Diversity: Living our Mission
Who we are

Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine has been to excellence in medical education, research, and patient care. For over 40 years, RowanSOM has been leading the way in training the physicians of the future. Essential to that training is our commitment to diversity. In our very mission, RowanSOM pledges to “develop clinically skillful, compassionate and culturally competent physicians from diverse backgrounds, who are prepared to become leaders in their communities”. The faculty, staff, students and residents of RowanSOM live this mission of diversity every day.

Mission, Vision, Values

At RowanSOM, we have a mission statement that we live by as an entity every day. This mission drives our admissions, our faculty, our staff and our students. We have, in addition to this mission, a rigorous non-discrimination policy which ensures that the rights of all who come to us for education and employment are protected and enforced. This policy is very proscriptive and goes beyond what most organizations and Universities have today.

Mission

The Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine is dedicated to providing excellence in both undergraduate and graduate medical education, research and health care for New Jersey and the nation.

An emphasis on primary health care and community health services reflects the School’s osteopathic philosophy, with specialty care and centers of excellence demonstrating our commitment to innovation and quality in all endeavors.

The School seeks to develop clinically skillful, compassionate and culturally competent physicians from diverse backgrounds, who are prepared to become leaders in their communities.

Vision

To be the best osteopathic medical school in the nation by providing a premier, dynamic academic environment that attracts and nurtures outstanding faculty, staff, and students who are dedicated to our mission to promote health and treat illness.

Essential Values and Guiding Principles

Collegiality, Compassion, Diversity, Excellence, Innovation, Integrity
Admissions

RowanSOM has lead the way amongst medical schools in the nation in recruiting and enrolling a diverse student population. Essential to this success is our holistic review process. Our Admissions Committee continually approaches student enrollment from a focus of inclusion and diversity. Our applicant data demonstrates our ongoing success in recruiting a diverse student population.

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Recruitment and Outreach

Our various continued admissions programs ensure increased interest in osteopathic medicine by students from diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds. Some of those efforts are summarized below:

- Medical Science Academy - 28 Week medical exploration program for 12th grade honor students
- DO ShaDOw Program - Program for 10-12th grade students, shadowing medical students for the day
- Williamstown Allied Health Academy- Two day seminar for 10th grade students, series of structured workshops by clinical faculty, basic science faculty, nurses, medical students
- Garden AHEC Medical Explorers- Local high school students, visits to school, history of Osteopathic Medicine, OMM Demonstrations
- Stemtastic - Annual STEM Conference for 6th, 7th, 8th grade females around STEM careers. Additional annual STEM Conference for 8th and 9th grade females around STEM careers.
- Woodland Community Development SAT Prep Program- 11th Grade students offered free SAT prep by Kaplan, financial aid workshops, scholarship opportunities and tours of campus.

Further outreach occurs regularly and includes:

- Rowan University’s Achieve the Dream Program
- Rowan University’s Minority Association of Pre-Health Students (MAPS)
- Seton Hall University Pre-Medical/Pre-Dental Association
- Rutgers University ODASIS (Office of Diversity and Success in the Sciences)
- Montclair State University’s Health Career Program
- Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Medical Explorers Program
- Camden Academy Charter High School
- Charles Brimm Medical Arts High School
Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to incorporate cultural competency, preparing future physicians to care for patients of all backgrounds.

- On Doctoring course (1st and 2nd year) - integrated teaching at local Area Health Educational Centers (AHECs). Students also participate in a three-hour session on implicit bias.

- Clin. Med course (2nd year) - case-based learning which integrates psychosocial training. Cases are written to challenge students to consider medical treatments and interventions along with a patient’s background, religion, race, ethnicity, etc.

- Our current curriculum renewal process is proposing to further integrate community service learning, including three-year longitudinal course work.
Student Affairs

Once students become part of the RowanSOM family, we remain focused on supporting their development. The Office of Student Affairs is dedicated to providing support, advocacy and guidance for the medical students at Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine. Student affairs promotes student involvement in professional organizations, community service projects, and extracurricular educational activities.

Student Clubs

AAPI- American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin
APAMSA- Asian Pacific American Medical Students Association
CMDA- Christian Medical and Dental Association
GSA- Gay Straight Alliance
IDEA Council- strives to promote dialogue, social justice and intellectual inquiry among a community of individuals from diverse backgrounds and with varied goals and interests.
JOMA- Jewish Osteopathic Medical Association
NOWPA- National Osteopathic Women’s Physician Association
MAPS- Minority Association of Pre-Medical Students
SNMA- Student National Medical Association

Community Service

Community service activities are woven throughout the student experience. During orientation, students are required to perform community service within the region. Additional community service opportunities are provided throughout each year.

Community Grand Rounds

Focusing on a variety of inter-professional topics, our community grand rounds provide faculty, staff and students opportunities for continuing education. Many of these offerings are provided by our student groups, and focus on developing cultural competency and awareness.
Other

Giving
Through funds raised by our Alumni association and our Office of Advancement, RowanSOM provides scholarships, funding for research, conference participation and service learning. This funding ensures all students have an opportunity to succeed, and have lower debt burdens.

Diversity Task Force
Dean Thomas Cavalieri established the RowanSOM Diversity Task Force in 2016. The objective of the RowanSOM Diversity Task Force is to advance RowanSOM’s mission of diversity by creating a truly diverse, tolerant, and inclusive community. This group includes faculty, staff, students, residents from the various departments of RowanSOM.