



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

142 E. Ontario St., Chicago, IL 60611-2864 | ph (888) 62-MYAOA (888-626-9262)

COMMISSION ON OSTEOPATHIC COLLEGE ACCREDITATION

VIA EMAIL ONLY: ttold@rvu.edu

May 21, 2019

Thomas N. Told, DO
Dean and Chief Academic Affairs Officer
Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine
8401 Chambers Road
Parker, CO 80134

Dear Dr. Told:

At its April 25 - 28, 2019 meeting, the American Osteopathic Association's Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) reviewed and accepted Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine's (RVUCOM) comprehensive site report without amendments.¹ The COCA thanks you for attending the meeting to provide information and answer questions raised by the commissioners.

Commissioners Dr. Jennifer Gwilym, Hon. Patricia Mitchell, and Dr. Kayse Shrum were absent from the meeting and did not participate in the deliberation or vote on this matter.

Following its review of RVUCOM's site visit report, and upon motion and second, the COCA concurred with the site visit team's recommendation that the following elements were not met:

Element 8.2: Student Participation

While RVUCOM has policies and procedures with respect to student participation in research and scholarly activity, interviews conducted with RVUCOM's students at both of its campuses did not bare out the intended outcomes of these policies and procedures. From those interviews, the site visit team concluded that fewer students participated in research and scholarly activity than could be supported through RVUCOM's submissions under this element. In addition, the student survey confirmed the student interviews regarding student participation in research and scholarly activity.

RVUCOM's submission in support of this element indicated that of 625 students, 25 students participated in research and scholarly activity. However, during RVUCOM's presentation at the meeting, this statistic was refuted and asserted to be higher. Please provide the statistics (for both campuses) on which you rely to support compliance with this element.

¹ The COCA makes no amendment to the site visit report submitted by the site visit team. In that report, the site visit team recommended that Elements 8.2 and 9.10 were not met.

Element 9.10: Non-Academic Health Professionals

The COCA acknowledges RVUCOM's policy entitled, "Conflicts of Interest & Student Confidentiality in the Clinical Setting" (updated October 31, 2018). This policy, however, apparently was not followed, particularly during the site visit. During the site visit, the site visit team discovered that a faculty member was in a therapeutic relationship with a student in violation of the policy. While the campus dean immediately enforced the policy and terminated that relationship, the fact of the violation remains.

Please submit further information with respect to: 1) any follow up with all clinical staff with respect to complying with the policy; 2) ensuring future compliance with the policy; 3) monitoring compliance with the policy; and 4) ensuring notice of the policy to all faculty and clinical staff.

The foregoing elements are non-core elements. Therefore, the COCA grants continuing ACCREDITATION status to RVUCOM. This accreditation status will be effective for seven (7) years. A progress report addressing the foregoing unmet elements is due by July 1, 2019 in COCA-Online and will be reviewed by the COCA at the August 2019 COCA meeting.

The next monitoring event for RVUCOM's accreditation status will occur through the annual report which will be administered in December 2019. RVUCOM's mid-cycle report will be due on February 1, 2022. The instructions for submitting mid-cycle reports are available at www.aoacoca.org for your reference. RVUCOM's accreditation will be reevaluated with a comprehensive site visit in the academic year 2025-2026.

This accreditation action will be reported to the U.S. Department of Education, the Colorado Department of Higher Education, the Utah System of Higher Education, and the Higher Learning Commission. The COCA will post this decision on the COCA website for public dissemination.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Department of Accreditation at 312-202-8124 (predoc@osteopathic.org) or me directly at 312-202-8039 or 312-937-3903 (bkim@osteopathic.org).

Sincerely,



Brian G. Kim, JD
Secretary, Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation

CC: Janice A. Knebl, DO, MBA, FACOI, FACP, Chair, COCA
David A. Forstein, DO, FACOOG, Vice Chair, COCA
Clinton E. Adams, DO, MPA, FACHE, President, RVUCOM
Peter Freytag, Chief Operating Office and CEO, RVUCOM
David J. Park, DO, FAAFP, FACOFP, Campus Dean, RVUCOM-SU