



Take the next step @ Oceania University of Medicine



[oum.edu.ws](http://oum.edu.ws)

# Advance to MD



*“If becoming a doctor is something you have always wanted to do, then enroll at OUM and do it... The faculty and staff will support you and do everything they can to make sure you become a doctor.”*

Dr. J.A., Former Family Nurse Practitioner, OUM Class of 2012,  
3rd Year Family Medicine Resident, St. Louis, USA

# Table of Contents

An Innovative Approach to Medical Education	5
The OUM Experience	6
Technology’s Role at OUM	8
Curriculum	11
Preclinical Modules	12
System-Based Modules: Learning Through Case Presentations	14
Transition from Clinical Theory to Clinical Rotations	16
Clinical Modules	18
Admission Standards	21
Admission Prerequisites and Enrollment Process	22
Pathways to Practice	25
Licensure and Registration	26



The mission of Oceania University of Medicine is to produce physicians with the requisite knowledge, skills, and attitudes to improve the health of underserved communities in Oceania and beyond, via traditional and innovative instructional modalities to help individuals overcome distance, personal, and professional barriers to realize their calling to the medical profession.



# Realize Your Calling to the Medical Profession

*“What I liked about OUM is that I could continue to work part-time and continue my studies in medicine. The ability to combine my studies with the cases I was seeing in the hospital really enhanced my education.”*

Dr. V.N. Former Nurse OUM Class of 2012,  
2nd Year Intern, Melbourne, Australia

## An Innovative Approach to Medical Education

Oceania University of Medicine, founded in the South Pacific Island nation of Samoa, blends hands-on clinical experience with online teaching to help aspiring physicians overcome distance, personal and professional barriers to achieve their dream.

The opportunity to complete the preclinical phase of medical studies without having to stop working and leave families and support systems, is one reason why Oceania University of Medicine's MD program is attractive to students currently working in healthcare as well as other professions. While the students' work experiences are diverse, their visions are identical. The school's flexible distance-learning curriculum is ideal for individuals with work and family commitments but wish to become physicians. Similar to traditional medical schools, once OUM students successfully complete their preclinical study, clinical rotations occur on site at teaching hospitals.

The OUM MD degree program is a full-scale, rigorous medical school curriculum, based largely on American and Australian medical education models. The program is typically completed in four-and-a-half to five years, but if students need more time due to work or family matters, OUM's flexibility allows for that. Only OUM has an MD program that allows professionals to continue working through the preclinical years.

OUM students develop a broad range of knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to practice medicine. The curriculum used in each program has been carefully structured to provide a balance of course subjects, integrated learning, and clinical experiences, through the problem-based learning model (PBL). Students will be able to bridge the gap between basic science concepts and their relevance to the clinical setting. The PBL approach links basic sciences with the development of clinical reasoning, utilizing independent learning and small-group discussions to probe complex and timely medical issues.

Throughout the program, students will interact with patients and physicians to learn basic interviewing skills, history-taking, physical examination, and physical diagnosis.



# The OUM Experience

The MD program begins with the 20-week Introduction to Medicine module, followed by 10 weeks of e-Foundation Sciences blocks, 10 six-week System-Based Modules, and a research project, comprising the preclinical portion of the program. Then, students transition into the 72-week clinical curriculum where they learn hands-on patient care through their medical student clerkships.



## OUM Students at a Glance.

The majority of OUM students live in Australia, New Zealand, and the United States, but the student body actually represents more than 40 countries of origin. More than three-quarters of the students are healthcare professionals including nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, emergency medical technicians, pharmacists, and other clinical professions. Approximately half OUM's students hold Master's degrees and roughly ten percent have earned a doctorate. The diversity of the student body, both in terms of nationalities and life experience, makes for interesting discussions creating a unique classroom dynamic conducive to learning.

## Preparing for Practice

OUM is listed in the World Health Organization's (WHO) World Directory of Medical Schools and the International Medical Education Directory (IMED) and is recognized by the Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG). OUM students and graduates are eligible to sit for the Australian Medical Council Exam, Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination (MCCEE) and Qualifying Exam (MCCQE), New Zealand Registration Exam (NZREX), as well as the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE).

## Support for Your Successful Career as a Physician

As an OUM-trained physician, your future success translates to OUM's continued success. That is why OUM has made a considerable investment to graduate practitioners with sound skills in the basic and clinical sciences and a socially-responsible approach to the practice of medicine. From recruiting a faculty comprised of respected scholars and specialists from around the world, to maintaining international accreditation and providing extra support and preparation for benchmark qualifying exams, all resources are focused on helping students realize their true potential as practicing physicians.

