

3.3 CORE Membership

3.3.1 Conditions of Membership - Conditions of membership in the CORE System shall be established by the CORE Board (CB), hereafter referred to as “the Board”. Interest of an Ohio Hospital’s membership in the CORE System shall be disclosed in advance to affected member hospital(s) in the same geographic area for the opportunity to provide input to the Executive Committee of the CORE Board. Acceptance of a new hospital member shall be affirmed or denied based on demonstrated quality academic programming for osteopathic medical education. AOA and/or Joint Commission accreditation shall be a requirement for Central and Participating membership. All participating hospitals will: 1) establish Osteopathic Departments/ Sections of Osteopathic Services and provide some method of support to be determined by each individual hospital; 2) be members of the American Osteopathic Association Council of Hospitals; 3) provide in their Hospital Bylaws that they recognize and accept specialty certification through the AOA on an equal basis with those certifying boards recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) for the purpose of hospital privileges; 4) obtain Federal Wide Assurance as of July, 2002; 5) institute and maintain an Institutional Review Board (IRB) according to federal regulations; 6) notify the OPTI Central Site office at OU-COM of any substantive program change(s) that have been made with follow-up notification to the appropriate AOA Specialty College; and 7) implement Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institution (OPTI) standards, policies and procedures. As a result of Co-sponsored Graduate Medical Education Programs, the OPTI is accountable for compliance and quality of all training programs within its consortium. Thus, all CORE Hospitals with GME programs regardless of category of membership must have their residents participate in respective RPAC. Also, the hospitals and the college are required to respond to corrective plans to all deficiencies cited by program inspections in accordance with established policy. Institutions that comprise the consortium will acknowledge and abide by the OPTI requirements by reviewing and accepting the annual report 30 days prior to the deadline for submission to the AOA’s Council on Postdoctoral Training Institutions (COPTI). The Board reserves the right to establish additional reasonable standards and requirements as needed for participation in the CORE System. Upon proper notice to the member, the privileges of membership (e.g., use of the OU-COM name, inclusion in CORE advertising, participation in CORE activities, use of CORE resources, etc.) may be suspended, limited, or canceled by the Board when individual members do not meet established standards and requirements for membership. Such suspension or limitation may be removed at any time as determined by the Board.

3.3.2 Membership Status - The CORE System shall include five categories of membership - Central, Participating, Associate, Affiliate, and Ancillary. Each membership category has specific requirements and privileges established by the Board. Charter and system hospitals shall have special designations in addition to their category of membership.

- **Central Membership** – Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine (OU-COM), because of its central role in executing contracts with individual

hospitals and in providing the largest single financial and in-kind contribution to the support of the CORE System, is recognized as the **Central Member**. OU-COM serves as the College of Osteopathic Medicine member, along with other hospital partners, needed to comprise an Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training Institution (OPTI). OU-COM shall establish a CORE office at or near each Participating Hospital to provide student support services. The CORE office staff will schedule students for rotations at all CORE member hospitals and within hospital systems.

- **Participating Membership** - Hospitals with AOA-approved Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs and participate as full members in the CORE System, shall be recognized as **Participating Members**. The past and present Participating Hospitals are listed in Addendum 1*. Osteopathic medical students will be based only at Participating Member hospitals. The addition of new Participating Members and the methods of their incorporation will be defined by all existing Participating Members in conjunction with the Central Member. Recommendations must be submitted to the CORE Finance Committee (CFC) for consideration. Approval will require a super-majority or two-thirds vote of the Board. Conditions and payments for becoming a Participating Member shall be established by the CFC and ratified by the Board in accordance with the approved fiscal year (July 1- June 30) CORE System budget.
- **Associate Membership** – Hospitals and Clinics with or without AOA and/or ACGME-approved Graduate Medical Education (GME) programs that do not become full Participating Members in the CORE System shall be recognized as **Associate Members**. The past and present Associate Members are listed in Addendum 2*. Osteopathic medical students will not be based at Associate Member hospitals. The addition of new Associate Members and the methods of their incorporation will be defined by all existing Participating Members in conjunction with the Central Member. Recommendations must be submitted to the CFC for consideration. Approval will require a super majority or two-thirds vote of the Board. Conditions and payments for becoming an Associate Member shall be established by the CFC and ratified by the Board in accordance with the approved fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) CORE System budget.
- **Affiliate Membership** - Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (COM) other than OU-COM that participate in the CORE System shall be recognized as **Affiliate Members**. The past and present Affiliate Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (ACOM) are listed in Addendum 3*. The addition of new Affiliate Members and the method of incorporation will be defined by the CORE Academic Steering Committee (CASC). Recommendations must be submitted to the CFC for consideration. Approval will require super-majority or two-thirds vote of the CORE Board. COM Affiliate Members must belong to the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM). Additional conditions and requirements for becoming a COM Affiliate Member shall be established by the Board.

