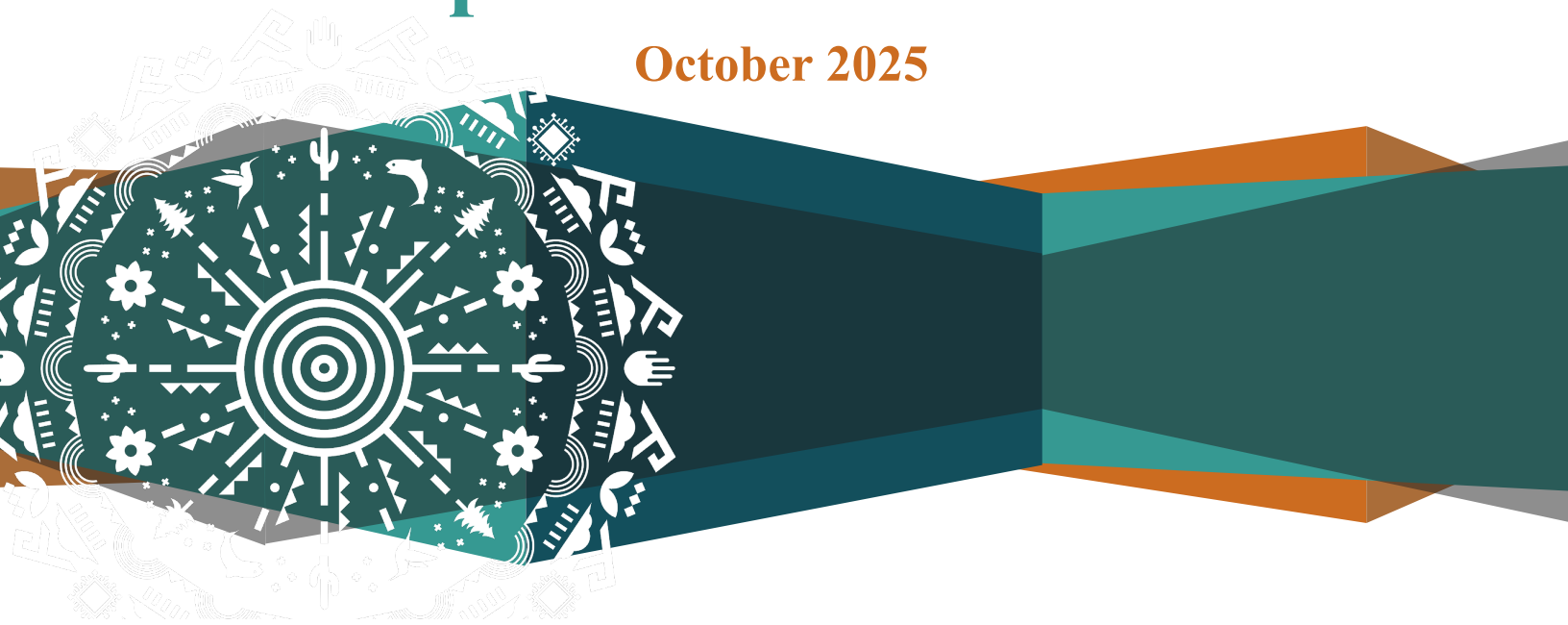




**Arizona Board of  
Osteopathic Examiners  
In Medicine and Surgery**

**Report on the Board's Collaboration  
with Osteopathic Medical Schools**

**October 2025**



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This report outlines the successful collaboration between the Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners and the two osteopathic medical schools in Arizona, Midwestern University - Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine and A.T. Still University - School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona. The initiative aims to provide osteopathic medical students with a unique opportunity to attend, interact, and dialogue with Board members, and to observe real-life cases brought before the Board. This program is designed to enhance student understanding of ethical practice, professional responsibility, and the regulatory framework governing osteopathic medicine in the state.

The primary objectives of this collaborative program are:

- To familiarize medical students with the functions and responsibilities of the Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners.
- To facilitate direct interaction and dialogue between medical students and Board members.
- To expose students to real-world cases, fostering an understanding of professional conduct and disciplinary processes.
- To promote ethical decision-making and professional accountability among future osteopathic physicians.

The program involves several key components, ensuring a comprehensive learning experience for the students:

### Board Meeting Attendance

Medical students are invited to attend scheduled Board meetings. This allows them to observe the formal proceedings, discussions, and decision-making processes of the Board.

### Interactive Sessions with Board Members

Dedicated sessions are arranged for students to interact with the Board members. These sessions provide a platform for students to ask questions, gain insights into the various aspects of regulation, and understand the challenges and responsibilities faced by licensed practitioners.

### Real Case Observation

A crucial element of the program involves students observing real cases presented before the Board. These cases, with appropriate redaction of confidential information, offer invaluable lessons in medical ethics, professional conduct, and the consequences of malpractice or misconduct.

