

Tips to Remember When Speaking to Osteopathic Medical Students

Do:

- Keep in mind that you will be addressing a student audience. Try to tailor your message so that it relates to their concerns.
- Connect with students by sharing your experiences as an osteopathic medical student and a D.O. This includes:
 - Why you became a D.O.
 - What COM you attended
 - How you chose your specialty
 - The differences in today's medical education and when you were a student
- Remain in the present by talking about challenges that pertain to today's students.
- Familiarize yourself with the "hot topics" being discussed on COM campuses.
- Emphasize the role students play in the AOA and the decision-making process. (There is at least one student on every committee except accreditation.)

Don't:

- Make negative remarks about the allopathic profession. Many students are aware of the rift that existed between allopathic medicine and osteopathic medicine in past years. However, many believe that this is no longer an issue.
- Focus your presentation on facts and figures. Stories and personal anecdotes produce the most positive audience response.
- Prepare an extremely long presentation. Always allot time for a Q+A session when speaking to students.

During the Q+A

Do:

- Repeat the question for the rest of the audience.
- Prepare by reviewing a list of the most frequently asked questions from students.

Don't:

- Avoid questions about a joint match. The students are aware of the AOA's official stance on this issue. As an AOA representative, you must be able explain and defend our position.
- Make up an answer if you are unsure of one. You can inform the individual that you will find out the answer and get back to him/her.