



MASTER'S DEGREE POLICY

EFFECTIVE DATE:	5/13/2024	NEXT REVIEW:	2/1/2026
APPROVAL:	Policy Committee, CAC	DATE:	3/21/2024
CATEGORY:	Academic		
APPLIES TO:	Students in the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) Program		
CONTACT:	COM Registrar		

REFERENCES AND RELATED POLICIES:

See also: MSUCOM COMLEX Policy
See also: MSUCOM Student Performance and Academic Standing Policy
See also: Graduate Students Rights & Responsibilities
See also: MSU Graduate School Policies
See also: MSU Graduate School Research Integrity

PURPOSE

The M.S. degree in Basic Medical Science is designed as a post-hoc offering, exclusively catering to osteopathic medical students who have successfully completed the first two years (preclerkship) of medical school but choose not to continue with the D.O. degree or are ineligible to do so based on board exam outcomes. The program presents a unique opportunity for these students to attain a specialized degree that acknowledges their educational achievements and provides a pathway to alternative careers in healthcare or related fields.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

To be considered eligible for the M.S. in Basic Medical Science program, students must meet the following criteria:

1. Be currently enrolled and successfully complete the first two years (preclerkship) of the D.O. program, including the courses outlined in the program curriculum.
2. Elect not to continue with the pursuit of the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree OR be deemed ineligible to complete the D.O. program based on failure to achieve a passing score within three attempts on COMLEX 1 within one year.
3. Students must be in an acceptable academic and professional standing as deemed by the administrative designee. Any issues related to academic performance or

professional conduct will be carefully evaluated and will determine eligibility for consideration into the program.

4. Students who are ineligible to advance in the DO program due to professional conduct issues would not be eligible for this MS program.

Program Restrictions

A student can enroll within the master's program within the following two semesters after deciding to leave the D.O. program or failing to obtain a passing score on COMLEX with three attempts or the deadline given. Once a student enrolls in the M.S. program, they will not be eligible to return to pursue the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree at MSUCOM or appeal their return. The M.S. degree will not be conferred to those who successfully complete the entire four-year curriculum and receive the D.O. degree. This restriction ensures that students who have completed the D.O. program and obtained the degree will not be eligible for a dual degree.

Enrollment Process

Eligible students, who have either completed or are close to completing the first two years of the medical school curriculum (semesters one-six), and have met the eligibility criteria above, will be offered the opportunity to complete a degree in the M.S. in Basic Medical Science program. Eligible students will switch from the Osteopathic Medicine (OMED) career to the graduate (GRAD) career to enroll in the four-credit capstone course.

Along with the first six semesters of the D.O. program, students will be required to take and pass OST 899 Capstone Research Experience (four-credits and Plan A Thesis or Plan B Thesis) which must be completed within one full semester of entry into the M.S. Program. Students qualifying for an incomplete grade would be expected to complete the capstone experience no later than the middle of the next semester, consistent with university policy.