



**BASIC STANDARDS  
FOR  
RESIDENCY TRAINING  
IN  
OCCUPATIONAL/ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE**

**American Osteopathic Association  
and the  
American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventive Medicine**

**COPT/85**

**BASIC STANDARDS IN  
SUBSPECIALTY TRAINING IN  
OCCUPATIONAL/ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE**

**ARTICLE I - INTRODUCTION**

The purpose of a two year residency in Occupational/Environmental Medicine is to provide training and advanced education to ensure that a resident satisfactorily completing a program is qualified to practice the specialty of Occupational or Environmental Medicine before federal, state, and local governments, courts of jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases; to provide private industry with expertise in the implementation of sound precepts in the health and care of American workers; and, to provide a guide for implementation of existing regulations in the field of Occupational/Environmental Medicine and the laws of the land governing such practices. Nowhere in the osteopathic profession is the application of osteopathic principles more apparent than in Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

Throughout the residency, the osteopathic physician is expected to participate in the activities of the American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventive Medicine (AOCOPM) and the specialty of Occupational/Environmental Medicine. Thus, the knowledge gained will be transmitted to colleagues and students yet to be trained.

The training program is designed to provide the basic requirements for eventual certification in the specialty of Occupational/Environmental Medicine by the American Osteopathic Association through the American Osteopathic Board of Preventive Medicine.

The educational experience will assure that the resident shall possess mature judgment, familiarity and interest in the health care of American workers in both their internal and external environment and that the resident shall develop high investigative skills in the specialty.

**ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES**

All training program shall be two (2) years in duration. The program must be completed within four years. This may be accomplished on a minimal basis with one year of didactic work as defined below, plus one year of acceptable field experience.

The resident is required to obtain knowledge in a combination of the following subjects:

Accident investigation	Biological agents
Administrative of health program	Biometrics
Adult health	Health care
Aerospace occupational medicine	Health education
Air quality assessment	History of occupations
Behavioral sciences	Housing environment

Industrial hygiene	Insect and rodent control
Industrial processes	Immunization
Biostatistics	Labor law
Birth anomalies and reproductive risks	Labor relations
Chemical agents	Malignancies: carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, teratogenicity
Communicable disease: acute/chronic	Manpower management
Disease etiology , detection, treatment and prevention	Maternal and child care
Economics of Health Care Delivery	Mental health
Effectiveness techniques; subjective/objective	Nuclear medicine
Engineering principles	Nutrition
Environmental health	Occupational history
Epidemiology methods and practice	Occupational medicine
Ergonomics	Oral health
Facility requirements	Organizational theory and practice
Family planning	Osteopathic principles
Family socio-economic structure	Personnel management
Genetics	Pharmacodynamics
Gerontology	Physical agents and stress
Governmental regulations	Preventive medicine
Groups dynamics and interactions	Public health
Industrial compensation law	
Cost quantification/containment	
Degenerative health processes	
Demography	
Disability determination/evaluation	

### **ARTICLE III - GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

- A. All training sites shall be approved by the AOA.
- B. The residency training program shall meet the basic requirements of the AOA.
- C. Qualifications and duties of the program director:
  1. Certification by the AOA in Occupational/Environmental Medicine.
  2. Membership in the AOA.
  3. Responsibility for the introduction of osteopathic principles and practices as it applies to Occupational/Environmental Medicine.
  4. Demonstrated evidence of continuing medical education.

5. The program director's responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:
    - a. Providing a comprehensive training program.
    - b. Conducting an ongoing evaluation of the program and its resident(s).
    - c. Arranging for affiliations when deemed necessary to supplement residency training.
    - d. Submission of annual reports as required.
  6. The osteopathic program director shall oversee the activities of the program coordinator.
- D. The osteopathic program coordinator shall be certified in Occupational/Environmental Medicine by the AOA through the American Osteopathic Board of Preventive Medicine, and be an active member of the AOA.

The osteopathic program coordinator is responsible for determining that the resident remains current in osteopathic principles and practices as it applies to Occupational/Environmental Medicine, and that the resident is available for teaching assignments throughout the osteopathic profession. The osteopathic program coordinator shall conduct ongoing evaluation of the program and of the resident(s), and propose affiliations, when deemed appropriate, to supplement residency training. The osteopathic program coordinator shall assist the resident(s) in submitting required reports to the AOA.

- E. The faculty shall include osteopathic physicians who are certified or board eligible in Occupational/Environmental Medicine by the AOA. When the training is given in non-osteopathic organizations, an osteopathic physician who is AOA-certified in Occupational/Environmental Medicine shall be the osteopathic program coordinator. Selected other individuals with advanced training, education, and experience in various aspects of Occupational/Environmental Medicine may be utilized as instructors if recommended by the program director. There shall be an adequate medical library, either electronic, microfiche or hard copy, containing carefully selected texts and the latest editions of current Occupational/Environmental journals and other appropriate publications available to the resident(s). A qualified person, who shall act as a custodian, shall be in charge of the library and its contents, arrange for proper cataloguing and indexing to facilitate investigative and literary research by the resident.
- F. Facilities and Equipment:
1. The resident will serve his field work in a government agency, private industry, college or university, or other such organization; therefore, that facility shall give evidence of having substantially complied with existing regulations governing safety and health of workers, both internal and external environments.
  2. Such institutional organization, if it does not own its medical facilities, must have a working agreement with a nearby health care center capable of providing emergency services.
  3. Organizations and institutions must make an industrial laboratory available to the resident and shall provide such equipment as necessary for the resident to conduct health-hazard evaluations and other appropriate studies.
  4. The organizations or institutions must provide facilities and equipment so that the resident can

prepare two major papers suitable for a referred journal.

#### **ARTICLE IV - INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. It is the responsibility of the institution's governing authority to determine that the educational process is sufficient so that a resident is intellectually, educationally, temperamentally and morally suited to continue in the residency training program.
- B. The professional staff of the institution shall assume collective responsibility to provide for the proper training of the resident.
- C. The governing authority shall cooperate with the AOA, the program director, and the program director.

#### **ARTICLE V - REQUIREMENTS**

- A. Candidates for residency shall be graduates of an accredited college of osteopathic medicine and shall have successfully completed an AOA-approved internship.
- B. Candidates shall be members of the AOA and shall maintain membership throughout their specialty training.
- C. The resident shall obtain a license to practice osteopathic medicine in at least one state in the United States or its dependencies, in Canada, Great Britain, or such other country as may be recognized by the AOA.
- D. It is the responsibility of the resident to obtain all necessary approvals from the State Department of the United States as well as the host country for any overseas travel or investigative work.

#### **ARTICLE VI - RESIDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

- A. All residents shall maintain satisfactory records as required by the AOA, and shall submit such promptly to the osteopathic program coordinator and the AOA.

#### **ARTICLE VII - TRAINING POLICIES**

- A. The resident shall not be permitted to act as a consultant during the residency without the specific written approval of the AOA, the osteopathic program coordinator, and the host institution or organization. The resident shall obtain an appropriate staff membership at the nearest approved

osteopathic hospital or clinic, and serve on such committees as that osteopathic institution deems appropriate.

- B. The resident shall maintain a log of all procedures accomplished during the residency, as well as maintaining an annotated bibliography of books used either as texts or references.