**OUM's graduates have been selected for highly-competitive residency, internship, and fellowship positions and are working as practitioners in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Samoa, and in many major metropolitan areas in the United States.**

Of course, one clear validation of the quality of the school's curriculum is the pass rate for qualifying exams in North America, Australasia, and beyond. OUM graduates perform extremely well on such registration or licensing exams as USMLE, AMC and MCC exams, and the NZREX, with the majority of OUM students and graduates passing on the first attempt. OUM ensures first-time passing performance on the USMLE Step 1 with the University's comprehensive In-House Exam, which can be taken at different intervals of the preclinical curriculum to gauge student readiness for Step 1.

## Physician Mentors and Academic Support

Physician Mentors provide students face-to-face counsel and advice throughout their medical education journey, primarily and particularly during the preclinical distance learning modules when their hands-on support is most valuable. Academic Advisers are available upon matriculation to help customize the student's transition into the OUM program and to provide support throughout the preclinical curriculum. Many are also instructors for the preclinical curriculum and have prepared on-demand lectures to supplement the core clinical rotations. They are familiar with the OUM curriculum and licensure requirements in their country, often serving as the student's coach for benchmark exams such as the USMLE.

## The International Medical Honor Society and OUM Student Association

OUM students who excel academically are eligible for nomination by the faculty in the newly formed international medical honor society, Mu Delta Iota (MDI). Following criteria used by the renowned Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) US national medical honor society, MDI will accept faculty nomination of students in their first year of clinical rotations.

The OUM Student Association (OUMSA), formed by students in early 2014, is a chapter of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA), one of the largest medical student associations in the world. Though AMSA is located in the US, membership in AMSA and the OUMSA is open to all OUM students, no matter where they live. OUMSA fosters student interaction and is student-run to provide students with additional resources to assist one another during and upon completion of medical school.



INTERNATIONALLY ACCREDITED

## Accreditation

OUM became the only internationally-accredited medical school in the South Pacific when it received formal accreditation from the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU) in 2010. PAASCU is one of only a few international accrediting bodies charged with ensuring that non-US medical schools are held to standards comparable to those applied to US medical schools.

OUM's international accreditation validates the University's curriculum and programming as comparable to long-standing traditional institutions. OUM's accreditation also provides one of the requisite credentials which graduates of foreign medical schools need for licensing and to practice medicine in many countries including Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States.



# Technology's Role at OUM

The MD program at OUM utilizes a blend of traditional face-to-face learning, online curriculum materials, and real-time virtual classrooms, offering students the latest in e-learning capabilities.

Today, many of the leading medical schools are using computer-assisted instruction or distance-learning courses in their curricula, but at OUM, online delivery applications are the focal point of the medical education program. To that end, student success may be determined, to a certain extent, upon his/her understanding and comfort level using these technologies.

Through OUM's online Learning Management System, students access material utilizing secure Internet connections from their personal computers, including weekly problem-based learning (PBL) case studies, exhibits, and assessments. The virtual classroom provides online learning and student-teacher interaction in a live, real-time classroom environment.

OUM has integrated the virtual classroom into all aspects of the University including:

- >> admissions information sessions
- >> admission interviews
- >> faculty/staff meetings
- >> tutorial sessions
- >> student study group sessions

## How it works

In the ten System-Based Modules, an essential disease process is discussed during each of the first six weeks in a 40-50 page case which integrates the basic and clinical sciences. Students participate in interactive lectures via OUM's virtual classroom, focusing on the diagnosis and management of the clinical condition based on the current understanding of the basic sciences and existing technology. The principles of the case and lectures are reinforced with extensive reading and assessed with a comprehensive examination.

Students completing clinical rotations view recorded lectures where specialists deliver presentations on essential clinical topics which are tested after completing each core clerkship. The clinical lecturers discuss the epidemiology, presentation, differential diagnosis, evaluation, treatment, and follow-up of the symptom/disease process on medical topics relevant to such areas as Internal Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Pediatrics, and more.



