PARA LA GENTE Y EL FUTURO: FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE FUTURE.

WELCOME
The Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine (BCOM) is dedicated to improving the health of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico through culturally humble undergraduate, graduate and continuing osteopathic medical education, research, and clinical service to the community. BCOM is focused on increasing diversity in the physician workforce and fostering a practice of life-long learning, compassion, respect, and excellence in its students. As one of the nation’s newest medical colleges, BCOM utilizes the most advanced technologies and learning methods to assure student and professional practice success in all fields of medicine, from primary care to subspecialties.
WHAT IS A DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE?

From their first days in medical school, Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine (DOs) are trained to have a whole-person approach to patient care and focus efforts on health promotion and disease prevention. DOs also learn Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine, which can sometimes be used as an alternative to more aggressive treatments and pharmaceuticals. As fully licensed, board-certified physicians, DOs can be found practicing medicine in all specialties.

For more information on Osteopathic Medicine and how to apply to a DO medical school, visit AACOM.org.
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BCOM seeks to recruit and admit students who have shown commitment to serving the medically underserved and rural areas. Applicants are screened for academic excellence and achievements, clinical experience, service, perseverance, maturity, motivation, and awareness of the osteopathic profession.

Top BCOM “Seat Offered” Universities:
California State University
University of California
Arizona State University
University of Texas
University of New Mexico
Brigham Young University
University of Arizona
Texas A&M University
University of Florida
University of South Florida
University of Houston
Florida International University
Michigan State University
University of Nevada
University of Wisconsin
University of Colorado
Total: 246

Male Matriculates

Female Matriculates
2020: 74  2021: 84  2022: 82

Average Overall Science GPA
3.4+

Underrepresented
2020: 26%  2021: 27%  2022: 35%

Science Majors
83%

AVERAGE MCAT
500+

Total Science GPA
29%

Total MCAT
240
The Office of Financial Aid can help students explore their financial aid options and assist with strategies on how to meet the cost of attending BCOM, by providing them with the resources and information needed to develop objectives for meeting educational expenses. In addition, the Office of Financial Aid can provide students with resources and material about maintaining healthy credit, managing debt, loan repayment, and financial planning information. BCOM is also fortunate to have a supporting 501(c)(3) foundation, the SW Foundation for Osteopathic Education & Research (SWFOER). To learn more about SWFOER, please visit the BCOM website.
9 CURRICULUM
The curriculum at BCOM uses several educational approaches, including: traditional lectures, integrative sessions (using electronic response systems), laboratory and skills instruction, active learning (adult and interactive techniques), team-based learning, large and small group sessions, directed study, and clinical case presentations.

These learning formats foster comprehension, promote the application of knowledge, emphasize competency in osteopathic philosophy, develop clinical skills, and stimulate critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

BCOM employs an integrated, systems-based, applications-oriented approach, which is designed to provide graduates with the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to succeed as osteopathic physicians.
The state-of-the-art Simulation Department at BCOM provides students with a wide variety of clinical experiences to prepare them to excel as student doctors in their clinical rotations. These experiences include high fidelity manikins that are able to simulate breathing, heartbeat, pupillary reactions, childbirth, and more. In addition to the high fidelity manikins, student doctors will also be able to utilize their clinical skills with standardized patients giving each student multiple opportunities to practice in a variety of clinical settings.

All students have the opportunity to develop their clinical skills alongside their didactic education starting from their first year of medical school. All of the necessary clinical skills are integrated into the curriculum to support the development of the student doctors in their preparation for their clinical rotations, as well as reinforcing the core principles learned in the classroom.
HARRIS AHMED

Hometown: Los Angeles, California
Alma Mater: University of California - Irvine

BCOM Clubs/Awards/Notable Achievements: Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA), Muslim Medical Students Association (MMSA). Served on National Board of Directors for SOMA, currently serving as SOMA National Parliamentarian and on National Board of Trustees. Authored five resolutions at the SOMA House of Delegates. Selected as Domenici Scholar and Researcher by the Domenici Institute for Public Policy at New Mexico State University to examine increasing physician recruitment from Hispanic and Native American communities. Traveled to Washington D.C. on four occasions representing AACOM, AOA, SOMA, and BCOM to advocate for various policy matters relevant to medicine, medical education and public health. Inducted into Osteopathic Political Honor Society (OBI), Osteopathic Honor Fraternity (Sigma Sigma Phi), Public Health Honor Society (Delta Omega).

