

Resolution 2026-02

Submitted For Consideration to the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association House of Delegates

SUBJECT: Resolution for American Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance in Medical Schools

SUBMITTED BY: Dr. James Keane, DO, Pooja Athalye, OMS-II, Siddarth Rajan, OMS-II, Nanak Pabla, OMS-II, Jessica Wilhelm, OMS-II, Hanley Elftmann, OMS-II, Alexis Lin, OMS-II

Check one:

Resolution is intended for Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association

Resolution is intended to be submitted by the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association for consideration of the American Osteopathic Association House of Delegates

Resolution is intended for both the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association and for consideration of the American Osteopathic Association House of Delegates

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- 1 **WHEREAS**, the ADA Sec. 12182(b)(1)(A), Sec. 12182(b)(1)(B), and Sec. 12182(b)(1)(C) require
2 persons with disabilities to have the same opportunities as those without and receive accommodations
3 for equitable practices¹; and
- 4 **WHEREAS**, a substantial amount of medical schools' (MD and DO) technical standards and
5 disability policies are not in alignment with the ADA^{2,3}; and
- 6 **WHEREAS**, DO-granting schools have a unique factor in implementing the ADA due to its historic
7 focus on domains requiring physical exertion; and
- 8 **WHEREAS**, identifying disability-exclusive practices in medical education that may hinder the
9 success of students with disability SWD will aid in advancing the goals of the ADA in medical training
10⁴; and
- 11 **WHEREAS**, inclusion of SWD in medical education enhances peers' understanding of the lived and
12 emotional realities of disability, improves physicians' ability to care for patients with disabilities, and
13 affirms that disability represents a meaningful and valuable dimension of diversity at the highest
14 professional levels; now, therefore, be it
- 15 **RESOLVED**, AOMA establishes an ADA Working Group to submit a report of findings and
16 recommendations including future resolutions to the AOMA Executive Committee, Board of
17 Trustees and House of Delegates. The ADA Working Group will develop policy on ADA compliance
18 for all osteopathic medical schools in Arizona to ensure equitable practices for students with and
19 without disabilities including but not limited to adhering to testing accommodations for students with
20 disabilities; and be it further

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21 **RESOLVED**, the AOMA ADA Working Group will meet quarterly and be comprised of:

- 22 1. A member of the AOMA Executive Committee
- 23 2. A member of the AOMA Board of Trustees
- 24 3. A member of the AOMA House of Delegates
- 25 4. A member of the AOMA Legislative Affairs Committee
- 26 5. Three student representatives from any osteopathic medical school in Arizona.

27 **RESOLVED**, AOMA ADA Working Group will collaborate with relevant stakeholders including
28 but not limited to the Commission of Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) and American
29 Osteopathic Association (AOA) to review ADA compliance for all osteopathic medical schools
30 (OMS) to ensure equitable practices for students with and without disabilities.

Fiscal impact: Administrative duties by staff (@\$3,000)

References

1. U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. (n.d.). *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, As amended: Subchapter III – Public accommodations and services by private entities (Title III)*. ADA.gov. Retrieved January 24, 2026, from <https://www.ada.gov/law-and-regs/ada/#subchapter-iii--public-accommodations-and-services-by-private-entities-title-iii#section41>
2. Zazove P, Case B, Moreland C, et al. U.S. Medical Schools' Compliance With the Americans With Disabilities Act: Findings From a National Study. *Acad Med*. 2016;91(7):979-986. doi:10.1097/ACM.0000000000001087
3. Singer T, Madanguit L, Fok KT, et al. Mapping the Landscape of Technical Standards: A Nationwide review of Medical schools. *Academic Medicine*. 2025;100(10S):S144-S151. doi:10.1097/acm.0000000000006135
4. Nash, R., Conner, B., Fellows, K. et al. Barriers in medical education: a scoping review of common themes for medical students with disabilities. *Discov Educ* 1, 4 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s44217-022-00003-0>