

Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine (ARCOM)

Research Strategic Plan

Mission Alignment

The ARCOM research strategic plan aligns with the overarching mission of the Arkansas Colleges of Health Education (ACHE) to educate and train compassionate healthcare professionals, promote healthy living environments, and advance research initiatives. This plan supports ARCOM's mission to improve healthcare delivery, especially for underserved populations, through education, research, and community service.

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Advance Research in Cultural Competency and Health Disparities

ARCOM commits to addressing health disparities and enhancing cultural competency in healthcare through targeted research and scholarly activities.

Objectives:

- Develop research programs focusing on health disparities prevalent in underserved populations, particularly in Arkansas and surrounding regions.
- Establish partnerships with local and regional organizations to facilitate community-based participatory research.
- Encourage student involvement in projects addressing cultural competency and health disparities through research stipends and mentorship programs.
- Integrate research findings into the curriculum to enhance students' cultural competency skills.

Goal 2: Foster the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL)

Promote innovative educational practices and assess their impact on student learning outcomes.

Objectives:

- Create a SoTL task force to identify and implement best practices in medical education.
- Support faculty development in SoTL through workshops, funding, and collaboration opportunities.
- Incorporate SoTL research findings into the continuous improvement of ARCOM's curriculum.
- Facilitate dissemination of SoTL outcomes through conferences and peer-reviewed publications.

Goal 3: Maximize Utilization of Existing Research Infrastructure

Leverage ACHE's extensive research infrastructure and collaborate across programs to enhance research output and student involvement.

Objectives:

- Utilize the research clinic to conduct innovative clinical studies that involve faculty and students.
- Incorporate osteopathic principles and practices into research initiatives, emphasizing holistic and patient-centered approaches.
- Collaborate with ACHE programs such as Physical Therapy (PT), Occupational Therapy (OT), and Public Health (MPH) to promote interdisciplinary research projects.
- Encourage student involvement across all four years in all phases of research, including design, execution, and dissemination of findings.
- Develop dual mentorship opportunities with ACHE faculty and external clinical collaborators to support student research initiatives.

Goal 4: Promote Interdisciplinary Collaboration

Encourage collaboration across ACHE colleges and external organizations to advance translational research.

Objectives:

- Facilitate joint research initiatives among faculty and students in osteopathic medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and other ACHE programs.
- Collaborate with regional healthcare organizations to conduct impactful translational research.
- Collaborate with external entities to promote interdisciplinary research projects.
- Develop partnerships with biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries to support innovative projects.

Goal 5: Engage Communities in Health and Wellness Research

ARCOM aims to improve community health through research and outreach.

Objectives:

- Identify health priorities within local and regional communities to guide research focus.
- Implement outreach programs targeting lifelong healthy habits and disease prevention.
- Involve faculty and students in community health initiatives.
- Measure and disseminate the impact of community-engaged research activities.

Implementation Strategies

Research Integration into Curriculum

- Incorporate principles of translational research and evidence-based practices into ARCOM's core curriculum.
- Promote research electives that focus on cultural competency and health disparities.
- Encourage collaboration between students and faculty from different ACHE programs to foster interdisciplinary learning and research.

Support for Faculty and Student Research

- Provide funding and technical support for research projects.
- Offer grant writing workshops and access to extramural funding opportunities.
- Facilitate dual mentorship opportunities combining faculty and external collaborators.

Evaluation and Dissemination

- Develop metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of research initiatives.
- Publish research findings in peer-reviewed journals and present at national and international conferences.
- Share successful strategies with other institutions to contribute to the broader academic community.

Conclusion

This strategic plan establishes ARCOM's commitment to advancing research, fostering educational innovation, and addressing health disparities. By aligning with ACHE's strategic priorities and utilizing existing resources, ARCOM will create meaningful contributions to medical education, community health, and the broader field of osteopathic medicine.