



The University
of Vermont

LARNER COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

MEDICAL STUDENT EDUCATION

**ΑΩΑ - ALPHA OMEGA ALPHA (AOA) Honor Medical Society
The Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont**

MEMORANDUM

Via Electronic Communication

TO: Students, Class of 2020 and Subsequent Classes
FROM: Marie Sandoval, M.D., Faculty Councilor, AOA
DATE: December 4, 2018
RE: Election to Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society in a Pass-Fail Basic Sciences Curriculum

The Larner College of Medicine is honored to host an Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Medical Society chapter. This honor distinguishes students from their peers and is *dedicated to the belief that in the profession of medicine we will improve care for all by recognizing high educational achievement, honoring gifted teaching, encouraging the development of leaders in academia and the community, supporting the ideals of humanism and promoting service to others.* AOA is composed of fourth-year medical students who have demonstrated excellence in leadership, research, professionalism, service to the school and community and clinical acumen. The top quartile of the class is invited to apply for membership in mid-May, the year prior to their graduation, and up to one-sixth of the entire graduating class is selected from the pool of applicants for nomination and induction using the following criteria:

- Academic performance during their medical education, specifically their academic performance in the clinical clerkship level.
- Successful research activities as documented by formal presentations at national meetings or by publications or other scholarly work
- Leadership in school activities and in community service
- Professionalism and humanism

In the past, eligibility for AOA induction was determined based on combined number of honors in the Foundations and Clerkship levels of the curriculum once clerkship grades for rotation #7 have been recorded. Students identified as eligible were then invited to submit their latest Curriculum Vitae and an application asking for students to list engagement in leadership, service, and research along with a personal statement.

With the LCOM move to a pass-fail curriculum in the Foundations Level, the LCOM AOA

Given Courtyard N100
89 Beaumont Avenue, Burlington, Vermont 05405-0068
T (802) 656-0722 • F (802) 656-9377

in alliance with The University of Vermont Medical Center

Selection committee voted to update the AOA selection process. LCOM clerkship grades are based on clinical evaluations which include six core competencies including professionalism, a final exam and a clinical skills exam. The LCOM AOA selection committee decided to have Clerkship Level honors grades determine AOA eligibility. Following rotation #7 grade submission, the top 25% of the class, based on Clerkship Level Honors, will be invited to apply for AOA nomination and selection. The application will ask AOA applicants to reflect on their medical school experiences in leadership, service and research; however, instead of the added personal statement (which has not proven to be very helpful to the committee), applicants will be asked to reflect on one experience in each category and write about how that experience serves to meet the tenants of AOA and what personal or professional development occurred as a result of the experience.

The selection committee did not support using numerical grades, a cumulative GPA or USMLE scores to determine AOA eligibility. They deemed it in conflict with the goals and objectives of moving to a pass-fail basic sciences curriculum.

After a careful review of the applications, the LCOM AOA Selection Committee selects up to one-sixth of the class for AOA induction in late July/early August, and new members are informed early enough to include this information in their residency application.

Please feel free to direct any questions you may have to myself, the Associate Dean for Students or the Office of Medical Student Education.

Sincerely,



[Marie Sandoval, M.D.](#)

AOA Faculty Councilor

Associate Professor of Medicine

CC: [Christa Zehle, MD](#), Associate Dean for Students
[Kiersten Hallquist](#), Student Services Coordinator & AOA Administrative Support