



Policy Title: Support for Graduate Medical Education
Functional Area: ADMINISTRATIVE

Status: Final
Effective: 12/6/2017
Approved by: Leadership Council
Policy Contact: Associate Dean for GME
Responsible Office: Office of Graduate Medical Education
Last Reviewed/Updated: March 17, 2024

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to provide a mechanism for the SOM to assist new and existing graduate medical education (GME) programs in meeting the requirements for accreditation and osteopathic recognition through the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

Policy Statement

- 1) Description
 - a) To meet the mission and to serve the South Texas community, UIWSOM must endeavor to graduate physicians who will remain in the region. Given the relative shortage of postgraduate training positions in South Texas, it is imperative to develop new GME programs and support quality improvement of existing programs. This strengthens UIWSOM's clinical clerkships and provides additional opportunities for both students and residents. To continue to train these residents in the philosophy and techniques unique to the profession, UIWSOM must assist affiliated programs with obtaining Osteopathic Recognition.
- 2) Primary goals
 - a) Develop new GME programs in the region
 - b) Provide leadership, academic infrastructure, and financial support to new and existing GME programs
 - c) Assist affiliated GME programs in obtaining Osteopathic Recognition
- 3) Secondary goals
 - a) Expand opportunities for future graduates to continue their training in the region
 - b) Continue education of osteopathic principles and practices in trainees after graduation
 - c) Address issues of access for primary care in underserved areas
- 4) Participants
 - a) Office of Graduate Medical Education (OGME)
 - b) Academic Affairs including Clinical and Applied Science Education (CASE), Office of Clinical Affairs (OCA), Office of Faculty Affairs (OFA), Office of Medical Education (OME)

- c) UIWSOM Administration
- d) Community Partners

5) Resources

- a) Texas Institute for Graduate Medical Education and Research (TIGMER)
- b) UIWSOM Faculty
- c) UIW Finance Department
- d) UIW Office of Grants and Accounting
- e) UIW Human Resources
- f) Library Services
- g) UIWSOM Facilities (Classrooms, offices, technology, OPP Lab, Sim Center, etc.)

6) Methods

- a) In 2016, UIWSOM established TIGMER, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit consortium with UIW as the sole corporate member. TIGMER is UIWSOM's graduate medical education arm that provides synergistic opportunities to advance the continuum of osteopathic medical education. The Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education serves as the Chair of the TIGMER Board of Directors.
- b) TIGMER provides financial and academic feasibility studies for interested clinical institutions and consults with hospital staff and administration on GME development.
- c) TIGMER actively seeks federal, state, local, and private sources of funding for GME development.
- d) TIGMER is an ACGME accredited Institutional Sponsor and the Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education is the ACGME Designated Institutional Official (DIO).
- e) TIGMER contracts with hospitals and clinics, employs residents, staff, and faculty for the GME programs.
- f) TIGMER and UIWSOM work with their affiliated residency programs to obtain Osteopathic Recognition.
- g) UIW provides funding, personnel, library services, Human Resources, financial auditing, offices, technology, and infrastructure to support TIGMER.
- h) UIWSOM provides, when appropriate, start-up funds or in-kind services for new programs.
- i) TIGMER faculty are awarded the academic rank of either Assistant Professor or Adjunct Clinical Faculty from UIWSOM. This appointment grants the faculty members access to various resources including faculty development and education support to include library access.
- j) UIWSOM faculty will collaborate with TIGMER residency programs to meet the requirements of Osteopathic Recognition.
- k) UIWSOM Clerkship Director for Osteopathic Principles and Practice, Longitudinal Integrated Core Clerkship (OPP_LIC) or designee is an ex-officio member of the TIGMER Graduate Medical Education Council.

7) Guidelines

- a) N/A

- 8) Procedures.
 - a) As an ACGME accredited Institutional Sponsor, TIGMER maintains its own policy and procedures which can be found at www.TIGMER.com.
 - b) UIWSOM has supported the development of five residency programs and two fellowship programs thus far. Since 2022, TIGMER and UIWSOM have developed proposals for new programs in the following specialties: dermatology, family medicine, internal medicine, neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, ophthalmology, orthopedic surgery, pediatrics, and sports medicine. TIGMER and UIWSOM are collaborating to develop a new family medicine residency program in Schertz, Texas. The application is scheduled to be submitted to the ACGME in April 2024. Additionally, TIGMER is working with University Health to sponsor an advanced endoscopy fellowship.