

Frequently Used Terms

Acronym or Term	Meaning
AAMC	Association of American Medical Colleges
ACLS	Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (certification)
AACOM	American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
AACOMAS	The centralized online application service for US colleges of osteopathic medicine
AOA	American Osteopathic Association
ARC-PA	Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant
BLS	Basic Life Support (certification)
Basic Science Curriculum (BSC)	A required classroom session in which faculty stress application of previous basic science material to clinical case scenarios. The emphasis is on application, integration, and interaction between faculty and students versus passive learning.
Careers in Medicine	AAMC program that provides students with access to information about medical specialties, preparation for residency and practice options to maximize career potential.
Class Rank	A measure of how a student's performance compares to other students in the same class/program. Class rank is calculated based on total number of quality points earned.
Clinical Integration Session (CIS)	A required classroom session in which faculty stress application of previous material to clinical case scenarios. The emphasis is on application, integration, and interaction between faculty and students versus passive learning.
COCA	Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation
COMLEX	Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination
CV	Curriculum Vitae; a short account of one's career and qualifications
DEIB	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging
DSA	Designated Student Assignment; a "self-study" assignment created by an identified faculty member consisting of a specific reading assignment, learning objectives, and examination questions that will not be accompanied by a lecture or laboratory session. Students are held responsible for DSA assignments during a CIS, quizzes, and examinations.
ECE	Early Clinical Experience
ERAS	The Electronic Residency Application System is an AAMC application that offers a centralized online application service used to apply to residency programs.
Examination	A summative evaluation of student learning outcomes delivered via proctored written format, computerized format, or practical format.
ExamSoft/Exemplify	Exam software used to provide a secure and stable testing environment for students.
Exxat	New software portal used to manage clinical clerkship rotations throughout the PA program and clerkships through the third and fourth years of the DO program.
Fellowship	The fellowship program is a 12-month training program integrated within the DO student's third and fourth clinical clerkship years. An additional year is added to the student's osteopathic medical training to accommodate his/her clinical clerkship and fellowship obligations. The fellowship program affords students the opportunity to teach the science and art of osteopathic principles and practice, simulation or anatomy.
FERPA	Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, which is a federal law that protects the privacy of and access to personal student educational information
Global Block Schedule (GBS)	Basic schedule of when courses in the DO program run each semester. This schedule does not provide detailed information regarding start and end times or assigned classroom
GME	Graduate Medical Education
Grade Point Average (GPA)	An indication of a student's academic achievement while enrolled at RVU. GPA is calculated as the total number of quality points received over a given period divided by the total number of credits attempted
HIPAA	Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 is United States legislation that provides data privacy and security provisions for safeguarding medical information.
HLC	The Higher Learning Commission; RVU's current institutional accreditor
IPE	Interprofessional Education; occasions when two or more professions learn with, from and about each other to improve collaboration and the quality of care
IRB	Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects Research
Laboratory	A minimum 50-60-minute session in a laboratory or clinical setting that requires "hands on" instruction
Lecture	A standard didactic presentation involving direct faculty instruction in a classroom setting, lasting a minimum of 50 minutes. Each hour of lecture (50 minutes) assumes a minimum of two (2) hours of out-of-class student work.
LMS	Learning Management System; a software application for the administration, documentation, tracking, reporting and delivery of educational courses. RVU currently utilizes an integrated LMS that can be accessed directly through MyVista.
LOR	Letter of Recommendation, typically written by a faculty member or preceptor (author). Used when applying for clinical clerkship clerkships and/or residency applications.
Lottery	Managed by the Department of Clinical Education, the Lottery is the Distribution of Clerkship Assignments process in which current OMS II student doctors are assigned a geographical region to complete core clinical clerkships during OMS III and, if necessary, OMS IV.
MODS	The Medical Operational Data System used to complete the initial electronic portion of the Military GME application

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MSPE	Medical School Performance Evaluation; can also be referred to as a Dean's Letter. Honest and objective document summarizes a student's personal attributes, experiences, academic accomplishments, and summative evaluation. All fourth-year medical students will have their MSPE composed and finalized before October 1st of each year and uploaded into ERAS by the Office of the Registrar.
MyVista	RVU's online portal where students, faculty, and staff can log into and access important program, financial, campus, and educational information, as needed.
NBME	National Board of Medical Examiners (administers the USMLE exams)
NBOME	National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (administers the COMLEX exams)
New Innovations	System used to manage clinical clerkship clerkships throughout the third and fourth years of the DO program.
NMS	National Matching Services; service that manages the osteopathic match (among others)
NRMP	National Resident Matching Program; service that manages the allopathic match
OMM	Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine
OPP	Osteopathic Principles and Practice
OSCE	Objective Structured Clinical Examination
Post-Exam Review (PER)	Faculty-led review of examination questions and results following a major examination.
Preceptor	A practicing physician who gives personal instruction, training, and supervision to a medical student or young physician (assigned for each clinical clerkship clerkship).
Quality Points	The cumulative points earned in a given program for coursework completed and grade(s) earned. Points are calculated by multiplying the numeric grade (in the DO program) or the assigned quality points based on the letter grade (MSBS program) by the number of credit hours for the course.
Remediation	The opportunity to remedy a previously-failed attempt
Rocky the Fighting Prairie Dog	RVU's mascot for the Colorado campus
Rocky the Roadrunner	RVU's mascot for the Southern Utah campus
RVUCOM	Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine
RVUCOM-SU	Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine - Southern Utah
San Francisco Match	Residency and Fellowship matching service for select specialties.
Semester Credit Hour (SCH)	A credit hour is an amount of work represented in intended learning outcomes and verified by evidence of student achievement that is an institutionally-established equivalency that reasonably approximate no less than 45 hours of instructional/non-instructional time for every one (1) credit.
Shadowing	Opportunity available to students to observe the daily life of a doctor and obtain insight from professionals about their experiences and how they view their field
Shelf Exam	Required exam administered by the Office of Clinical Education after the completion of each Core Clerkship.
SOAP Notes	An acronym for subjective, objective, assessment, and plan, a SOAP note is a method of documentation employed by healthcare providers to write out notes in a patient's chart
Standardized Patient (SP)	Someone who has been trained to portray, in a consistent, standardized manner, a patient in a medical situation
Titer/Titer Lab Report	A titer (pronounced TIE-der) is a laboratory test that measures the presence and amount of antibodies in blood. If the test is positive (above a particular known value) the individual has immunity. If the test is negative (no immunity) or equivocal (not enough immunity) you need to be vaccinated. A Titer Lab Report is generated by the lab that tested the blood sample. The Titer Lab Report must include the test type, exact values (reference range), signature, and date to be acceptable.
Tracks	Extracurricular admission-based concentrations within the DO program that invite students to explore and experience a particular area of medicine closely.
Transcript	An official record of a student's work, showing courses taken and grades achieved
Urology Match	Residency match program for medical students seeking residency in Urology
USMLE	United States Medical Licensing Examination
Visiting Student Learning Opportunities (VSLO)	The AAMC VSLO program merged two existing visiting student programs: the Visiting Student Opportunities (VSLO) Application Service (VSAS®) program that focused exclusively on U.S. domestic (formerly VSAS) away electives and the Global Health Learning Opportunities (GHLO®) program that facilitated international mobility into the U.S., from the U.S. to electives abroad, and from one non-U.S. location to another.