

# Medical School Chat - medschoolchat.com - (Application)

## DO vs MD

D.O. vs. M.D.

If you are like most people, you probably don't know the difference between a medical doctor, M.D., and an osteopathic doctor, D.O.

D.O.'s and M.D.'s are alike in many ways:

Applicants to both D.O. and M.D. colleges typically have a four-year undergraduate degree with an emphasis on science courses

Both D.O.'s and M.D.'s complete four years of basic medical education

After medical school, both D.O.'s and M.D.'s can choose to practice in a specialty area of medicine--such as psychiatry, surgery, obstetrics, or sports medicine--after completing a residency program (typically two to six years of additional training)

Both D.O.'s and M.D.'s must pass comparable state licensing examinations

D.O.'s and M.D.'s both practice in fully accredited and licensed hospitals and medical centers

What Makes D.O.'s Different?

D.O.'s can perform surgery, child delivery, treat patients, and prescribe medications in hospitals and clinic settings.

D.O.'s look at the total person. Osteopathic physicians focus on preventive care. Instead of just treating specific symptoms or illnesses, they look at the whole body.

D.O.'s receive extra training in the musculoskeletal system, which is comprised of the nerves, muscles, and bones. This training gives D.O.'s a better understanding of how an injury or illness in one part of the body can affect another part of the body; therefore, D.O.'s have a therapeutic and diagnostic advantage.

D.O.'s use what is called osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT). OMT is a technique in which the D.O.'s use their hands to diagnose injury and illness, giving special attention to the joints, bones, muscles, and nerves. Manipulations improve circulation, which in turn, creates a normal nerve and blood supply, enabling the body to heal itself.