

The Valley College of Osteopathic Medicine

Student Retention

Policy Number: COM-9.2c

Effective Date: November 26, 2024

Revisions and Dates:

Approved by: Alissa Craft, DO, MBA, Dean

Policy & Procedure Statement

The Valley COM is focused on recruitment, evaluation and acceptance of qualified students who demonstrate the commitment to improve the health and wellbeing of our patients and communities. The Valley COM is committed to providing resources to support and retain qualified students who demonstrate appropriate academic and professional progress.

The Valley COM employs a variety of methods to support student retention and student success. All students will be assigned faculty advisors to provide formal and informal mentorship and academic advising support. Student academic engagement and academic performance will also be monitored formally through the Student Performance Committee (SPC) in order to provide early intervention strategies.

The Valley COM offers leave of absence when necessary and approved by the Office of Student Services. Throughout any leave of absence, The Valley COM student services remain available to students and will support students during their return to curricular activity.

The Office of Student Services provides academic counseling, career counseling, debt management counseling, wellness counseling, and confidential mental health counseling.

Faculty Advising, Coaching, and Mentoring

All students will be assigned faculty advisors to provide formal and informal mentorship and academic advising.

Peer Support

The Valley COM will maintain a collaborative network where students can receive guidance, encouragement, and emotional support from fellow students. These systems pair newer students with upperclassmen or provide group settings where students can share experiences, cope with challenges, and foster a sense of community. Peer support helps reduce stress, enhances well-being, and promotes academic success by creating a safe space for open communication, mentorship, and mutual support among peers.

Academic Counseling

The Office of Student Services provides academic counseling to support student learning (e.g. time management, study plans, learning styles, test taking) and other skill building to ensure academic success.

Career Counseling

The Office of Student Services provides essential guidance and resources to help students navigate their professional development. They assist students with career planning, the residency application process, and job placement, offering personalized counseling, interview preparation, and networking opportunities. Additionally, they collaborate with faculty and industry partners to connect students with relevant internships, volunteer experiences, and job openings, ensuring that graduates are well-prepared for successful careers in osteopathic medicine.

Wellness (Mental and Physical)

The Valley COM focuses on both emotional and physical well-being to ensure students are supported in all aspects of their health. This comprehensive service provides confidential counseling, stress management resources, and wellness programs, while also offering physical wellness initiatives such as fitness classes, access to gym facilities, and guidance on nutrition and sleep. Through individual therapy, group support, mindfulness practices, and educational workshops, students are empowered with tools to manage stress, prevent burnout, and maintain a healthy balance between their academic, personal, and physical lives. The goal is to help students build resilience and thrive both mentally and physically throughout their medical education.

Financial Aid/ Debt Management Counseling

The Valley COM helps students navigate the financial challenges of medical education. This service provides guidance on budgeting, managing student loans, and understanding financial aid options. Students receive personalized advice on reducing debt, maximizing scholarship opportunities, and planning for long-term financial stability. This counseling equips students with the tools and knowledge needed to make informed financial decisions, reduce financial stress, and ensures they can focus on their academic and professional goals while reducing financial concerns.