

Dear Applicants, Advisors, and Friends,

We at Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU) College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific (COMP)-Northwest recognize that these unprecedented times may have impacted your ability to complete your coursework and volunteerism in time for your application to medical school. Therefore, it is extremely important that we provide you with clear direction when completing your application to our school. In alignment with the guidelines provided by Dr. Robert A. Cain, AACOM President & Chief Executive Officer, we will continue our custom of providing a holistic review of all applications. This includes the following.

- Accept all pass/fail/satisfactory coursework, regardless of whether your school required this, including prerequisite coursework. This coursework will be evaluated in the context of your entire academic history.
- Accept all online coursework, including laboratory courses.
- Review your application without all required laboratory coursework, if you can demonstrate that your institution was unable to provide these courses due to COVID-19. A letter from the registrar will suffice.
- Review your application in consideration for an interview prior to receiving your MCAT exam scores. Once we receive your MCAT exam scores we will take these into consideration for admission.
- Take into consideration that your health care experience hours and other extracurricular experiences may have been impacted by the pandemic.
- Continue to require a letter of recommendation from a physician, preferably a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine. Please see the rules for letters of recommendation in the Secondary Application Instructions. If you cannot provide a letter of recommendation from a physician, please provide us with a written statement explaining how COVID-19 has impacted your ability to obtain a letter of recommendation from a physician.

We also endorse the following AACOMAS recommendations:

*“If you plan to take an MCAT exam, please ensure you are currently registered for an upcoming exam and indicate your planned MCAT date in your AACOMAS application. We encourage you to apply early and when ready without MCAT scores. As in previous application cycles, AACOMAS does not delay the delivery of your application without MCAT scores.*

*If any of your institutions cannot provide official transcripts due to this pandemic, the AACOMAS application will provide an exception process for you to get your application verified and delivered to the colleges you select in your AACOMAS application. Keep in mind that our college will require official transcripts when operations resume at your previously attended institutions.*

*It would add value to your AACOMAS application to answer the COVID-19 essay that will be presented to you. This is your opportunity to highlight how you have dealt with and shown perseverance during this pandemic.”*

Although our process has changed, I assure you that our focus on students has not. Your goals and aspirations of becoming a physician are important to us, and we are working hard to make your experience as meaningful and efficient as possible. On behalf of our COMP- Northwest administration, faculty and staff, we are honored to receive your application and look forward to getting to know more about you. I applaud you for holding tight to your dreams and thank you for allowing our COMP- Northwest family to be a part of that journey.

Sincerely,



Paula M. Crone, DO  
Vice President, WesternU Oregon  
Dean, College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific and COMP-Northwest