

University of Northern Colorado
College of Osteopathic Medicine

Policy: Maximum Length of Completion

Responsible Party: Dean, College of Osteopathic Medicine

COCA Standard: 6.3-1

Review Frequency: Annually and as needed.

A candidate for the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree must complete their education within 150% of the standard time frame (six years following matriculation), as specified by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA).

Students seeking a dual degree (DO in conjunction with a master's or doctoral degree) may be eligible to extend this deadline. Students seeking such an extension must submit a request prior to their third year, to the Student Progress Committee (SPC) of UNC COM for consideration.

To request an extension to pursue a dual degree, the student must:

- Submit a written petition to the SPC of UNC COM prior to exceeding the six-year limit.
- Include in the petition a detailed explanation of the dual degree program, a proposed revised timeline for completion of both degrees, and a letter of support from the dual degree program director or academic advisor.
- Remain in good academic standing at the time of the request.

The SPC will review requests and make decisions on a case-by-case basis.

In addition to dual degree considerations, the SPC may, on rare occasions, consider time-to-degree extensions for students facing significant medical illness, family obligations, or other extenuating circumstances. Any requests must be supported by appropriate documentation. No extensions will be granted for students facing delays solely due to academic performance.

Approved extensions will be documented in the student's academic record and monitored by the Student Affairs Office to ensure continued compliance with the revised timeline.