

Standard 8 – Element 8.1

Evidence Submission

Research/Scholarly Strategic Plan

A copy of the Strategic Plan for Research and Scholarly Activity is provided in this document

Research and Scholarly Activity Strategic Plan

October 2026

DYU-COM Strategic Plan for Research and Scholarly Activity

This research and scholarly activity strategic plan outlines our commitment to advancing medical knowledge and fostering innovation through rigorous research and scholarly endeavors. This plan serves as a roadmap for enhancing our research capabilities, promoting collaborative scholarly activities, and integrating cutting-edge discoveries into our educational framework. By setting clear objectives and strategic priorities, we aim to support the professional growth of our faculty, engage students in meaningful research opportunities, and contribute to the broader field of osteopathic medicine. Our overarching goal is to have faculty facilitating the environment whereby to engage our medical students in contributing to osteopathic medicine and science, and develop into life-long learners, empathic well- rounded physicians, and leaders of the community.

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COCA Requirement

DYU-COM maintains a strategic plan for research and scholarly activity that supports the development of institutional research capacity, faculty scholarship, and student participation in research and scholarly activity. The plan is intended to contribute to the advancement of knowledge while supporting the mission of the College, including scholarship relevant to osteopathic medicine, community health, cultural competency, and health disparities.

DYU-COM Statement of Compliance

D'Youville University College of Osteopathic Medicine (DYU-COM) implements a coordinated research and scholarly activity strategy that integrates student scholarly development, faculty mentorship, institutional research support, regulatory oversight, and dissemination. The strategy is longitudinal and begins during the pre-clinical curriculum, continues through the clinical phase, and culminates in scholarly dissemination, including the DYU-COM Annual Research Day.

The strategic plan is supported by the research and scholarly activity budget described in Element 8.2 and by the student research policies, procedures, curriculum, and compliance infrastructure described in Element 8.4.

1. Research Philosophy and Strategic Direction

D'Youville University College of Osteopathic Medicine (DYU-COM) is committed to cultivating a culture of scholarly inquiry that supports the mission and principles of osteopathic medical education. This approach emphasizes structured faculty mentorship, active student engagement in scholarly activities, and the integration of research principles throughout the biomedical science curriculum.

The primary goal is not only to generate scholarly output, but to develop physicians who are proficient in critically evaluating medical literature, applying evidence-based reasoning, and contributing meaningfully to scientific and clinical advancement. Research training is designed as a longitudinal, scaffolded experience that begins in the pre-clinical years and continues throughout the clinical clerkship phase, allowing students to progressively build research literacy, methodological competence, and scholarly productivity.

Participation in scholarly activity is embedded within the curriculum while maintaining flexibility for students to pursue projects aligned with their academic interests, professional goals, and emerging areas of healthcare need.

The DYU-COM Research Program is coordinated by the Research Committee under the leadership of the Chair of the Research Committee, in collaboration with the Associate Dean of Clinical Medicine and the Assistant Director of Research. This leadership structure ensures oversight of faculty mentorship, student scholarly development, and dissemination of research outcomes.

Participation in the longitudinal research curriculum, including completion of a scholarly project and presentation at Research Day, is a required component of the DYU-COM Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine program.

Definition of Scholarly Activity

DYU-COM defines scholarly activity in accordance with Boyer's Model of Scholarship, which includes:

- **Scholarship of Discovery** - Generation of new knowledge through biomedical, clinical, or translational research.
- **Scholarship of Integration** - Synthesis and interpretation of knowledge across disciplines, including interdisciplinary and comparative anatomical research.
- **Scholarship of Application** - Application of research to improve patient care, healthcare systems, and community health outcomes, including quality improvement (QI/QA) initiatives.
- **Scholarship of Teaching and Education** - Research focused on medical education, curriculum innovation, and instructional methodologies.

Scholarly activities may include biomedical laboratory research, cadaveric anatomical variation studies, osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM/OPP) research, clinical and translational research, medical education research, community health projects, and quality improvement initiatives.

2. Research Priorities

DYU-COM prioritizes research and scholarly activity in areas that support its educational mission and community responsibilities:

- Cultural competency, community health, health disparities, and care of underserved populations.
- Clinical medicine, patient outcomes, healthcare systems improvement, and quality improvement/quality assurance.
- Biomedical and foundational sciences, including anatomical and interdisciplinary scholarship.
- Osteopathic principles and practice (OPP) and osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM).
- Medical education, curriculum innovation, assessment, and teaching scholarship.

3. Longitudinal Student Research and Scholarly Activity Strategy

Student scholarly development is integrated across the four-year curriculum, and scholarly activity is a requirement of the curriculum. The pre-clinical phase establishes research literacy, project planning, implementation, and dissemination skills. The clinical phase extends these competencies into clinically oriented and specialty-relevant scholarly activity.