## The Lab Experience in an Online Curriculum

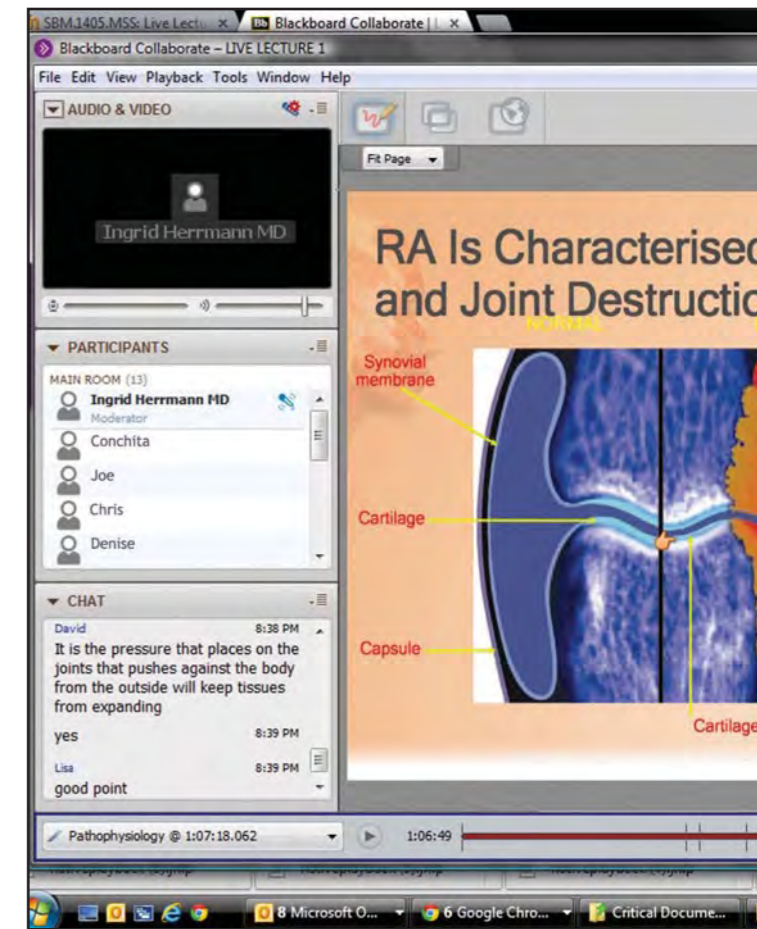
Today's graphic and accurate computer images are transforming the way many medical students experience that medical school rite of passage – the gross anatomy lab. Many medical schools are moving away from cadaver laboratory work toward high-quality electronic teaching material such as what OUM provides. In fact, several medical school accrediting bodies now acknowledge that laboratory exercises may be "real or simulated." Traditionally, it was believed that time in the laboratory was the only way for students to acquire the skills necessary to collect and analyze raw data from graphs, blood work, and other pathological results. The advent of interactive online materials has changed that. With an innovative electronic curriculum delivery and the hands-on experience of clinical clerkships, OUM students develop the skills necessary to practice medicine in today's ever changing medical landscape.

## Proctoring Exams from Your Computer

Software Secure's Remote Proctor NOW monitors all examinations at OUM. This downloadable software utilizes a test taker's existing computer hardware, including webcam, speaker, and microphone to provide a secure test-taking environment from any location. Video and audio recording, test-taker authentication, and blocking access to browsers during test taking preserve exam integrity.

## Technology Requirements for Students

The University requires that students have access to a computer that has high-speed Internet connectivity, is reliable, functioning, free from viruses, and is Java-enabled. Students should always have a back-up plan in case their computer experiences problems and/or is no longer in working order.



# Flexibility to Work and Learn

*“ I felt OUM gave me a lot of flexibility with my demanding schedule as a practicing PA when I enrolled. I was able to continue to work for the first two years in medical school. I also enjoyed the integrated approach to medicine which included comprehensive case studies based on the specialties. ”*

Dr. P.G., Former Physician Assistant and OUM Class of 2008, now a Practicing Physician in Internal Medicine, Suburban Chicago, USA

# Curriculum

OUM’s curriculum provides a well-rounded foundation of knowledge, behavior and skills to ensure graduates’ success through postgraduate training and practice.

Divided into two distinct phases, clinical and preclinical, the MD curriculum takes students from the basic sciences and the development of clinical reasoning through to patient care in a clinical setting. Beginning with a 20-week Introduction to Medicine course, the preclinical phase spans a total of 96 weeks and is the distance-learning component of the program.

The opportunity for students to continue working during the preclinical phase (usually two-and-a-half years) is one feature that sets OUM apart from a traditional medical school setting. Nevertheless, students should plan to commit 40-50 hours per week devoted to research, study, class attendance, and meetings with one’s adviser and mentor. Following the preclinical modules, and a research project, the 72 weeks of clinical clerkships include core rotations and electives including one rotation in either Independent Samoa or American Samoa. The clinical modules require a full-time commitment.