### Dialogue and Discussion

While the Board is prohibited from discussing the specific details of the cases heard during the Board meeting, the Board members can engage in dialog on general information or hypothetical cases or to

answer questions that the students may have. These discussions encourage students to reflect on what they have learned, share their perspectives, and engage in critical thinking about the cases and the Board's role.

## Benefits of the Program

The collaboration has yielded significant benefits for all involved parties:

- **For Students:** Enhanced understanding of regulatory processes, improved ethical reasoning, and early exposure to professional challenges as well as a better understanding of the Board's role and licensure in general.  
**For the Board:** Increased engagement with the future generation of osteopathic physicians and an opportunity to instill professional values.  
**For the Medical Schools:** Integration of practical regulatory knowledge into the curriculum and strengthening of ties with the state's licensing body.

The collaboration between the Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners and the osteopathic medical schools in Arizona represents a forward-thinking approach to medical education. By providing students with direct exposure to the regulatory environment and real-world cases, this program significantly contributes to the development of well-rounded, ethically conscious osteopathic physicians prepared for the challenges of professional practice.

**Katie Hobbs**  
Governor



**Justin Bohall**  
Executive Director

**ARIZONA BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINERS  
IN MEDICINE AND SURGERY**

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September 26, 2023

The Honorable Katie Hobbs  
Governor of the State of Arizona  
% Zaida Dedolph  
1700 West Washington Street  
9th Floor  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Osteopathic Medical School Collaboration Program

Dear Governor Hobbs,

The Board is pleased to provide this positive report of one of its initiatives. I am writing to emphasize the importance and value of The Arizona Board and Osteopathic Medical School Collaboration Program, a partnership fostering medical education and bridging the gap between students and the regulatory board for over two decades. The Board currently partners with the two osteopathic medical schools in the state, Midwestern University (AZCOM) and A.T. Still University (ATSU-SOMA) to host the 3rd year medical students at the Board's regularly scheduled meetings. The students get to experience, first hand, cases of Osteopathic Physicians and the Board's adjudication of the proceedings.

**Key Highlights of the Program:**

**Educational Platform:** The program annually welcomes around 500 medical students to the Board's regular meetings. Over the past 21 years, an estimated 6,000 students have benefited from this initiative. These meetings serve not only as an educational platform but also as a venue where students can witness the Board's processes, review public cases, and engage in discussions about current medical trends.

**Mutual Benefits:** The program is a two-way street. While students gain invaluable insights into the regulatory processes and real-life cases, the Board benefits from direct feedback, allowing for continuous improvement and awareness-raising of its initiatives.

**Changing Perceptions:** One of the most significant outcomes of the program is the shift in students' perception of the Board. From viewing it as a potential hurdle, students begin to see the Board as a supportive partner, ensuring their smooth transition from education to professional practice.

Osteopathic Medical School Collaboration Program  
September 12, 2023  
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**Adaptability:** The program's adaptability, especially during challenging times like the COVID-19 pandemic, is commendable. The Board's consideration of strategies such as live-streaming meetings to ensure continuity is a testament to its commitment to education.

**Positive Feedback:** The program has received overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants. Many students, initially unaware or skeptical of the Board's role, have come to recognize its crucial role in ensuring public safety and the competence of osteopathic physicians.

Given these points, I strongly believe that the Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners in Medicine and Surgery is an indispensable asset to our medical community. Its continued support and potential expansion can further strengthen the bond between the regulatory board and the next generation of osteopathic physicians, ensuring a brighter future for healthcare in Arizona. I have included two anonymized reports from students at Midwestern regarding their experience attending a recent meeting.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude and enthusiasm for this remarkable program. Our program's success is a testament to the dedication, hard work, and collaborative spirit of the Board in the achievement of its mission to protect the public. As we reflect on our achievements, let us also look ahead to the future with optimism and determination. Thank you for your support and commitment to the Board. We look forward to our continued collaboration and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. I am confident that our collective efforts can further enhance the quality of medical education, regulation, and practice in our state.

Kind Regards,



Justin Bohall  
Executive Director

Jane Doe  
OMSIII – Class of 2025  
Arizona Medical Board Meeting  
8/19/23 – Virtual Meeting

As I logged into the virtual Arizona Medical Board Meeting, I was uncertain about what I would encounter during the session. As a medical student, experiences like these were quite unfamiliar to me, and I was eager to have a firsthand look at one. I was hoping to gain insights into the practical complexities of medical practice and regulation. My aim was to better understand the challenges medical professionals deal with the accountability they maintain, and the decision-making involved in such scenarios.

