



## Proposed IllinoisCOM Student Research and Scholarly Activities Policy

<b>POLICY TITLE:</b>	Student Research and Scholarly Activities Policy
<b>APPROVAL DATE:</b>	TBD
<b>NEW OR REVISION</b>	New
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b>	TBD
<b>SCOPE/APPLICABILITY:</b>	All Students Enrolled at IllinoisCOM
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE:</b>	Department of Research
<b>LAST AUDITED:</b>	

### PURPOSE

To provide guidelines regarding research requirements for students at the Illinois College of Osteopathic Medicine (IllinoisCOM).

### DEFINITIONS

#### 1.0 Research

For the purposes of this policy, research is defined as a systematic investigation designed to develop or contribute to generalizable knowledge. This includes both original research and scholarly activities that involve the use of rigorous methods to address a well-defined question or problem.

#### 2.0 Scholarly Activity

Scholarly activity encompasses a wide range of creative work carried out by students, which includes but is not limited to:

- Hypothesis-driven research projects
- Literature reviews and meta-analyses
- Case reports and case series
- Quality improvement projects
- Educational research and curriculum development
- Surveys and questionnaires
- Scientific writing and presentation (e.g., abstracts, posters, manuscripts)

#### 3.0 Underserved Patient Populations

Underserved patient populations refer to individuals or communities that face barriers to



accessing healthcare services due to factors such as socioeconomic status, geographic location, race, ethnicity, age, disability, or insurance status.

#### **4.0 Innovative Educational Models and Processes**

Innovative educational models and processes refer to novel approaches to medical education that aim to enhance student learning, improve patient outcomes, and address healthcare disparities. These may include but are not limited to:

- Competency-based education
- Interprofessional education
- Technology-enhanced learning
- Community-engaged learning
- Global health education

#### **5.0 Institutional Review Board**

The Institutional Review Board or IRB is an administrative body established to protect the rights and welfare of human subjects recruited to participate in research activities conducted under the auspices of the institution with which it is affiliated.

## **POLICY**

IllinoisCOM students are required to actively participate in research and scholarly activities as an integral part of their medical education. IllinoisCOM will incorporate research-related educational activities throughout the medical education curriculum.

Students are required to complete mandatory training to ensure the ethical pursuit of scholarly activities as communicated by IllinoisCOM.

The Research and Scholarly Activity Strategic Plan at IllinoisCOM outlines four mission-aligned areas of research. Students are encouraged to align their scholarly pursuits with these focus areas whenever possible.

IllinoisCOM will develop and maintain a robust research infrastructure to support student participation in research and scholarly activities.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **6.0 General Requirements**

- I. All IllinoisCOM students are required to actively participate in research and scholarly activities as an integral part of their medical education.
- II. Students must complete the required research-related educational activities, as outlined in this policy and the IllinoisCOM curriculum, to be eligible for graduation.



III. All students are required to complete CITI training for the protection of human research subjects and create an account within the Cayuse research management system which may require additional training. Students are encouraged to pursue additional research opportunities beyond the minimum requirements, in line with their individual interests and career goals.

#### 7.0 Research Focus Areas

Students are encouraged to align their research and scholarly activities with these focus areas whenever possible:

IV. Improving access and patient outcomes for underserved patient populations

V. Evaluating innovative educational models and processes that promote student knowledge and skills in improving patient access and outcomes.

VI. Advancing knowledge in neurological disorders via collaboration with The Chicago School to improve their diagnosis and treatment.

VII. Foster diverse faculty research interests to create an energetic environment where students can contribute to faculty success while gaining research experience.

#### 8.0 Research Infrastructure and Support

IllinoisCOM will develop and maintain a robust research infrastructure to support student participation in research and scholarly activities. This infrastructure will include, but is not limited to:

VIII. Dedicated research faculty and staff

IX. Research facilities and equipment

X. Research funding and grant support

XI. Research training and mentorship programs

XII. Access to web-based research resources and tools to facilitate their participation in research activities.

#### 9.0 Research-Related Educational Activities

IllinoisCOM will incorporate research-related educational activities throughout the medical education curriculum. These educational activities will be designed to provide students with a strong foundation in research principles and methods, as well as practical experience in conducting research and include:

XIII. Didactic lectures on research methods, biostatistics, critical appraisal of medical literature, and evidence-based medicine

XIV. Elective rotations in medical research

XV. Opportunities for literature review and protocol development

XVI. Interaction with the Institutional Review Board.

XVII. Hands-on experience with data collection and analysis



XVIII. Dissemination of research findings through poster presentations, oral presentations, and publications.

XIX. Compliance and Enforcement

Compliance with this policy is mandatory for all IllinoisCOM students.

XX. The Director of Research, in collaboration with the Dean and other relevant IllinoisCOM leadership, will be responsible for enforcing this policy and ensuring student compliance.

XXI. Students who fail to meet the research requirements outlined in this policy may face academic disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the program.

XXII. The determination if a project of any type is considered "research" can only be made by the Chicago School Institutional Review Board and may also require additional review by other similar authorities.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTIES**

- Director of Research
- Assistant Dean for Research
- The Chicago School Office of Sponsored Programs