OCEANIA UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE ~ DOCTOR OF MEDICINE (MD) PROGRAM

PHASE	PRECLINICAL MODULES (96 Weeks)													CLINICAL MODULES (72 Weeks)															
LENGTH (WEEKS)	20	5	5	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	12	8	8	4	4	8	12									
MODULE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19										
Problem-based learning	Introduction to Medicine	e-Foundation Sciences 201	e-Foundation Sciences 202	Respiratory System	Gastro-Intestinal System	Cardiovascular System	Musculoskeletal System	Neurology and Neurosciences	Renal System	Hemic-Immune System	Endocrine System	Reproductive System	Trends & Topics in Medicine	USMLE Step 1	Internal Medicine	Pediatrics	Obstetrics and Gynecology	Emergency Medicine	Psychiatry	Community Medicine	Surgery	USMLE Step 2 or Final Clinical Exam	Advanced Electives	Advanced Electives	Advanced Electives	Advanced Electives	GRADUATION		

See #1

See #2

e-Foundation Science Blocks (100-series)

- Biochemistry
- Molecular Biology and Medical Genetics
- Physiology
- Anatomy, Neuroanatomy, and Embryology
- Microanatomy & Cell Biology
- Pharmacology
- Microbiology
- Immunology
- Pathology
- Behavioral Medicine and Biostatistics

1

Students with weaknesses in the basic sciences may be recommended to undertake corresponding 100-level e-Foundation Science blocks prior to beginning the System-Based Modules.

2

Upon successful completion of the e-Foundation Sciences 200-series and any supplemental 100-level blocks, plus approval of the physician mentor on file, the student may enroll in the first system-based module (#3 above).

3

Trends & Topics in Medicine includes Behavioral Medicine, Legal Medicine, Integrative Medicine and Ethics.

4

All students must complete a research project prior to graduation.

5

For students wishing to take clinical modules at teaching hospitals in the United States, USMLE Step 1 must be passed before commencing the clinical modules.

6

Clinical clerkships may be undertaken in any order, though cores should be completed first. At least one 4-week rotation is required in Samoa or American Samoa.

7

USMLE Step 2 CK & CS or Final Clinical Exam may be taken after the core rotations and must be passed prior to graduation.

11

# Preclinical Modules

## Introduction to Medicine (e-ITM) – Module 1

The e-ITM is taught online over 20 weeks, covering all of the basic science disciplines required to pass the USMLE Step 1 and practice medicine in the 21st century, in addition to providing a brief introduction to the language and major concepts of each basic science discipline before they are discussed in depth during succeeding modules. The major basic sciences presented during the e-ITM are delivered via OUM's virtual classroom in two-week blocks, some individually and others combined, as follows (listed in alphabetical order):

**Anatomy, Neuroanatomy & Embryology**  
**Biochemistry**  
**Microanatomy & Cell Biology**  
**Molecular Biology & Medical Genetics**  
**Pharmacology**

**Behavioral Medicine & Biostatistics**  
**Immunology**  
**Microbiology**  
**Pathology**  
**Physiology**

Each block features live lectures taught twice a week and supplemented by five weekly two-hour recorded lectures that are delivered via OUM's virtual classroom. Each two-week block includes a quiz at the end of the first week and a final examination at the end of the second week.

Because mastery of the basic sciences is essential to passing the USMLE Step 1, students who intend to take and pass the Step 1 exam should aim to score at least 75 percent on the final examination of all e-ITM blocks. Students intending to practice in the United States who score below 75 percent on any e-ITM final exam will be recommended to complete the more detailed corresponding 100-level e-Foundation Sciences block after completing the entire 20-week e-ITM module.

The e-ITM module allows students to appreciate the clinical significance of basic science principles, utilize online technical resources, and effectively articulate the scientific basis of disease. The remaining preclinical modules build upon the groundwork set by the e-ITM.

## Focus on the Basics

### e-Foundation Sciences (200-Level Series)

Upon completing the e-ITM, students complete two five-week 200-Series e-Foundation Sciences blocks:

- >> e-Foundation Sciences 201 covers molecular biology, biochemistry, and medical genetics
- >> e-Foundation Sciences 202 covers gross anatomy, general pathology, microbiology, immunology, and general pharmacology

Students scoring less than 60% in the e-Foundation Sciences 200 series will be required to complete the corresponding 100-level e-Foundation Sciences blocks prior to enrollment in the System-Based Modules. For example, a student scoring less than 60% in the e-Foundation Sciences 201 block will be required to pass the four-week 100-level Biochemistry and Molecular Biology & Medical Genetics blocks (two blocks) before progressing in the program.

### 100-Level e-Foundation Sciences: A More Intensive Look at the Basic Sciences

As the 100-level e-Foundation Science blocks are intensive expansions of the basic science disciplines taught during e-ITM blocks and e-Foundation Sciences 200-series modules, each four-week 100-level block covers one or more of the following:

**Biochemistry.** Classic and molecular biochemistry, including structure, function, and biosynthesis of macromolecules, metabolic interrelations and control mechanisms, and biochemical genetics. Application of recent advances in knowledge of molecular bases for cellular function to disease states (diagnosis, prevention, and treatment).