Phase	Primary Focus	Expected Student Development	Key Milestone
Research I / Semester 1	Foundations of Scientific Inquiry	Scientific method, research design, literature appraisal, ethics/IRB, evidence-based medicine	Research literacy and exposure to scholarly pathways
Research II / Semester 2	Research Planning and Project Development	Research question/objective, study design, basic biostatistics, proposal development, faculty mentor identification	Defined scholarly pathway and project plan
Research III / Semester 3	Project Implementation and Scholarly Development	Supervised project activity, data management/analysis as applicable, scientific writing	Active project development under faculty supervision
Research IV / Semester 4	Scholarly Communication and Dissemination	Abstract and poster preparation, presentation skills, manuscript development when appropriate	Participation in DYU-COM Annual Research Day
Research V–VIII / Clinical Phase	Clinical and Specialty Integration	Clinically oriented, community, OMM/OPP, systems, case-based, educational, and specialty-relevant scholarship	Continuation, refinement, dissemination, or completion of scholarly work

Additional details are provided below to further describe how the student research and scholarly activity strategy is integrated and scaffolded across the osteopathic medical curriculum.

Longitudinal Research Curriculum (Research I - IV) - Phase One

Research development is integrated into the pre-clinical curriculum as a structured longitudinal pathway spanning the first two years of medical education.

Semester 1: Research I (Foundations of Scientific Inquiry)

Focus: Development of research literacy and early exposure to scholarly activity.

Students are introduced to foundational concepts in biomedical and clinical research, including:

- Principles of the scientific method
- Fundamentals of research design
- Introduction to medical literature databases
- Critical appraisal of scientific literature
- Research ethics and Institutional Review Board (IRB) processes
- Foundations of evidence-based medicine

Learning Activities:

- Research Seminar Series featuring faculty and invited investigators
- Journal club discussions within student learning communities
- Workshops on literature review and citation management
- Faculty research presentations
- Exposure to diverse research domains, including anatomical variation, osteopathic research, medical education, and clinical investigation

Semester 2: Research II (Research Planning and Project Development)

Focus: Development of a research question and study design.

Students begin formal project development under faculty mentorship.

Core Components:

- Formulation of a research hypothesis or project objective
- Introduction to study design (clinical, translational, educational, community-based, or QI/QA)
- Basic biostatistics and interpretation of medical data
- Development of a structured research proposal or scholarly project outline
- Identification of a faculty mentor and research pathway

Students may pursue projects across biomedical sciences, osteopathic research, clinical outcomes, medical education, community health, or healthcare quality improvement.

Semester 3: Research III (Project Implementation and Scholarly Development)

Focus: Execution of scholarly projects.

Students actively engage in research under faculty supervision.

Learning Activities:

- Data collection and management
- Laboratory-based or anatomy-focused research
- Clinical and translational research participation
- Quality improvement and healthcare systems research
- Medical education or community health initiatives

Students also receive structured guidance in data analysis and statistical interpretation, as well as scientific writing and abstract preparation

Semester 4: Research IV (Scholarly Communication and Dissemination)

Focus: Presentation and dissemination of scholarly work.

Students finalize and present their research findings.

Learning Activities:

- Preparation of abstracts and scientific posters
- Participation in the DYU-COM Annual Research Day
- Submission of abstracts to regional and national conferences
- Manuscript development and submission for publication when appropriate

The Annual Research Day serves as the primary institutional platform for showcasing student and faculty scholarly activity.

Longitudinal Research Curriculum (Research V–VIII) - Phase Two

In the clinical phase of training, students build upon their foundational research skills and transition toward clinically oriented scholarly activity. Students will collaborate with clinical faculty to identify research opportunities in areas such as:

- Community health and outreach programs
- Osteopathic manipulative medicine (OMM) outcomes and implementation
- Medical imaging and diagnostic innovation
- Rural and underserved community medicine
- Health systems improvement and patient care outcomes

During this phase, students will work closely with the *Associate Dean of Clinical Medicine* and the *Associate Dean of Graduate Medical Education* to align scholarly activity with residency expectations and specialty-specific interests. This ensures that research experiences are both academically meaningful and strategically aligned with future training pathways.

4. Faculty Mentorship and Research Development

Faculty mentorship is central to the DYU-COM research strategy. Students are paired with or identify appropriately qualified faculty mentors who provide scientific and scholarly guidance, establish feasible scope and timelines, monitor student progress, promote research integrity, and ensure that applicable institutional approvals and training are addressed.