Tip for Pre-Meds:
Be authentic and sincere in your path towards medicine and once you are here, remember your responsibility as a servant to society.

BRIAN LIU

Hometown: Houston, Texas
Alma Mater: University of Texas - Austin

BCOM Clubs/Awards/Notable Achievements: 2021 Class president, current SGA Executive Board president.

Tip for Pre-Meds:
While taking the core science courses is important, do not underestimate the value of courses in other areas such as English, Government, or Economics. As a doctor, having a strong command of the English language is critical; for example, word choice can and does have an effect on how patients and colleagues perceive you. At the same time, government policies will affect the way you practice, as well as, the everyday lives of your patients. Having a basic understanding of government and fundamental economics will give you a leg up compared to your peers.
ROXANNE WAGGONER

**Hometown:** Las Cruces, New Mexico  
**Alma Mater:** University of New Mexico

BCOM Clubs/Awards/Notable Achievements: President of the American College of Osteopathic Pediatrics Student Chapter at BCOM, Founder and NGO-Liaison of Capacidad Global Health Organization, Medical Explorers Mentor, Sigma Sigma Phi- Beta Chi Chapter member, Board Member of BCOM Cubs, BCOM Scholars, BCOM “Student DO of the Year 2017.”

**Tip for Pre-Meds:**  
Have fun and take breaks. Allowing yourself to become stressed and burnt out early on leads to a very unproductive and miserable medical school life.

FERNANDO MAGANA HERRERA

**Hometown:** Irving, Texas  
**Alma Mater:** University of Texas - Arlington

BCOM Clubs/Awards/Notable Achievements: Student Osteopathic Internal Medicine Association (SOIMA), Immediate Past President (Local Chapter Founding President), Founded American College of Physicians (ACP) National Chapter at BCOM, Member of Sigma Sigma Phi, America’s Honorary Osteopathic Service Fraternity, AMSA National Sim Challenge Competitor at AMSA’s Annual Convention and Exposition, BCOM Tiered Interdisciplinary Medical Response Participant, Student Osteopathic Surgical Association Health Fair Coordinator. Founder of BCOM’s Cubs annual program dedicated to helping local elementary school children in need during the holiday seasons. Author on BCOM’s First Published Paper: PDE5 Inhibitors Offer Novel Mechanisms in Combination and Solo Cancer Therapy Bentham Science Current Cancer Therapy Reviews.

**Tip for Pre-Meds:**  
Make sure to shadow a variety of specialties. Ask the attending physicians what led them to a life in medicine and to share their insights into that particular specialty. Never take for granted opportunities you are presented with and remember to build relationships along the way to accomplishing your goals; you never know when you will need help or when you might be able to help someone else. Take courses that will help you in medical school but also take time to learn about things that interest you outside of the sciences. Medical school is a challenge, but if you have outside hobbies and a strong support system, it is a great experience. Study hard!
TERRA SPINUZZI

**Hometown:** Pueblo, Colorado  
**Alma Mater:** Colorado State University - Pueblo

BCOM Clubs/Awards/Notable Achievements: Emergency Medicine Club Secretary, “DO for a Day” Ambassador, BCOM SOMA Community Outreach Chair, CO Care member, Sin Limites Mentor.

**Tip for Pre-Meds:**  
Participate in activities that you have a personal interest in. They will be more meaningful and will not just serve to fill up a resume. Also, take as many practice MCAT tests as you can and try to mimic the setting of the formal exam. Stay true to yourself and your goals and most importantly, don’t give up!

