

University of Northern Colorado
College of Osteopathic Medicine

Policy: Retention

Responsible Party: Associate Dean of Admission and Student affairs, College of Osteopathic Medicine

COCA Standard: 9.2

Review Frequency: Annually and as needed

Objective:

The University of Northern Colorado College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNC COM) promotes student success by leveraging specialized services unique to medical education. This policy outlines how early intervention, academic support, and professional development resources are deployed to ensure students' success throughout their education.

1. Early Alert System

The Early Alert System at UNC COM is designed to identify students in need of academic, professional, or personal support through timely referrals and access to appropriate resources.

Referral Process:

- A. **Academic Performance Concerns:** Students experiencing academic difficulties are referred to the COM Student Success Committee (SSC), which is responsible for directing students to resources such as faculty-led counseling or learning service specialists and online support tailored to individual needs.
- B. **Professionalism Concerns:** Concerns regarding professional conduct are managed by the Student Professionalism Committee (PC), ensuring adherence to professional standards in the medical program. This committee works in coordination with the broader UNC Student Conduct Office to maintain consistency in addressing professionalism across campus. Refer to the [UNC Student Code of Conduct](#) for further information.
- C. **Clinical Skills:** Clinical performance concerns are referred to the Clinical Education Departments (Department of Primary Care or OPP) for additional support, including simulation training.
- D. **Wellness:** UNC COM prioritizes student mental health by providing access to comprehensive and confidential services. A full-time embedded mental health counselor will be available in the COM wellness office and the UNC Counseling Center, offering students flexible options for in-person or telehealth sessions. The counselor will provide

individual counseling, as well as group sessions on topics like stress management and anxiety coping strategies.

Additional support includes access to the UNC Counseling Center at See more at [UNC Wellness Services](#), which offers scheduled and walk-in appointments, telehealth services for Colorado residents, psychiatric care, and a 24-hour crisis hotline. Students can also utilize North Range Behavioral Health and other resources listed on the UNC website.

- E. **Financial Concerns:** The Financial Aid Counselors at UNC COM address financial issues specific to medical students. This service is integrated with the broader offerings from the UNC Financial Aid Office, which provides aid management and scholarships. Learn more at [Office of Financial Aid](#)

2. Student Success Committee (SSC)

The Student Success Committee (SSC) at UNC COM identifies students facing academic challenges and provides early interventions through a comprehensive and individualized approach.

Purpose:

- Early identification of at-risk students.
- Development of personalized intervention plans.
- Proactive monitoring of student progress and needs.
- Collaboration with university-wide services.

The SSC collaborates closely with course directors to identify struggling students early and provide targeted academic counseling. Faculty members, in consultation with learning specialists, support students by addressing time management and effective study practices