



Sent via email only: clafontano@rvu.edu bwilde@rvu.edu

September 17, 2026

Christopher LaFontano, DO
Acting Dean Rocky Vista University
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Ben Wilde, DO, FAAFP
Acting Dean Rocky Vista University
Montana College of Osteopathic Medicine
4130 Rocky Vista Way
Billings, MT 59106

Dear Dr. LaFontano and Dr. Wilde:

At its meeting on August 27, 2026, the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) reviewed materials submitted as part of a request for reconsideration by the Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine (RVUCOM), including its additional location in Ivins, Utah, and its branch campus in Billings, Montana (RVU-MCOM).

The request for reconsideration was regarding the review of RVUCOM's comprehensive site visit by the COCA at its meeting on April 30-May 1, 2026. The request for reconsideration concerned Element 6.6: Principles of Osteopathic Medicine, which was found Not Met at that meeting.

Per COCA policies, a program making a request for reconsideration may not submit new material that was not considered as part of the finding. However, it may submit an explanation as to why it is believed that the COCA's finding was subject to bias, injustice, factual error, or significant departure from established procedures and policies.

Following a review of the materials submitted as part of RVUCOM's request for reconsideration and upon a motion and second, the COCA voted to find Element 6.6: Principles of Osteopathic Medicine, Met.

In its review, the COCA determined that the materials submitted as part of RVUCOM's comprehensive site visit did include evidence that licensed and credentialed osteopathic physicians are involved in the direct supervision of students in the OMM labs at both RVUCOM campuses and the RVU-MCOM campus, as required.

No further action is required with regard to Element 6.6.

The COCA's other findings, outlined in my letter of May 19, 2026, remain unchanged:

Element 3.1: Financial Resources (CORE) – Met with Monitoring

Please submit a monitoring report on the status of RVUCOM's USDE Title IV authorization by October 11, 2026, for review at the COCA's December 2026 meeting.

Element 6.10: Clinical Experience – Met with Monitoring (monitoring report due October 11, 2026)

Element 9.4: Secure Student Record Keeping – Not Met (progress report due October 11, 2026)

Element 11.3: Student Debt Outcomes – Met with Monitoring (monitoring report due June 27, 2027)

All other elements were found to be Met.

In further action, upon motion and second, the COCA voted to grant RVUCOM the accreditation status of Accreditation for a period of seven years. This status also applies to RVU-MCOM as a branch campus. This status indicates that a COM is compliant with all Core elements but is not compliant with one or more non-Core elements (Element 9.4).

A mid-cycle report will be due in March 2030 for review by the COCA at its August 2030 meeting. RVU-COM's next comprehensive site visit will be held during the 2033-2034 academic year. Other monitoring will be conducted in accordance with COCA policies. COCA staff will contact you prior to these monitoring activities.

This accreditation finding will be reported to the U.S. Department of Education, the Higher Learning Commission, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, and the Montana University System. The State of Utah does not have an agency that approves private higher education institutions.

COCA Commissioners Christiana Cole, OMS IV; Michael Finley, DO; and Ryan Ottwell, DO, were absent from this meeting. Commissioners Nadege Dady, EdD, and James Turner, DO, were recused from the discussion and vote on this matter. Commissioners Linda Boyd, DO; Kieren Knapp, DO; and Dylan Hurley, OMS III, abstained from the vote on this matter. Brian Kessler, DO, acting as Chair of this meeting, abstained from the vote in the absence of a tie vote.

Please contact me at (312) 202-8095 or dmendelson@osteopathic.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Daniel Mendelson, EdD, CAE
Vice President, Accreditation and COCA Secretary

CC: Robyn Phillips-Madson, DO, FACOFP, COCA Chair
Brian Kessler, DO, DHA, FACOP dist., COCA Vice Chair