JOHN W. RAJALA

**Hometown:** Dallas, Texas  
**Alma Mater:** University of North Texas

BCOM Clubs/Awards/Notable Achievements: Founding President of BCOM’s chapter of the Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA). At SOMA’s Fall Convention in 2017, I was elected to serve a second term on the National SOMA Board of Trustees as the National Treasurer. Presented a resolution advocating for repeal of the Dickey Amendment and public health research on gun violence at SOMA’s Spring House of Delegates. The resolution passed and will be presented at the American Osteopathic Association’s House of Delegates in July of 2018.

**Tip for Pre-Meds:**  
I encourage pre-med students to remember that there is more to becoming a physician than what you learn in the classroom. You’re going to feel pressure to ignore everything else in the world and to focus on school. Academics are crucial, but you are more than your test scores. When you applied to medical school, they wanted well-rounded applicants. This is because the world needs well-rounded physicians. Keep your passions alive, and take a role in advocacy. You will undoubtedly touch the lives of thousands of patients, but through advocacy you can impact millions.
MICHIELLE & MONIQUE DAVIS

Hometown: El Paso, Texas
Alma Mater: Our Lady of the Lake

BCOM Clubs/Awards/Notable Achievements: Michelle – Secretary for BCOM American College of Osteopathic Pediatricians Club, Member of LMSA. Monique – Member of ACOPOds Club, Las Cruces Event Coordinator for LMSA Chapter. Both - Members of the BCOM Bible Study, Members of SOMA at BCOM, Members of SOIMA Internal Medicine Club.

Tip for Pre-Meds:
You do not have to search far to find someone who might be in need or to make a difference. To help others, you just have to start with the person right next to you—within your own community—and go from there. The road to medical school and becoming a doctor is not for the faint of heart, but it is rewarding. Becoming a doctor requires courage to reach out and help others. As pre-meds, do not hesitate to answer the call to get involved and serve your community.

STEVE BERRUECOS

Hometown: Los Angeles, California
Alma Mater: University of California - San Diego

BCOM Clubs/Awards/Notable Achievements: Co-founded/Co-president of COMPASS. COMPASS is a medical student run organization that is dedicated to empower communities in Las Cruces through education, awareness, self-sufficiency and unity. This organization won a national grant from the Student Osteopathic Medical Association Foundation from which the funds were used to sponsor a community health fair involving BCOM, SOMA, the NM Department of Health, Mountain View Medical Center, and La Clinica de Familia.

Tip for Pre-Meds:
Students preparing to take the MCAT should treat studying for the exam like a job. Schedule your study time for the entire week, taking one day off to prevent burning out. Try to simulate testing conditions by studying in 95-minute blocks during the same start and end times as your exam day to help train your mind and body to stay focused. Best of luck. You can do this!
The Office of Students Affairs provides a variety of support services to enable our students to reach their personal and professional goals. Our friendly staff is available to assist students with any needs they may have.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS
BCOM places a high value on the mental health and overall physical wellness of our students. We offer a number of counseling and behavioral health resources to support the well-being of our students during their tenure. Through our partnership with New Mexico State University, all BCOM students have access to the NMSU Health and Wellness Center. As a nationally-accredited outpatient ambulatory health care center, it offers services in acute medical care, mental health, women's health, immunization and health education. Routine office visits are covered in BCOM’s tuition and fees.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES
While BCOM is a private and free-standing college, our unique partnership with New Mexico State University allows BCOM students to enjoy the student life and campus community benefits that come with a major public university. BCOM students may take advantage of many NMSU resources and services, such as athletic events, health resources, study areas, intramural sports, all recreational facilities, transportation, meal plans and more. Access to these resources are included in BCOM’s tuition and fees.

HOUSING
With a cost of living estimated below the national average, safe and affordable housing options are available both on and off campus. Interested in seeing available housing accommodations in beautiful Las Cruces? Visit the BCOM Student Housing page or connect with current students on the BCOM Housing Facebook page.

STUDENT LIFE
Students are encouraged to get involved with professional development, leadership and community service opportunities through participation in student government and the many student-run organizations. All BCOM students have the opportunity to be involved with student government and to join existing organizations or charter new organizations through the Office of Student Affairs. Follow the QR link to view all of BCOM's current student organizations and see how each has been hard at work, advocating for a brighter future both locally and globally.