- **Ancillary Membership** – Hospitals or clinics that do not meet the requirements to be an Associate Member, non-osteopathic colleges or other universities that participate in the CORE System shall be recognized as Ancillary Members. The past and present Ancillary Members are listed in Addendum 4*. Recommendations must be submitted to the CFC for consideration. Conditions as well as the required initial and annual payments for becoming an Ancillary Member shall be established by the Board on an individual basis.

3.3.3 Special Designations

- **Charter Hospital** - Those hospitals that initially participated in organizing the statewide osteopathic medical education consortium, provided a direct financial contribution to establish the CORE System, and formally became a CORE member within two months of its establishment in 1995, shall be designated as a **Charter Hospital**. The original eleven (11) Charter Hospitals, of which nine (9) remain in the CORE System, are listed in Addendum 5* with history of name changes. Any Charter Hospitals undergoing mergers or acquisitions that intend to retain Charter status must send a letter of intent to the Chairperson of the Board and specify if there has been a change in the name of the hospital.
- **System Hospital** – Those Participating and Associate Members that belong to the same healthcare system (e.g., OhioHealth, SUMMA Health System, Humility of Mary Health Partners, Cleveland Clinic Health System, etc.) and want to support osteopathic medical education shall be designated as system hospitals. A system of hospitals must be comprised of at least one Participating Member and either additional Participating Member(s) and/or Associate Member(s).
- **Provisional Hospital** – All newly accepted hospitals shall be given a provisional membership designation for a minimum of one (1) year which could remain in effect for up to five (5) years. The CORE Board or Executive Committee of the CORE Board determines if a new hospital is given provisional membership status. This designation allows full participation in the CORE System while the institution demonstrates quality academic programming for osteopathic medical education. A hospital's provisional membership status will be reviewed annually by the CORE Academic Steering Committee (CASC) to determine progress towards meeting quality measures. The CASC will approve removal of the provisional membership designation with ratification by the CORE Board.

3.3.4 Membership Application and Fees - Membership in the CORE System will follow a prescribed procedure and will become effective upon completion of contractual arrangements. Every application for membership must specify the level of membership desired and shall be accompanied by a one-time application fee established by the CORE Finance Committee. Start up costs determined by the CORE Finance Committee are to be borne by the applicant. Participating Hospitals are required to make an upfront contribution to the CORE Reserve (*See Article VII,*

Section 3). All members must pay annual dues and fees as required and outlined in the CORE Participation Agreements.

- 3.3.5 Membership Standing** - Any member whose dues are fully paid, or who has met requirements for the level of membership elected, and who is not in arrears in any other fees, dues, charges, or responsibilities shall be considered in good standing and, unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws, shall be entitled to all the CORE services and rights provided for that level of membership. Members who are late making their payments to the CORE System shall not be considered in good standing and shall be subject to the delinquent payment procedures stated in the Participation Agreements. A hospital not in good standing shall become ineligible for refunds or revenue distribution including its portion of the CORE Reserve.
- 3.3.6 Membership Renewal** - The Board may place reasonable limits upon the renewal of any membership. The offer of renewal of membership including any conditions or limitations with respect thereto shall be established during the contract renewal process. Signing a new Participation Agreement with OU-COM shall constitute acceptance of such offer. Any member wishing to change its CORE association must send a letter of intent, prior to September 1, to the Chairperson of the Board specifying the requested change in venue.
- 3.3.7 Membership Termination** - Members may terminate their membership pursuant to the terms of their Participation Agreement with OU-COM. A hospital intending to terminate its membership for the subsequent fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) must submit written notice to the Chair of the CORE Finance Committee no later than September 1.