Colorado.



Colorado Horse Park in Parker, Colorado.



Downtown Denver from City Park.



“ I know people often say that their class is very tight and that they all get along, but our class really does. There isn't competitiveness between students. Instead it's quite the opposite. We share outlines and study skills that seem to work. There are numerous study groups and I don't know of anyone who would not be able to find a study group to help them out. ”
Kay, OMS-I



The Mile High City

Nearby metropolitan Denver offers eclectic dining, music, recreational and cultural activities. Denver also has the largest bike path network of any urban area in the nation and the largest city park system in the U.S. with 200 named parks in the city and 14,000 acres of parkland in the mountains. Skiing, snowboarding, hiking and camping are within an hour's drive of Denver. Denver is also a top spectator sports city with eight professional teams.

There are statewide festivals and events presenting arts, music, sports and culture including the state fair, music festivals of different genres, outdoor concerts and plays.

Climate

Denver has a semi-arid climate with four distinct seasons. Denver is located on the Great Plains, and the weather of the city and surrounding area is generally milder compared to the mountains to the west and the plains further east.



Kenosha Pass, gateway to South Park.
Photo by Thomas Hayes.



The Denver Art Museum's Hamilton Building.
Photo by Kevin Hester. Courtesy of the Denver Art Museum.

Admissions Process

RVUCOM seeks well-rounded, service-oriented individuals who can complete an academically rigorous curriculum. You will need to complete the following requirements to qualify for admissions consideration:

- A minimum of 90 semester hours of accepted course work (100 level or above) from a regionally accredited college or university. To be competitive, you should have earned a minimum of a bachelor's degree.
- Successful completion of the following:
 - General Biology (with lab): 8 semester hours
 - General Chemistry (with lab): 8 semester hours
 - Organic Chemistry (with lab): 8 semester hours
 - Physics (with lab): 8 semester hours
 - English Composition/Literature: 6 semester hours
- Minimum science and overall GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. *(note: this is the minimum requirement required to receive a supplemental application. Over the past 3 years, the GPA for students gaining acceptance to D.O. schools averaged 3.4)*
- MCAT scores taken within 3 years of matriculation (e.g. students matriculating August of 2009 must have taken the MCAT during or after April 2006). No score lower than a "6" in any individual section will be considered. The Office of Admissions will only consider the best composite score in the event of multiple scores and will not combine scores from different exams.



- Letters of Recommendation from a pre-health advisor or committee (if your school does not have one, you may substitute 2 letters from science faculty) and a letter from an osteopathic physician. RVUCOM accepts letters through the mail, Virtual Evaluations and Interfolio.

All applicants must apply through AACOMAS.

AACOMAS
5550 Friendship Blvd., Suite 310
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
301-968-4190
aacomas@aacom.org





Financial Aid

The goal of the Rocky Vista University Office of Financial Aid is to assist students in securing the financial resources needed to achieve their educational goals. While the primary responsibility for meeting educational costs rests with the student, the Office of Financial Aid will assist students to find the resources that may be needed to bridge the gap between the cost of education and their own financial resources.

Current students are funding their education with a combination of family resources, private educational loans, scholarships, military and other health profession scholarships. Please check the Rocky Vista University web site or contact the Office of Financial Aid for more information.



MISSION STATEMENT ROCKY VISTA UNIVERSITY

Rocky Vista University is committed to the education of osteopathic physicians and health care professionals, who are dedicated to excellence in their practice, demonstrate integrity and professionalism in their lives, while providing ethical, compassionate and culturally competent holistic care to their patients.

MISSION STATEMENT COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (RVUCOM) is committed to the education of osteopathic physicians who are dedicated to excellence in the practice of medicine, demonstrate integrity and professionalism in their lives, while providing ethical, compassionate, holistic and culturally competent Osteopathic medical care to their patients.

Discrimination Statement

It is the policy of Rocky Vista University and all of its affiliated colleges and organizations to not engage in discrimination or harassment against any person because of race, color, religion or creed, sex, pregnancy, national or ethnic origin, nondisqualifying disability, age, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation, unfavorable discharge from the military, veteran status, political beliefs or affiliations, and to comply with all federal and state nondiscrimination, equal opportunity and affirmative action laws, orders and regulation, including remaining compliant and consistent with Title VII, Title VI, Title III, Title II, Rehab Act, ADA, Title IX.

This policy on nondiscrimination applies to admissions, enrollment, scholarships, loan programs, participation in university activities, employment and access to, participation in and treatment in all university centers, programs and activities.



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