

UNC COM Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine Degree

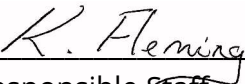

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed Academic Degree, Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine for the University of Northern Colorado’s College of Osteopathic Medicine (UNC COM).

BACKGROUND

Aligned with UNC’s mission to serve Colorado and the region, the College of Osteopathic Medicine will help address the state’s physician shortage. Supported by Senate Bill 22-056, signed by Governor Polis on 17 March 2022, UNC has developed the required infrastructure and is prepared to welcome its first class of medical students in fall 2026.

Academic Affairs has notified the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of UNC’s intent to offer the DO program and received approval to proceed. The Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) has completed a pre-accreditation site visit and will determine accreditation status in December. The degree has completed internal curriculum approval under University Regulations Title 3, Article 3, Part 5. Board of Trustees approval is the final step before notification to the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) and program implementation.

	10/21/25		10/23/2025
Responsible Staff	Date	President	Date

Board Action	Date
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College of Osteopathic Medicine

Summary of Change: UNC proposes a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree for inclusion in the 2026–2027 catalog.

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Rationale, Labor Outlook and Budget Impacts:

UNC has secured preliminary funding to establish the College of Osteopathic Medicine, which will partner with healthcare providers statewide to deliver education grounded in science, critical thinking, communication, and compassionate patient care. Graduates will earn the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) degree, qualifying them for residency programs and eventual medical licensure. Costs to the break-even amount have been secured although UNC will bear indirect costs particularly in all centralized services. A proforma from program inception through full enrollment is included for BOT review as an attachment. Below are the enrollment and revenue projections.

Enrollment Model						
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
First year students (8% overage)	81	122	162	162	162	162
Second year students (2% attrition)	0	79	119	159	159	159
Third year students (2% attrition)	0	0	78	117	156	156
Fourth year students (No attrition)	0	0	0	78	117	156
Total Enrollment	81	201	359	515	593	632
Tuition \$55,000 per year. Fees (\$2,000 yrs 1 & 2; \$1,000 yrs 3 & 4)	\$4,617,000	\$11,457,000	\$20,385,000	\$29,162,000	\$33,530,000	\$35,714,000

UNC’s COM will be one of only eight public university-based colleges of osteopathic medicine nationwide and the third medical school in Colorado, leveraging existing campus infrastructure — housing, library facilities, and student services — that many COMs lack. The university’s strong health sciences programs create opportunities for interprofessional learning. The curriculum emphasizes professional identity formation, population health, and evidence-based pedagogies effective for adult learners.

The labor outlook for physicians remains robust. The Association of American Medical Colleges projects a national shortage of 86,000 physicians by 2036. In Colorado, the Health Resources and Services Administration reports that only 34,6% percent of physician need is being met. The Robert

Graham Center predicts Colorado will require 1,773 additional primary care physicians by 2030, with 54 of 64 counties designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas.

UNC COM will help address these shortages in Colorado, the High Plains, and the Intermountain region. Regional data from other colleges of osteopathic medicine and schools of medicine (SOMs) confirm a strong pool of qualified applicants who are not matriculating locally, ensuring ample recruitment potential.

The program enjoys broad healthcare industry support. Banner Health Western Division has committed to providing 60 percent of required clinical rotations. Physicians from Banner Health and Sunrise Community Health Clinics serve on the COM advisory board. Additional Front Range clinical partners have committed to hosting students, and more than 80 local physicians have volunteered to support admissions, instruction, and clinical training.

In addition to classroom learning, students will gain hands-on clinical experience, conduct research, and build professional networks that support successful board passage and residency placement. Comprehensive academic and career advising will prepare graduates to match with programs aligned to their professional goals.

BOT Curriculum Action Items Summary

College	Unit	Level	Name	Target Audience	Implementation Costs	Notes
College of Osteopathic Medicine	N/A	Graduate	Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine	Students seeking professional careers as licensed physicians in the United States	UNC has secured the preliminary funding necessary to implement the COM to the break-even point. Further costs include all indirect costs for centralized services.	

