Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences Program
Admissions Process and Procedures

This document details the admissions process and procedures employed by the Graduate Program Committee for students applying to the Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences Program at the Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine (KCOM) of A. T. Still University of Health Sciences.

1. The application for admission to the Biomedical Sciences Program is available online at: (http://www.atsu.edu/kcom/admissions/preparing_MS_admission/application_checklist.htm).

2. Deadline for Applications. The deadline for receipt of applications is March 1, and the deadline for on-campus interviews is April 1.

3. Prescreening. Once your completed application has been received and processed, your file will move to the Graduate Program Committee for “prescreening.” During this process, your application will be reviewed to assure compliance with minimum required standards for the program (as published online). In addition, the prescreening process will attempt to ascertain your suitability for the program. Since the majority of applicants aspire to move from the Masters program to the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program (or another professional program, such as dental), it is important to discern your potential to move into such programs at the conclusion of the Masters program. For example, it is very unlikely that even if successful in the Masters program, that someone will be accepted into the DO program if they have taken the MCAT and received only very low scores. Similarly, low GRE or low DAT scores influence this review.

4. Invitation for an On-Campus Interview. If it is determined that you project as a viable candidate for the Masters program, you will be invited to KCOM for an on-campus interview. Applicants are encouraged to bring their significant other, a parent(s), or friend with them for the day, if they so desire.

5. The Interview Day. The interview day begins at 8:00 a.m. with an informational session, followed by three personal interviews (two with basic science faculty and one with an admissions counselor). Tours and informational activities are arranged for significant others that may be present. After lunch with graduate student ambassadors and significant others, the student ambassadors escort the applicants and their significant others on a walking tour of campus. At the close of the interview day, time is allotted for any final questions, and the applicants are bid farewell by about 3 p.m.

6. Candidate Evaluations. Each interviewer submits a written evaluation of the applicant to the Graduate Program Committee. These evaluations are considered when applicants are reviewed for acceptance to the Masters program.

7. Student Selection Process. After interviews are complete, the Graduate Program Committee will meet to review all applicants and to rank them. Applicants will be ranked based on several categories, including, but not limited to: results of interviews and evaluations, academic record, performance on standardized tests (e.g., MCAT, DAT, GRE), letters of reference, personal statement, prior research experience, etc. The highest ranking applicants will be offered seats in
the incoming class, as available, while the next tier of applicants will be categorized as Alternates. Applicants designated as Alternates, as well as those who will not be offered a seat, will be notified of their standing by email.

8. Applicants in the Accepted group will be notified via email and will receive a packet of information in the mail. This packet will include all required information for acceptance of the seat in the incoming class. Submission of this information and deposit is required to hold a seat. Accepted students will have two weeks to complete and return all required paperwork and deposit.

9. If an accepted applicant decides not to accept the offered seat, the chair of the Graduate Program Committee may offer the open seat to an Alternate. The Alternate will be notified via email and will receive a packet of information in the mail. This packet will include all required information for acceptance of the seat in the incoming class. Submission of this information and deposit is required to hold a seat. The student will have two weeks to complete and return all required paperwork and deposit.

10. New student orientation for Semester 1 begins during the second week of July. Classes start concurrent with the start of the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program in mid-July.

11. All graduate students are required to take three DO foundation level courses during their first semester and at least three other DO courses in their area of study during the second and/or third semesters.

12. Graduate students who are interested in applying for admission to either the DO program or another post-graduate program are encouraged to submit their application at the conclusion of the semester 2 (at the end of May). At this time, the student’s DO courses and most of the Graduate Program courses will have been completed which helps ensure that the Admissions Committee will have a good sense of the student’s academic ability, as well as their personal and professional characteristics. The completion of the secondary application in mid-to-late summer will position the second-year graduate student to interview for postgraduate programs in the fall. This will ensure that they will know their status for the coming year well in advance which allows the graduate student time to focus on completing any remaining course work and their research and thesis well before the start of professional school.

For additional program information, please consult the ATSU website at www.atsu.edu/kcom and go to the Biomedical Sciences program. If you would like contact the Graduate Program, contact Dr. Bill Sexton at 660.626.2324 or wsexton@atsu.edu. If you would like to speak with an Admissions Counselor, please contact Admissions at 660.626.2237 or admissions@atsu.edu.