**Molecular Biology.** Structure and function of the genetic material, including DNA structure, DNA replication and recombination, regulation of gene expression, and protein synthesis. Both prokaryotic and eukaryotic systems are examined, including contemporary recombinant DNA technology and applications of molecular cloning procedures.

**Medical Statistics.** Introduction to statistical methods used by medical researchers, including descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing, analysis of variance, regression, and correlation.

**Physiology.** Functional features of the major organ systems in the human body. Emphasis on homeostasis and the interactions of organ systems in health and disease.

**Pharmacology.** The various classes of drugs that are used in medicine, particularly those used in specific or symptomatic treatment of disease states, are covered. Drugs of abuse are also covered.

**Medical Genetics.** Topics include human gene organization and expression, chromosome structure, karyotyping, chromosomal aberrations, sex determination and sex chromosome abnormalities, patterns of single gene inheritance, linkage analysis, human gene mapping, inborn errors in metabolism, human population genetics, polymorphic cell surface antigens, multifactorial inheritance genetics of cancer, prenatal diagnosis, and uses of recombinant DNA in medical genetics.

**Microanatomy/Cell Biology.** Microanatomy focuses on the major features of the structural organization of cells, tissues, and organs, and how that organization is related to function. Cell biology involves an analysis of the basic structure and function of human cells, with an emphasis on the regulation of cellular processes. The basic features of membranes, cellular compartmentalization, protein trafficking, vesicular transport, cytoskeleton, adhesion, signal transduction, and cell cycle are covered.

**Anatomy.** A systems approach to the analysis of human structure. Molecular, cellular, tissue, organ, and organ-system levels of structure and organization are integrated throughout.

**Neuroanatomy.** How neuroscience uses tools of many disciplines, from imaging to behavior, to develop and test hypotheses about functions of specific parts of the brain. Basic organization of nerve cells and the human nervous system, methods of visualizing nerve cells, neural connections, and neural activity patterns are covered.

**Embryology.** Embryologic development from ovulation through birth is covered and is organized by organ systems. Topics are integrated with human anatomy to facilitate understanding of anatomic relationships, selected birth defects, and anatomic variants.

**Microbiology.** Comparative metabolism of small molecules and cell structure and relationship to microbial classification are covered, including macromolecule synthesis and regulation, cell division, growth, and effects of antibiotics.

**Immunology.** A study of humoral and cellular immunology. Topics include lymphoid systems, cells, antigens, antibodies, antibody formation, cellular immunity, and tumor and transplantation immunology. Diseases and altered immune states associated with each topic are discussed in detail.

**Behavioral Medicine.** Lectures in normal human development and psychopathology. The course focuses on biological, psychological, and social substrates of normal and pathological human behavior, including the major diagnosis and treatment of psychiatric disorders.

**Pathology.** An overview of the molecular mechanisms of human diseases, including neurologic, hematologic, neoplastic, and infectious diseases.

**The e-Foundation Science 100-series blocks are not required prior to beginning the System-Based Modules unless the student does not make the required grade in the e-Foundation Sciences 200-series.**

Each e-Foundation block, whether in the 100- or 200-series, has an associated tuition cost. Students needing extra exposure to the sciences may choose to complete the 100-series in its entirety.

# System-Based Modules: Learning Through Case Presentations

Problem-based learning (PBL), the cornerstone of modern medical school teaching, is evident throughout the OUM curriculum.

The program utilizes more than 50 PBL case studies throughout the course, covering a diverse range of pathologies. Each PBL case begins with a virtual patient presentation (or scenario) and follows the progression of the patient through the following stages:

- Patient presentation
- History & physical examination
- Differential diagnosis
- Laboratory tests & diagnostic imaging
- Provisional diagnosis
- Short-term management
- Long-term management

Together with the patient-based information, each case includes basic or clinical science learning issues. All PBL cases reference current core medical and basic science textbooks, journal articles, and verified websites.

### Modules 3 through 12

The ten System-Based Modules feature six weeks of content, and a seventh week is used for review and to sit the final exam. The content discussed in lecture during the first six weeks of a System-Based Module combines the basic and clinical sciences in a case format. During each of those six weeks one new PBL case and its supporting materials are accessed online via the virtual classroom and fully examined as the basis for class discussion.

