

U.S. Department of Education Staff Report

to the

Senior Department Official on Recognition Compliance Issues

Recommendation Page

1. **Agency:** American Osteopathic Association (1952 / 2018)
(The dates provided are the date of initial listing as a recognized agency and the date of the agency's last grant of recognition.)
2. **Action Item:** Petition for Continued Recognition
3. **Current Scope of Recognition:** The accreditation and preaccreditation ("Provisional Accreditation") throughout the United States of freestanding institutions of osteopathic medicine and of osteopathic medical programs leading to the degree of Doctor of Osteopathy or Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine.
4. **Requested Scope of Recognition:** Same as above.
5. **Date of Advisory Committee Meeting:** 07/27/2021
6. **Staff Recommendation:** Renew the agency's recognition for five years.
7. **Issues or Problems:** None.

Executive Summary

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGENCY

The Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) is a standing committee of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). The COCA currently accredits 33 osteopathic colleges of medicine and another four have a status of pre-accreditation. Because these osteopathic medical education programs may be offered in either freestanding institutions offering only these programs or in larger institutions offering other educational programs, the agency is considered both an institutional and programmatic accreditor.

Of the 37 colleges of osteopathic medicine accredited or pre-accredited by AOA COCA, five are located in freestanding institutions. For these institutions, AOA COCA accreditation is a required element in enabling them to establish eligibility to participate in Title IV, HEA programs. The Department received no third-party comments in reference to AOA COCA.

Recognition History

The AOA COCA, as previously configured, was first recognized by the U.S. Commissioner of Education in 1952 and has received periodic renewal of recognition since then. The agency was reviewed for continued recognition at the August 2016 NACIQI Meeting and the agency received continued recognition by the Senior Department Official (SDO), as indicated in the October 2016 decision letter. The SDO's letter also indicated the agency was required to come into compliance with many areas of the Secretary's criteria within twelve months and the agency had to submit a compliance report 30 days thereafter demonstrating compliance. The SDO found the agency compliant and granted recognition for 3 years, as indicated in the August 2018 decision letter. The agency submitted an application for renewal of recognition for review at the summer 2021 NACIQI meeting and that application is the subject of this analysis.

PART II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The agency meets the requirements of the Secretary's Criteria for Recognition.

PART III: THIRD PARTY COMMENTS

The Department did not receive any written third - party comments regarding this agency.