



A Guide to DOCARE University Chapters for Faculty of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine

DOCARE supports university chapters as part of its efforts to include osteopathic medical students in its global health outreach work. These chapters operate on the campuses of colleges of osteopathic medicine throughout the school year. DOCARE currently has chapters at 12 COMs.

Students tell us they're motivated to join chapters for

- a chance to serve low-income and under-served groups at home and abroad,
- the fun of socializing within the chapter, and
- an effective route to self-managed learning about social medicine and global health, which add to students' curriculum vitae and clinical skills.

Toward these ends, many chapters organize on-campus discussions or lectures on global health, health outreach activities in local communities, and/or fundraising to support charitable giving or student travel.

Membership also makes all members eligible to travel with DOCARE on short-term global health outreach trips and month-long rotations abroad. Chapter membership is part of many students' preparations for travel with DOCARE to its [clinics](#) in Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Kenya and [on short-term global health outreach trips that visit these and other destinations](#). Many students prefer DOCARE to other global health groups because of our unique connection to multiple permanent clinics in Africa and Latin America.

Advising a Chapter

DOCARE recognizes that most COMs require student groups to name a faculty adviser. DOCARE helps facilitate chapter administration by communicating about group process and activities. We've designed these to be flexible, to leave room for you, as faculty adviser, to contribute your insights to the chapter and to manage your COM's internal procedures without difficulty. [Find out more about chapter administration here.](#)

Leading a Trip

Some DOCARE faculty advisers act as directors for DOCARE short-term global health outreach trips. These are one- to two-week group trips that deliver primary care in a low- or middle-income country. DOCARE requires that they be led by a fully licensed US-based physician with experience in international health work, and that faculty adviser for DOCARE chapters can be particularly helpful in either taking on a trip director role or connecting students to faculty who can. DOCARE then partners with the trip director to contribute planning advice, financial support, safety precautions, and much more. [Click here to learn more about leading a trip.](#)

Questions?

Contact us at docare@osteopathic.org or 312 202 8163.