Faculty-led research provides an additional pathway for student participation. Faculty investigators retain responsibility for approved protocols and ensure that student activities remain within the scope of applicable approvals. DYU-COM also supports faculty scholarship through research resources, seed funding, travel/presentation support, collaborative opportunities, and institutional research infrastructure as available.

5. Research Governance and Compliance

DYU-COM maintains a structured research governance and compliance framework to support student participation in research and scholarly activity while ensuring adherence to institutional, ethical, regulatory, and safety requirements. Oversight is coordinated through the DYU-COM Research Committee in collaboration with appropriate university offices and faculty mentors. The compliance framework includes:

- **Faculty mentorship and accountability.** Each student engaged in a research project requiring formal oversight must have an appropriately qualified faculty mentor responsible for supervision, scientific guidance, compliance, and monitoring of student participation. This builds directly upon the faculty-supervision structure already established in Element 8.4.
- **Required research training.** Students must complete applicable training before beginning regulated research activities. Depending on the project, this may include CITI Responsible Conduct of Research, human-subject research, HIPAA, biosafety, bloodborne pathogens, laboratory safety, recombinant DNA, animal research, or other project-specific requirements.
- **Research Committee review.** Student-initiated research requiring institutional oversight is submitted through the established DYU-COM research review process. Proposals identify the research question or objective, faculty mentor, methodology, participants or data sources, project location, timeline, resources, and anticipated dissemination.
- **Human-subject protections.** Research involving human participants or identifiable human data must receive the appropriate institutional determination or approval before research activities begin. The existing policy specifically identifies parent-institution IRB review following DYU-COM Research Committee review.

- **Laboratory and research safety.** Students participating in laboratory research must complete applicable safety training and receive appropriate authorization before accessing controlled research spaces or conducting regulated activities.
- **Research integrity.** Students are expected to comply with standards governing responsible conduct of research, data integrity, appropriate attribution and authorship, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, and avoidance of fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism. The existing policy already establishes disciplinary expectations for falsification, plagiarism, and other unethical research behavior.
- **Project monitoring and completion.** Research projects are monitored through faculty mentorship and applicable institutional oversight. Longer projects are subject to continuing review as required, and formally approved projects require appropriate closure or final reporting. The existing policy already specifies annual review for projects lasting longer than one year and submission of a final report regardless of outcome.
- **Scholarly dissemination.** Students receive guidance regarding abstracts, posters, presentations, and manuscripts, with faculty mentorship supporting appropriate authorship, attribution, and responsible dissemination. This aligns directly with your Research IV structure, which culminates in abstracts, posters, Research Day, conference submission, and manuscript development.

6. Research Infrastructure, Resources, and Budget Alignment

DYU-COM supports research and scholarly activity through a multi-year financial framework extending through the anticipated graduation of the first class. Budgeted categories include capital equipment, IRB-related costs, research seed grants, research laboratory operations, research presentation and travel support, the Annual Research Symposium/Research Day, and miscellaneous project-specific needs.

Funding and Grant Application Support

Research funding is planned to be allocated from both internal and external sources. In terms of internal funding, DYU-COM has prepared a Research and Scholarly Activity Budget (see also: **Standard 8.2**), which includes research funding for seed grants and student/faculty research projects.

Support for grant applications will be made available to DYU-COM through the grant's office at its Parent Institution. D'Youville University has a dedicated team of both in-house staff and third-party contractors who specialize in applying for a wide variety of funding sources, including state, federal, and private foundation applications.

Research Facilities

Research space, laboratories, equipment, databases, statistical and manuscript-development resources, and other institutional support are made available according to project needs, institutional capacity, and applicable authorization. This section details the physical and technological resources necessary to foster a thriving research environment. It addresses the provision of wet and dry research labs, patient rooms for clinical trials, space for collaboration and multidisciplinary discussion, space dedicated to the promotion of research in social sciences, and computer labs. The specific facilities available throughout the university where students and faculty can conduct research include but are not limited to:

Wet and Dry Bench Research: There are 5+ research labs capable of hosting cell culture research with hoods with HEPA filters on the 320 Porter Campus. These facilities provide the appropriate safety resources such as handwashing stations, as well as emergency eyewash and showers. Equipment safety within these spaces will be strictly maintained and additional spaces of this style will be developed at the future 285 Delaware COM building.

Patient Rooms: There are 15+ individualized rooms available throughout the 320 Porter campus which can be used for patient interviews and observations. These spaces are currently available by reservation only. DYU-COM plans to double this capacity by adding a 15 room OSCE suite in the 285 Delaware Ave building.

Collaborative Lounges for Multidisciplinary Discussion: There are 45+ spaces to host small-group research discussions, collaborations, and lectures. These spaces are available for reservations, but many can also be used on an as-needed, first-come, first-serve basis.