Along with a detailed case presentation, the student will receive a live lecture from a qualified instructor in OUM's virtual classroom, participate in another lecture which covers key concepts/tasks, and engage in directed independent study. While the interactive lectures complement the cases, the required reading (from electronically available medical texts) covers the organ system in its entirety.

The following is a description of the 10 System-Based Modules:

**Cardiovascular.** Cases include chest pain, arterial hypertension, pulmonary hypertension, arrhythmia, infective endocarditis, and congenital heart disease.

**Endocrinology.** Cases include thyroid disease, parathyroid disease, pituitary disease, adrenal disease, type 1 diabetes mellitus, and type 2 diabetes mellitus.

**Gastrointestinal.** Cases include esophageal disorders, gastric and duodenal disorders, intestinal disorders, hepatic disorders, cirrhosis, and pancreatic and biliary disorders.

**Hematology-Immunology.** Cases include immunodeficiency disorders, systemic lupus erythematosus, leukemia, lymphoma, anemia, and hemostasis.

**Musculoskeletal.** Cases include rheumatoid arthritis, muscular dystrophy, osteogenesis imperfecta, gout, osteoporosis, and osteosarcoma.

**Neurology & Neuroscience.** Cases include multiple sclerosis, bacterial meningitis, epilepsy, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and stroke.

**Renal.** Cases include glomerulonephritis, nephrotic syndrome, acute and chronic renal failure, fluids and electrolytes, acid-base balance, and nephrolithiasis.

**Reproduction.** Cases include sexual development, amenorrhea, prolactinoma, cervical cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer.

**Respiratory.** Cases include asthma, tuberculosis, pneumonia, HIV, lung cancer, and COPD.

**Trends and Topics in Medicine.** Case studies include topics in behavioral medicine, legal medicine, medical ethics, integrative medicine, nutrition, and preventive medicine to offer the student a well-rounded exposure to current issues facing the medical profession.

As students progress through each preclinical module, they develop and improve skills of clinical reasoning as they apply their expanding knowledge to virtual medical scenarios depicting unique, as well as common, human conditions and ailments.

These skills are essential to success during the core clinical clerkships and electives.



### Module 13: Research

All students in the MD program are required to complete an original research project. Preclinical Module 13, the research component, is a natural extension of OUM's vision to encourage life-long, self-directed learning and to train physicians who will pursue evidence-based practices that support advances in patient care. The Topics in Medical Research module is a structured, faculty-supervised endeavor that may be taken during the preclinical or clinical modules.

# Transition from Clinical Theory to Clinical Rotations

Within six months of a student passing the USMLE Step 1 (for students planning to complete clerkships at a US teaching hospital) or after finishing the final preclinical module (all others), students must begin the clinical phase by commencing medical student clerkships.

### Clerkships and Rotations

During the 72 weeks of clinical clerkships/rotations, students acquire and maintain skills needed to provide patient care by focusing on the therapeutic nature of the patient-doctor relationship and learning to systematically elicit and interpret clinical symptoms by sensitively interviewing and examining patients. During most rotations, OUM students participate alongside students from other medical schools and must abide by the requirements of the host facility. Clinical students will have an opportunity to train in both ambulatory and in-patient settings. The time spent on each will differ from clerkship to clerkship and from one hospital to another, but these differences are not significant in terms of enabling students to meet the learning objectives.

Students may decide to complete clinical training either at OUM's home in the South Pacific (in Samoa or American Samoa), where all core and many elective rotations may be available and where at least one four-week clinical rotation must be completed. OUM has arrangements for rotations with several regional teaching hospitals in Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. Some students have managed to arrange clinical rotations close to home, though this arrangement is not always possible and entails considerable coordination between the student, the University, and the host facility.

During core rotations (Internal Medicine, Surgery, Community Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, and Psychiatry) students are assigned to a clinical supervisor at the clerkship site to complete rotations. Along with the hands-on training, students are required to view daily lectures, complete reading assignments, and pass a corresponding OUM-created examination upon completion of each core clerkship. Students may begin elective rotations, which may expand further study into core subjects or introduce students to new areas, (typically in four-week increments) after completion of the core rotations.

### Opportunities in North America

Generally, OUM only enters into agreements with teaching hospitals accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) which are also referred to as "green book" hospitals. Medical centers without the official infrastructure in place to enroll, evaluate, and record student rotations may not be able to verify training should a licensing body contact them in the future. Some US states will not license physicians who did not train in accredited teaching hospitals.

### Opportunities in Australasia and Beyond

For clerkships at teaching hospitals in Australia, India, and New Zealand, the best source of clinical rotations remains the network of hospitals and clinics at which OUM students and faculty have secured positions over the years. These rotations are usually arranged by the student with assistance from OUM staff.

