

# Pitzer College & Western University of Health Sciences JOINT MEDICAL PROGRAM

Pitzer College encourages students to explore how different academic fields intersect and draw on each other's wisdom and ideas; we enable students to see issues and events from cultural perspectives different from their own, and we show students how to transform knowledge into action as they strive to make the world a better place to live, for themselves and future generations. Pitzer's curriculum prepares students for the distinctive approach that characterizes osteopathic medical education.



## Western University of Health Sciences

Founded in 1977, Western University of Health Sciences' College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (COMP) is dedicated to preparing patient-centered physicians who are lifelong learners with the Doctor of Osteopathy (DO) degree. Located about five miles from Pitzer College, the campus of Western University of Health Sciences is a modern academic health center, with a medical center, research and teaching laboratories, medical library and smart lecture theaters. Medical students spend their first two (pre-clinical) years on campus in lectures, laboratories and small group tutorials, engaging in hands-on, supervised clinical interactions with standardized patients in state-of-the-art teaching laboratories. Medical students in the clinical phase of their education spend two years in rotations at highly select area hospitals. By rotating among a diverse group of hospitals, students are exposed to a full range of patient care modalities and local conditions. International rotations also exist for students interested in obtaining medical experience abroad.

## Admission

Admission to this program is highly selective. A joint Admission Committee admits a maximum of six students each year. The Admission Committee expects that applicants have taken some of the most challenging courses offered at their high school, including Honors/AP/IB Biology, Honors/AP/IB Chemistry, Honors/AP/IB Physics and Honors/AP/IB Calculus. In addition, we expect to see involvement with underserved communities and motivation to practice medicine. Finalists are required to attend a day-long interview with the Admission Committee at Pitzer and Western University in late February or early March.

Applicants must complete the Common Application and the Pitzer Writing Supplement. This includes the below essay topic, which is specific to the DO program. The essay should be 650 words or less.

**Essay Topic:** Please discuss your interest in osteopathic medicine and what personal characteristics and experiences make you a good match for the program.

## Curriculum

Here is an example of classes students take at Pitzer College before starting their DO degree at Western University.

First Year	Second Year	Summer	Third Year
<b>Fall Semester</b>	<b>Fall Semester</b>	Summer health program in Costa Rica (six weeks)	<b>Fall Semester</b>
Intro Biology	Biology (e.g. vertebrate anatomy)		Physics
Chemistry	Organic Chemistry		Biochemistry
Social Science Elective	Social Science Elective or Spanish		Social Science Elective
First-Year Seminar	Clinical Half-Course		English
			Elective
<b>Spring Semester</b>	<b>Spring Semester</b>		Clinical Half-Course
Biology (e.g. Genetics)	Biology (e.g. neuroscience)		
Chemistry	Organic Chemistry		<b>Spring Semester</b>
Social Science Elective	Field Work in Healthcare		Physics
Clinical Half-Course	Social Science Elective or Spanish		Cell Biology
			Social Science Elective
			Electives (two)
			Clinical Half-Course

The four-year medical school curriculum at Western University is a student-friendly block curriculum divided into three phases. Interwoven into all phases are hands-on courses such as Osteopathic Principles and Practice, Essentials of Family Medicine, Doctor Patient Communication and Society & Service Learning.

## Curriculum Phases

### Phase 1

Introduction to basic sciences. Students learn the concepts of anatomy, biochemistry, microbiology, pathology, pharmacology and physiology.

### Phase 2

Correlated system teaching, integrating basic and clinical sciences in the study of each of the body's organ systems. This extends for three semesters, until the end of the second year.

### Phase 3

Clinical experiences. During the third and fourth years, students do clinical rotations at clinics and hospitals in medicine, family practice, osteopathic medicine and manipulation, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry and surgery and emergency medicine. Additional specialized electives are also available. Major rotations sites include:

- Arrowhead Regional Medical Center (CA)
- College Medical Center (CA)
- Downey Regional Medical Center (CA)
- Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center (CA)
- Riverside County Regional Medical Center (CA)
- Botsford Hospital (MI)

Following graduation with BA and DO degrees, students go on to medical internships and residency programs. Students graduating from COMP enter both primary care and specialized practices. COMP graduates obtain residency placement across the country at institutions including:

- University of California, San Francisco (CA)
- University of California, San Diego Medical Center (CA)
- University of Colorado School of Medicine (CO)
- LAC+USC Medical Center (CA)
- Kettering Medical Center (OH)
- Buffalo General Medical Center (NY)

## About Osteopathic Medicine

Osteopathic medicine is the fastest growing segment of the healthcare field in the United States. Today, there are 47,000 osteopathic physicians in this country. Doctors of osteopathic medicine, like MDs, are fully trained and licensed to practice medicine in all 50 states. In addition to activities shared with their allopathic colleagues, DOs add to their practice a "whole person" approach to medicine by focusing on preventive healthcare as well as the healing power of touch.

Osteopathic medicine is based on the philosophy that all body systems are interrelated and dependent upon one another for good health. It provides all the benefits of modern medicine, including surgery, prescription of drugs, and the use of technology to diagnose and evaluate illness. In addition, it provides the benefit of hands-on diagnosis and treatment through a therapeutic system known as osteopathic manipulative medicine. With the addition of osteopathic manipulative treatment, osteopathic physicians use their hands to aid in diagnosing and treating injury and illness.



### Helpful Links:

[www.westernu.edu](http://www.westernu.edu)  
[www.aacom.org](http://www.aacom.org)  
[www.pitzer.edu/admission/apply/joint-medical-program](http://www.pitzer.edu/admission/apply/joint-medical-program)  
[www.kecksci.claremont.edu](http://www.kecksci.claremont.edu)  
[www.kecksci.claremont.edu/prospectives](http://www.kecksci.claremont.edu/prospectives)  
[www.kecksci.claremont.edu/Prehealth](http://www.kecksci.claremont.edu/Prehealth)