Social Sciences Research: The facilities demand for social sciences research is much less stringent, as often a standard faculty office with an internet connection is all that is needed. However, the Center for Doctoral Studies and Research provides a class-A office space location to conduct this type of work, collaborate, and discuss research in a professional learning community with other faculty and doctoral students. Some of the significant and related ongoing research projects include the research domains of biomechanics, social and community aspects of healthcare, and interprofessional healthcare pedagogical research.

Computer Labs: There are 4 computer labs located on campus: three (3) medium-sized labs in the School of Arts, Science and Education and one (1) large lab in the Montante Family Library. All these labs are equipped with computers that have SPSS software installed for free usage by students and faculty to complete data analytics work.

7. Collaboration and Dissemination

Students will work with faculty mentors to develop and complete a scholarly project. Scholarly activities may include biomedical, clinical, osteopathic, medical education, community health, or quality improvement research. Students are expected to actively engage in all required research activities, maintain professionalism, and comply with all institutional and IRB policies.

DYU-COM also encourages interdisciplinary and collaborative scholarship with other university programs, affiliated institutions, clinical partners, research centers, and laboratories when appropriate and available. External activity remains subject to DYU-COM requirements and the policies and approvals of collaborating institutions.

The DYU-COM Annual Research Day is the primary institutional platform for showcasing student and faculty scholarly activity. Students receive guidance in abstracts, posters, oral presentation, authorship, attribution, confidentiality, and responsible dissemination. Conference presentation and peer-reviewed publication are encouraged when appropriate.

Reporting on research and scholarly activity will flow from the DYU-COM Research Committee to the Office of the Dean. The Dean in turn will pass on significant accomplishments and projects worthy of highlighting to other communication channels at the Parent Institution, such as the D'Youville Research Review and presentations to the Board of Trustees.

Publications accepted to indexed journals and presentations at industry conferences will be the major outlets for communicating research and scholarly activity outcomes to the external community.

8. Assessment, Outcomes, and Continuous Improvement

DYU-COM will evaluate implementation of the research strategy through evidence of student participation and progression, faculty mentorship, project development, regulatory compliance where applicable, Research Day participation, scholarly products, faculty scholarship, use of research resources, and alignment of expenditures with strategic priorities.

DYU-COM Research Committee

The Research Committee and DYU-COM leadership will periodically review program outcomes and implementation needs and will use findings to refine research education, mentorship capacity, resource allocation, governance processes, and opportunities for student and faculty scholarship.

The DYU-COM Research Committee currently consists of seven (7) COM members, and one (1) administrative member from the Parent Institution: Director of Institutional Research & IRB. The other members shall all be employees from within DYU-COM.

The Committee is responsible for making decisions relative to the equitable use of research facilities controlled by DYU-COM; distribution of internal funds to support new and continuing research endeavors; establishment and maintenance of student research initiatives; and all other matters that may be referred to the committee by the DYU-COM Dean.

The DYU-COM Research Committee shall be supportive of decisions made by the IRB, however, the committee shall not be responsible for the activities of the IRB and rather shall adopt all Parent Institution policies and protocols related to this matter, to uphold institutional equity and to ensure compliance with all laws and regulations of the local, state, and federal governments.

9. Implementation Priorities and Evidence

The following is a summary of DYU-COM's key implementation priorities and evidence related to the Strategic Plan for Research and Scholarly Activity.

- Maintain alignment to Elements 8.1, 8.2, and 8.4, the curriculum, and student-facing policies.
- Maintain longitudinal Research I–VIII framework and faculty-mentored scholarly pathways.
- Support completion of student scholarly projects and participation in the DYU-COM Annual Research Day.
- Maintain Research Committee membership, procedures, and institutional oversight pathways.
- Maintain evidence of research education, mentor/project activity, required training and approvals, Research Day, scholarly dissemination, and budget expenditures.

Conclusion

This plan provides a synthesis of our strategic vision, purpose, goals and objectives, key research priorities, facilities, and actionable steps to be taken over the next 10 years of activity at DYU-COM, which includes the focus on cultural competency and health disparities. The plan also outlines the role of the faculty in research and scholarly activity, as well as the composition, roles, and responsibilities of the DYU-COM Research Committee—a body formed to stimulate and oversee research, including its assessment, reporting, and communication.

By reflecting on this strategic plan as a framework for directing efforts, we will incrementally increase the research output and culture of scholarly activities within its community. Through this strategic plan, we aim to position ourselves at the forefront of medical research and attract best-in-class students and faculty to DYU-COM.

Responsible Unit: DYU-COM Admin;
Research Committee
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