Revenue Projections	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	FY 2032
Medical Students					81	201	359	515	593	631.9296
Tuition (\$55,000/year)					4,455,000.00	11,055,000.00	19,745,000.00	28,325,000.00	32,615,000.00	34,756,128.00
Fees					162,000.00	401,760.00	639,932.40	836,001.00	913,793.40	952,689.60
Tuition/Fee Waiver for OMM Scholars							-168,000.00	-168,000.00	-168,000.00	-168,000.00
Institutional Scholarships / Discounting (10%)					-445,500.00	-1,105,500.00	-1,974,500.00	-2,832,500.00	-3,261,500.00	-3,475,612.80
Donated funds	5,737,896.18	200,200.00	421,250.00	5,000,000.00	2,500,000.00	2,500,000.00	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	5,000,000.00	
Total Revenue	5,737,896.18	200,200.00	421,250.00	5,000,000.00	6,671,500.00	12,851,260.00	23,242,432.40	31,160,501.00	35,099,293.40	32,065,204.80

COM Fulltime Personnel with Benefits	558,780	636,523	1,375,765	4,604,194	7,411,791	9,972,444	10,533,868	10,849,874	11,175,370	11,510,631
COM Part-time Personnel				462,500	470,000	607,000	1,078,000	1,338,000	1,349,000	1,349,000
Bonuses, Moving Expenses, Stipends	25,000	40,000	65,000	90,000	100,000	100,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000
Subtotoal Personnel Expenses	583,780	676,523	1,440,765	5,156,694	7,981,791	10,679,444	11,701,868	12,277,874	12,614,370	12,949,631

Operations										
Professional Dues/Subscriptions/Conferences/ Prof. Devel	3,000	5,000	10,000	60,000	84,000	110,000	130,000	150,000	150,000	175000
Faculty/Staff Travel (includes interviewees and COCA)	40,000	20,000	95,000	75,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	175,000	175,000
Recruitment Costs		175,000	725,000	350,000	500,000	500,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
Workers Compensation Insurance for students					4,049.19	10,047.99	17,946.41	25,744.85	29,644.07	31,590.16
Property Insurance					60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Malpractice Insurance					25,000	50,000	175,000	440,000	609,000	700,000
Facilities Operations			40,000	40,000	500,000	510,000	520,200	530,604	541,216	552,040
Technology Platforms				225,000	250,000	275,000	320,000	350,000	370,000	375,000
Library Resources, Ebooks, Journals, software					700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000
FD Resources				45,000	80,000	107,500	112,500	115,000	115,000	115,000
Accreditation Fees (COCA)	80,250	80,250	107,000	107,000	53,500	53,500	53,500	53,500	160,500	50,000
Institutional Dues (AACOM)			31,334	32,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000
General Equipment/Supplies			126,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000
Cadavers					105,000	105,000	105,000	126,000	126,000	126,000
GME Development		500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Bckgd Checksand drug screens OMS 1 and 3 students					4,860	7,200	23,320	30,120	40,660	40,660
Rotation Reimbursements								720,000	1,100,000	1,440,000
Events				40,000	40,000	45,000	100,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
Students Travel (COSGP, DO day, research presentations)					2,500	5,000	25,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Conference Registration					6,000	7,000	10,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Marketing/Advertising/Promotion			550,000	700,000	500,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Consulting Fees	375,000	100,000	275,000	200,000	200,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Research Startup				120,000	120,000	475,000	650,000	650,000	650,000	650,000
Subtotal Operations	498,250	880,250	2,459,334	2,624,000	4,139,909	4,125,248	4,207,466	5,470,969	6,197,020	6,560,291

Total Expenses	1,082,030	1,556,773	3,900,099	7,780,694	12,121,700	14,804,692	15,909,334	17,748,843	18,811,390	19,509,922
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