### About the Samoas

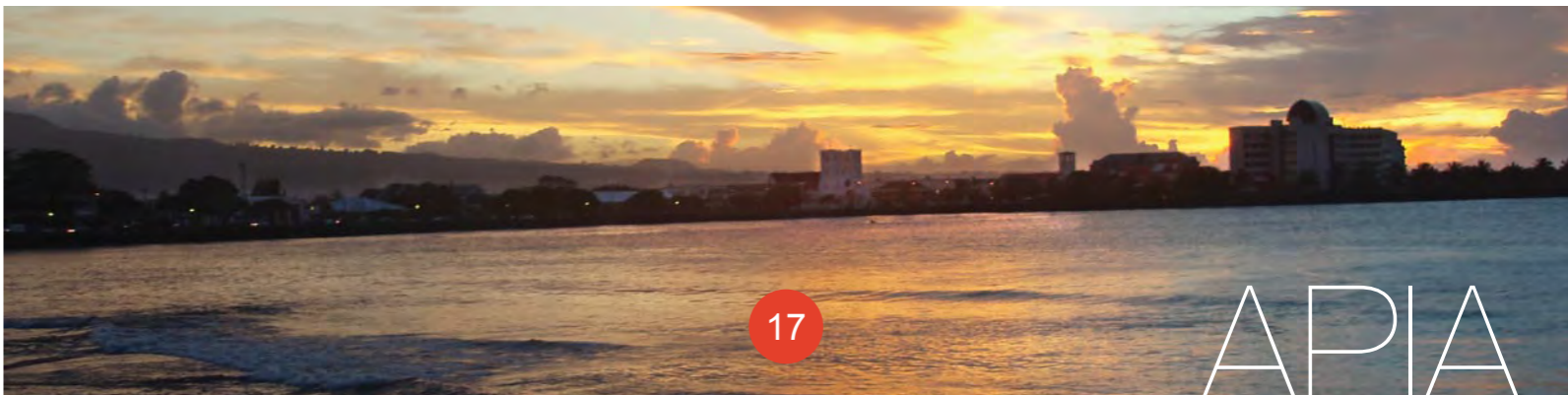
OUM was founded in the South Pacific island nation of Samoa in 2002, and the University has evolved from a local mission to better meet the health needs of underserved island communities to a now internationally-accredited medical school with students and graduates in many countries.

Tupua Tamasese Meaole Hospital (TTM) is Samoa's National Hospital, located in the village of Motootua, a suburb of Samoa's capital city, Apia. OUM has also been fortunate to affiliate with the LBJ Tropical Medical Center located in Pago Pago, American Samoa. Both TTM and LBJ host students from Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and other countries. Located just south of the equator near the International Dateline, both Samoas are home to warm, friendly people who share a rich Polynesian culture.

**All of the University's MD students are required to complete at least one four-week clinical rotation at OUM's South Pacific home, and clinical clerkships are available in both Independent Samoa and the US territory of American Samoa.**

In Independent Samoa, student housing is located within walking distance of the national health complex and in American Samoa, student housing is located conveniently near the hospital.

Independent Samoan immigration legislation requires that all international students hold a valid passport and have a student permit before entering Samoa. American Samoa operates its own immigration and customs department, independent of the US government, which permits students from Australia, New Zealand, and other countries to study there.



# Core Clinical Modules

## Internal Medicine

Students learn the steps necessary for proper patient diagnosis and treatment. This includes learning to take complete medical, personal, and family histories. Students also learn how to perform a diagnostic work-up and develop a plan for managing patient care. Students participate in clinical conferences where they learn to report findings and conclusions logically and succinctly.

## Surgery

Students acquire knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary for the recognition and management of patients with disorders that require surgical evaluation and surgical intervention. In the process, they become familiar with the principles, clinical reasoning, techniques, and tools used by surgeons, as well as with operating room policies/procedures.

## Pediatrics

Students acquire special skills and knowledge required for the treatment of infants, children, and adolescents. Students gain an appreciation of acute pediatric illnesses, assessment of child health, pediatric outpatient and community pediatrics.

## Obstetrics and Gynecology

Students learn about the body's response to pregnancy, labor, delivery, and the postpartum period – both normal and abnormal. They also become familiar with the diagnosis and treatment of major gynecological disease and various family planning methods.

## Community Medicine

Students acquire the principles of family medicine and their application to community practice. Emphasis is placed on continuous and comprehensive healthcare for people of all ages within the context of their families, social groups and communities, and on understanding influential factors in a population's health and the respective roles of health promotion, prevention and treatment of disease.

