AZCOM Program Level Educational Objectives

AZCOM curriculum incorporates its mission objectives into its programmatic level educational objectives. Midwestern University Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine educates students to become qualified osteopathic physicians who provide quality patient care, exhibit professionalism, and serve their communities.

The Mission will be achieved by meeting the following objectives:

1. **Incorporate Clinical Teaching into the Curriculum**

AZCOM graduates must be able to utilize the preclinical foundational knowledge to develop clinical/medical thinking in the last two clinical years of training and beyond. To assist in the development of critical thinking, clinical teaching begins in year 1 and continues throughout the curriculum. Upon entering year 3, students will be able to:

- Apply basic science knowledge to the assessment and treatment plan development for a patient.
- Demonstrate medical knowledge and evidence-based understanding on clinical rotations.
- Demonstrate osteopathic evaluation and treatment skills in the supervised care of patients.

2. **Incorporate osteopathic principles and practice including osteopathic manipulative treatment into the curriculum.**

Graduates of AZCOM receive instruction in osteopathic principles and practice and osteopathic manipulative treatment to provide holistic osteopathic medical care, mindful of the ability of the body to be self-healing and the interaction of the whole person (body, mind, and spirit). AZCOM students will be able to:

- Demonstrate osteopathic manipulative evaluation and treatment skills appropriately applied to patient care.
- Perform complete histories and physical examinations of patients, including osteopathic musculoskeletal examinations.
- Define biopsychosocial indicators of health for patients.
- Recognize and utilize indications and contraindications for osteopathic manipulative treatment.

3. **Incorporate basic scientific principles.**

Understanding basic scientific principles and how research is conducted will contribute to the assessment of the literature for osteopathic physicians to determine whether, when and how to apply the information in the scientific literature to the care of their patients. AZCOM students, by graduation, will be able to:

- Recall scientific principles and their application in medical and scientific literature.
- Apply the scientific basis of structure and function to the concepts of health and disease.
• Accurately interpret laboratory values as evaluated for patients.

4. **Provide opportunities for research and scholarly activity for students, residents, and faculty.**

Contributions to the body of scientific information is important to AZCOM in respect to its faculty, students, and residents. Providing opportunities for scholarly activity contributes to lifelong independent learning. AZCOM students are provided opportunities to voluntarily participate in research in all four years of the curriculum. Upon graduation from AZCOM, students will be able to:

• Define the need for Institutional Review Board evaluation of human clinical research to protect human subjects.
• Utilize research derived evidence-based information to improve clinical decision making through review of literature.

5. **Prepare students for COMLEX-USA Level 1, Level 2 CE, and Level 2 PE to support completion of the program and graduation.**

Successful completion of COMLEX-USA Levels 1, 2 CE and 2 PE are a requirement to graduate from AZCOM and to be licensed to practice in each of the 50 states. All graduates will:

• Report passage of COMLEX-USA Level 1.
• Report passage of COMLEX-USA Level 2 CE.
• Demonstrate at least minimum competency in those clinical skills that are evaluated by COMLEX-USA Level 2 PE.

6. **Demonstrate student acquisition of the osteopathic core competencies.**

AZCOM reviews its curriculum to assure that it provides education to allow all graduates to achieve the osteopathic core competencies to be able to provide quality patient care. AZCOM graduates will:

• Apply knowledge of the osteopathic principles and philosophy to the evaluation of patients and skills in the application of osteopathic manipulative treatment when appropriate.
• Apply medical knowledge and accepted practices to the care of patients.
• Show evidence of effective and safe patient care.
• Demonstrate their ability to effectively communicate with patients, their families, and the interprofessional health care team.
• Conduct themselves in a professional manner, with concern for their patients and respectfulness for themselves, their colleagues, and the community.
• Utilize current scientific evidence in the care of patients and the recognition of research methods and the need for continuous improvement in one’s medical knowledge.
• Discuss health care delivery systems and how they can be used to improve individual patient care.

7. **Assess the performance of AZCOM graduates.**

While it is important to assure that students are achieving the mission objectives while at AZCOM, it is of comparable or greater importance to understand the use of those skills and learning during by AZCOM graduates in their residency programs. Graduates will be assessed for:

• Application of the osteopathic core competencies in patient care.
• Demonstration of ability to provide timely care for patients in a hospital setting.

8. **Encourage participation in community service by students, residents, and faculty.**

Service to the community assists students in developing and encouraging an understanding of the cultural, environmental, and social aspects of health. Faculty working with students in these settings increases professional development. Students will:

• Demonstrate culturally sensitive care of at-risk homeless populations.
• Engage in educational programs for underserved populations.

9. **Support postgraduate training programs associated with Midwestern University including osteopathic recognition program development.**

The Midwestern University Consortium programs and other affiliated postgraduate medical education programs serve to educate students in residency programs. Those programs receive support for their residency programs, in the form of simulation training, library services, faculty development and more. These programs provide residency-based rotations for AZCOM students who will:

• Demonstrate the ability to work within a graduate medical education hierarchy.
• Develop skills identifying appropriate supervision of clinical performance.
• Match to residencies in their chosen fields of medicine.

10. **Equip students to be successful in residency placement.**

To practice osteopathic medicine, students must match to residency programs to be completed after graduation from AZCOM. Students will:

• Demonstrate competence on audition rotations.
• Examine and assess their affinities and skills for specialty residencies.
• Develop the skills necessary to prepare for residency interviews.
11. Provide faculty and staff development opportunities.

Faculty and staff must be prepared to support students throughout the four-year program. To achieve this, the faculty and staff must develop those skills necessary to support students, including education skills, understanding of the osteopathic profession, and knowledge of the clinical practice environment. Regular evaluations and surveys of faculty and students will help guide the needs, as will environmental factors that affect student learning. Faculty and staff will:

- Demonstrate student competence in their areas of content through internally written and nationally standardized examination outcomes.
- Maintain up-to-date content of information provided to students.

12. Provide financial literacy programs and events.

Students incur debt both in undergraduate and osteopathic medical school. It is important to their futures to handle the debt appropriately. MWU-AZCOM provides its students a rigorous program of financial awareness during their program. Students will:

- Evaluate their own debt and its repayment.
- Review information regarding means to limit debt load.

13. Support mental health and wellness for students, residents, and faculty.

Wellness requires a comprehensive approach, including access to care when wellness is not present and recognition of signs of mental stress (burnout, anxiety) and situations that may indicate lack of wellness. Students, residents, and faculty will:

- Convey information about behavioral health in a nonjudgmental way.
- Use a wellness focus in the care of their own health and in discussions with patients about their health.
- Safeguard patient and peer privacy and confidentiality.
- Strive to recognize the signs of burnout and the steps to alleviate burnout.