One case that left a significant impact was centered around a physician who had neglected appropriate follow-up on abnormal lab results due to being on vacation. The board's thorough discussion revealed the importance of arranging suitable coverage during periods of absence, ensuring that patient care remains uninterrupted. This case underscored the critical nature of communication in medicine, demonstrating how lapses could potentially compromise patient health. I learned that maintaining continuity of care is not only a medical responsibility but also a commitment to patient well-being that extends beyond regular hours.

Another compelling case involved a doctor whose recorded audio findings conflicted with the documented physical examination results. This highlighted the imperative of accurate record-keeping, as it was evident that precise documentation forms the backbone of medical practice. The case emphasized that comprehensive and accurate records not only aid in patient care but also serve as a safeguard for medical providers. It revealed that meticulous attention to detail in recording observations is essential for maintaining trust and credibility in the medical profession.

The third case that resonated with me revolved around an individual who faced challenges due to an undisclosed criminal record. The discussion highlighted the significance of honesty and transparency in the medical field. It became evident that acknowledging one's past and being forthcoming with the board, even about difficult aspects, was crucial for maintaining professional integrity. This case taught me that the ethical responsibility of a medical provider extends beyond medical competence, encompassing personal honesty and accountability.

Attending the Arizona Medical Board Meeting has granted me invaluable insights that will undeniably shape my future as a medical provider. The exposure to real cases underscored the complex amalgamation of medical knowledge, ethical considerations, and

regulatory compliance that define the profession. These experiences have reinforced the importance of maintaining accurate records, transparent communication, and personal integrity. For fellow medical students yet to attend such a meeting, I would share the immense value of witnessing the intersection of medical practice and governance. It's an opportunity to understand that being a medical provider involves not only clinical skills but also an unwavering commitment to patient welfare and professional ethics.

JOHN DOE  
OMSIII - 2025  
Arizona Osteopathic Medical Board  
Meeting 8/19/2023 - Virtual Meeting

I expected a routine and dry meeting pertaining to osteopathic medicine practice, including licensure applications, disciplinary actions, and discussions about significant field-related topics. I've attended many HOA board meetings and expected it to be a similar process. However, the actual meeting surprised me and was a more intricate, sometimes uncomfortable, and comprehensive process. I didn't realize how much time they would spend on investigation and disciplinary processes.

**Case A: Dr. A**

The case of Dr. A highlighted the crucial role of maintaining patient care quality, even during vacation periods. The board's investigation underscored the responsibility of physicians to ensure continuity of care, even when they're away. This situation shed light on the need for a system to manage patient concerns and results when physicians are unavailable. The decision to issue a letter of concern reinforced the importance of timely responses and thorough documentation, even when physically absent.

**Case B: Dr. G**

Dr. G's case emphasized the significance of accurate and comprehensive documentation during medical examinations. The board's scrutiny revealed the consequences of documenting procedures or findings that weren't performed. The discrepancy between recorded audio and documented findings highlighted the potential pitfalls of inaccurate record-keeping. This case serves as a reminder to medical professionals about the essential role of conducting thorough physical exams and maintaining precise medical records.

**Case C: Dr. S**

Dr. S's case offered insights into professionalism and compliance within the medical field. His experience underscored the importance of upholding high standards and adhering to program requirements to avoid disciplinary actions. Moreover, this case showcased the board's dedication to thorough investigations.

In the end, participating in the Arizona Board of Osteopathic Examiners meeting provided invaluable insights into the challenges and expectations that medical professionals face. Observing the board's thorough review of various cases reinforced the weight of upholding ethical standards, maintaining accurate documentation, and adhering to regulations. At times, it was very uncomfortable to watch providers defend their license and own up to mistakes. The board had very direct questions for the defendants that they were often hesitant to answer. During our Q&A session they gave us insight into what they want when questioning. They want people to acknowledge when they are wrong and how they plan to fix it. Being defensive is not a winning strategy. As a future medical provider, this experience solidified the significance of prioritizing patient care, professionalism, knowing how to perform a physical exam, and the importance of truthful documentation. Sharing these insights with fellow medical students acts as a reminder of the gravity of the responsibilities that come with entering the medical field. My most important takeaway from the meeting was to never have a reason to end up in-front of the board.

“Attending this meeting allowed me to learn valuable lessons from others mistakes and learn without having to go through it myself. This experience also taught me how the medical board system works as a whole and how problems relating to the medical board and licensure are resolved. It allowed me to see the bigger picture and will influence my decisions as a provider.”

“Attending this meeting gave me a deeper appreciation for the complex responsibilities physicians carry and the importance of adhering to both ethical and legal standards in medicine. It showed me how accountability systems ensure public trust and patient safety while offering opportunities for learning and growth. I gained real-world insights into how professional standards are enforced. It’s an invaluable opportunity to witness the way ethics and law can guide the practice of medicine.”

“This meeting was especially informative to my career as a medical provider. This meeting reiterated several key teaching points that as a student I have been warned about, but seeing them in practice has helped me understand we are held to a high standard and we are ultimately protecting ourselves and the public. I think seeing physicians making mistakes and seeing how they have learned and adapted their practices, also teaches me as a student how to stay vigilant and continue adapting and learning from others around me.”

“I found the Medical Board Meeting to be a very insightful experience. As we continue in the field of medicine, I think it is important that we have an understanding of how our Medical Board works. I also felt that each case provided unique lessons and I felt I learned a lot from them.”

“Attending this meeting is a very sobering experience. As students, we’re so excited about what we will be doing in the future and in this excitement, we must also understand the seriousness of the responsibility. This meeting highlights this and taught me to be diligent in the best care possible and not make careless mistakes because I can jeopardize everything in the blink of an eye.”

“This meeting will absolutely pave such a straight arrow path for me in my future medical career. The balance between upholding the oath of medicine yet being faced with ethical dilemmas is hard. However, it is important to stay true to what we have signed up for and not journey outside the lines. This has sparked my interest in being part of the board in the future. This meeting has placed such a pivotal moment in my career, and I am glad to have partaken in it.”

“Professionalism is not innate in all students but can be learned. For a student training for a career in medicine, learning the importance of professionalism and accountability is just as important as learning how to read an EKG, use a stethoscope or interpret a blood chemistry. One day may not sound like much, but by attending a session of the State Medical Board, our students get firsthand experience in the importance of professionalism and medical ethics that are key components to a physician's success and can have a lasting positive bearing for a lifetime.”

Sean C. Reeder, DO, Associate Dean, AZCOM

“Our third-year students all have the privilege of attending one board meeting during the year. Their feedback consistently mentions that attendance is very eye-opening and helpful for their future careers. We appreciate having this learning opportunity for our students.”

Carly Ernst-Kuhn, DO, Clinical Assistant Professor, AZCOM

“I have been attending Arizona Osteopathic Board Meetings for 6 years as I am the administrator who coordinates the schedule for our medical students. Even though I am not a provider in training, I can see the remarkable learning opportunity this is for our medical students to witness real life situations firsthand opposed to reading it in a book or listening to a lecture. The board always has a great understanding of each case, has thoughtful discussions and makes fair decisions. I’m convinced this experience is impactful for our medical students in our program.”

Sandra Fajardo, Senior Administrative Assistant

## ENHANCING MEDICAL EDUCATION THROUGH HYBRID ENGAGEMENT

Key Highlights of the Medical School Collaboration Program

### Bridging the Gap

For the last two decades the Board's medical school collaboration with two state medical school programs fostered unification and understanding between students and the regulatory board serving the community.



Students witness first hand how the Board deliberates, reviews real life cases and discusses current medical trends

#### Platform

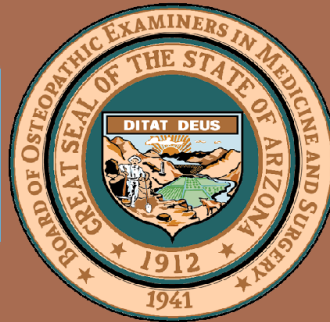
Over the last 25 years, the program benefited through its exposure to roughly 5,000 students.



The Board receives direct feedback, allowing for continuous improvement and awareness raising of its initiatives.

#### Mutually Beneficial

Students gain powerful insight into the regulatory process through observing the Board's deliberation and real-life cases it adjudicates.



Perceptions can be reality and can sometimes be difficult to change.

#### Changing Perceptions

Seen by many incoming licensees as a hurdle rather than a partner, students begin to view the Board as a partner, creating a smoother transition from student to professional practice.



Students develop awareness of the Board's role ensuring competence of osteopathic physicians

#### Awareness

Many students come to the program with great skepticism. We find they leave with the recognition of the Board's important role in ensuring public safety.



## Enhancing Medical Education Through Hybrid Engagement



The Board began welcoming 3rd year medical students from Midwestern University in 2000. We later expanded to include AT Still students at in-person meetings. Attendance was limited due to the need to be in the meeting room for the board meeting.

2002



March 18, 2020: While many state offices closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our office remained open. We safely held all scheduled meetings without delay and swiftly transitioned to a virtual platform for meetings.

2020



With the introduction of internet based meeting platforms, like Zoom, the Board was able to offer meeting participation virtually allowing students to attend the meetings from anywhere.

2021



We welcome approximately 400 medical students to the Board's regular meetings, annually. Over the past 25 years we have welcomed approximately 5,000 students to participate in the meetings.

2025



A truly reciprocal experience: Students gain deep, firsthand insight into the regulatory process and real-world cases, while the Board learns from their fresh perspectives and strengthens its connection with the next generation of licensees.

and Beyond



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