## Emergency Medicine

Students familiarize themselves with the key principles, such as assessment of acutely ill patients, triage, trauma management, and resuscitation.

## Psychiatry

Students become familiar with the major categories of mental illness, including diagnosis and methods of therapy. In the process, they learn how to take a psychiatric history and to evaluate mental status.

The order of core clinical modules may vary. Modifications may be necessary to accommodate more established clerkship programs at affiliated teaching hospitals.

Internal Medicine	12 WEEKS
Surgery	12 WEEKS
Pediatrics	8 WEEKS
Obstetrics & Gynecology	8 WEEKS
Community Medicine	8 WEEKS
Emergency Medicine	4 WEEKS
Psychiatry	4 WEEKS

# Elective Rotations

The 16 weeks of University-approved elective rotations typically cover three main areas: medical, surgical, and general subspecialties. The electives (usually four four-week rotations) focus on patient management problems, exposure to the specialties, and the acquisition of additional procedural skills prior to beginning a supervised internship/residency program.

- >> Medical elective options include exposure to medicine at a higher level, integrating other specialties and introducing internal medicine subspecialties such as endocrinology, oncology, rheumatology, and infectious diseases, as well as pediatric specialties, pain management, and hyperbaric medicine.
- >> Surgical electives provide continued development of surgical techniques and patient management, as well as exposure to subspecialties such as anesthesiology, trauma surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, and plastic surgery.
- >> General electives provide exposure to a broad range of medical and healthcare specialties ranging from forensic medicine to sleep medicine and occupational health. A complete listing of University-approved electives in all three categories may be obtained by contacting [clinicalclerkships@oum.edu.ws](mailto:clinicalclerkships@oum.edu.ws).



It's Time...

*“ OUM’s innovative teaching style is fantastic and exciting. Truly forward thinking. OUM allows the student to benefit from both local and international resources. ”*

B.W. Registered Nurse, OUM Class of 2015,  
Auckland, New Zealand

## Admission Standards

OUM’s innovative approach has helped many aspiring physicians overcome distance, personal, and professional barriers to fulfill their calling to become a physician.

Utilizing current and emerging technologies to allow students to complete their studies with flexible timeframes in virtually any setting makes OUM a good fit for self-directed, disciplined students who can manage to balance multiple life commitments with the demands of a rigorous curriculum. To assist students along the way, University administrators and faculty work closely with students to prepare them for the practice of rational, evidence-based, and compassionate healthcare.

The admission decision is based on academic success, test scores, healthcare experience where applicable, letters of recommendation, and the interview.

### All Degrees Welcome

Applications are accepted from students with all undergraduate courses of study. OUM feels that students who select an undergraduate major course of study primarily to enhance their chances of acceptance to medical school may not be making a decision in their own best interest. For most physicians, the undergraduate years are the last available opportunity for an in-depth pursuit of non-science subjects of interest. OUM will strongly consider the overall quality and scope of all successfully completed undergraduate work.

All MD candidates must have completed a bachelor’s degree, or an equivalent four-year degree, at an appropriately accredited tertiary educational institution. US students seeking a medical degree must also have completed a full year of university-level chemistry. As a general rule, for medical school success, applicants are expected to have a credit-level degree or GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent.



# Admission Prerequisites and Enrollment Process

## Admission Tests: MCAT/GAMSAT

Since OUM's curriculum features the basic sciences needed for success in medical school, the MCAT is not required for American and Canadian applicants. Applicants from Australia or New Zealand may have the GAMSAT waived if they have clinical experience.

## English Language Proficiency Requirement

All instruction at OUM is in English, and students must be fully fluent in the English language. Normally, fluency will be assumed if English is the applicant's first language or if a student completed a degree program where instruction was delivered in English. Otherwise, fluency may be demonstrated through the applicant's achieving a minimum score on a standardized test administered by IELTS (International English Language Testing Service - at [www.ielts.org](http://www.ielts.org)) or TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language at [www.toefl.com](http://www.toefl.com) is administered by the Educational Testing Service).

Scores should be submitted directly to the OUM Admissions Office from the testing service, but certified copies may be accepted on a limited basis.

## Enrollment Process

The OUM application is online at [www.oum.edu.ws](http://www.oum.edu.ws). Applicants are required to have an e-mail address for accuracy and ease of communication regarding the status of their application.

In addition to the completed online application, the following items must be submitted in order to apply for admission to Oceania University of Medicine:

- >> US\$100 non-refundable application fee
- >> Certified or official academic university transcripts (from all institutions where coursework was completed)
- >> Confirmation of English proficiency (TOEFL score, if not a native speaker)
- >> Essay on why you want to become a physician
- >> