

## UNC COM Supplemental & Deposit Fee Proposal

### RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve a proposed \$75 supplemental application fee and two non-refundable enrollment deposits totaling \$ 400 for the University of Northern Colorado's proposed College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNC COM) to be in effect when the college begins to accept applications.

### BACKGROUND

The osteopathic medical school admissions process utilizes a national system, AACOMAS, through which all students are required to submit their initial application. It is customary for individual colleges to request a secondary application that outlines applicants' interest in the college and addresses how the student aligns with the college's mission. It is also customary for the college to charge a supplemental application fee. When medical schools offer the opportunity for a student to enroll, it is customary to charge an enrollment deposit.

The supplemental application fee and enrollment deposit recommendations for UNC COM require approval by the UNC Board of Trustees.

### Proposed Supplemental Application and Enrollment Deposit Fees<sup>1</sup>

|                         | Supplemental | Enrollment Deposit |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| <b>Proposed UNC COM</b> | <b>\$75</b>  | <b>\$400</b>       |

<sup>1</sup>UNC COM will require incoming students to submit two non-refundable deposits: \$150 initially, within two weeks of acceptance to hold their position in the class, followed by an additional \$250 by May 1, totaling \$400.

### Comparators

|  | Supplemental | Enrollment Deposit                                 |
|--|--------------|--|
| <b>West Virginia SOM</b>               | <b>\$80</b>  | <b>In-state: \$1,000<br/>Out of State: \$3,000</b> |
| <b>Texas COM</b>                       | <b>\$50</b>  | <b>\$0</b>   |
| <b>Sam Houston State U SOM</b>         | <b>\$75</b>  | <b>\$0</b>   |
| <b>Rowan-Virtua SOM (New Jersey)</b>   | <b>\$90</b>  | <b>\$500</b>                                       |
| <b>Oklahoma State U COM</b>            | <b>\$65</b>  | <b>\$100</b>                                       |
| <b>Rocky Vista U</b>                   | <b>\$100</b> | <b>\$2000</b>                                      |
| <b>University of Colorado-Anschutz</b> | <b>\$100</b> | <b>\$0</b>   |
| <b>Ohio U Heritage COM</b>             | <b>\$60</b>  | <b>\$600</b>                                       |
| <b>Michigan State U COM</b>            | <b>\$100</b> | <b>\$500</b>                                       |
| <b>Proposed UNC COM</b>                | <b>\$75</b>  | <b>\$400</b>                                       |

## **Tuition and Fee Recommendation Process**

The proposed fee recommendations for UNC COM were determined following a national and local review of current public colleges of osteopathic medicine and the other medical schools in Colorado. This strategic measure aims to strengthen our admissions process and enrollment management. These fees will help ensure that only serious, committed applicants move forward, aligning UNC COM with standard practices at peer medical schools. This proposal outlines the rationale for each fee, demonstrates how they align with national norms at public osteopathic institutions, and explains accommodations for applicants experiencing financial hardship.

### **Supplemental Application Fee (\$75)**

- **Encouraging Serious Applicants:** A supplemental (secondary) application fee is a standard practice medical schools employ to gauge applicant motivation. By setting a \$75 fee, UNC COM will discourage casual or non-serious applicants from submitting supplemental applications, ensuring that those who do apply are genuinely interested in the program. Peer institutions have found that charging a secondary application fee helps filter out unfocused applications, thereby maintaining a high-caliber applicant pool.
- **Consistent with Public Osteopathic Schools:** UNC COM's proposed \$75 fee aligns with the fees charged by other public colleges of osteopathic medicine for supplemental applications. A survey of the seven public osteopathic medical schools reveals supplemental fees ranging from approximately \$60 to \$100, with an average of \$75. Additionally, CU Anschutz and Rocky Vista charge \$100. Adopting this fee will position UNC COM on par with peer institutions.
- **Financial Hardship Waivers:** Applicants receiving an AACOMAS (central application service) fee waiver (through the AACOMAS Fee Assistance Program) will automatically waive their \$75 supplemental fee. Waiver consideration will also be given to applicants experiencing financial hardship (e.g., Pell Grant recipients, those recently facing unemployment, or participants in federal or state assistance programs such as SNAP or Medicaid) upon request.

### **Enrollment Deposit (\$400)**

- **Two-Step Deposit to Secure Committed Students:** Upon acceptance, UNC COM will require incoming students to submit two non-refundable deposits: \$150 initially, followed by an additional \$250, totaling \$400. This two-step deposit structure is designed to solidify an accepted student's commitment to UNC COM and to facilitate effective seat management. By requiring a more substantial second deposit, we can ensure that students committed to UNC COM are less likely to withdraw, helping us manage our class size more effectively, offer more targeted support, and reduce attrition rates. Unlike CU Anschutz, which is well-established and has a national reputation, UNC COM cannot rely on historical yield data to predict enrollment. Without an enrollment deposit, we risk uncertainty about applicant intent until just weeks before classes begin. Requiring a deposit by May 1 allows the admissions office critical time to assess commitment and, if needed, conduct additional interviews to ensure a full and balanced inaugural class.
- **Deposit Deadlines Following National Guidelines:** UNC COM will adhere to the standard AACOMAS traffic guidelines for deposit due dates, which are widely used across osteopathic medical schools to balance applicant choice with enrollment certainty.

Furthermore, the funds collected through non-refundable deposits may be reinvested to support student success and institutional competitiveness. This may include providing recruitment scholarships to attract high-potential applicants, covering publishing fees for student-led research or scholarly activities, and offering travel stipends to enable students to attend conferences or residency interviews. These targeted uses will enhance the competitiveness for the national residency match, differentiate our program, and elevate the professional trajectory of our graduates.

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| Responsible Staff | Date |  | 05/28/2025 |
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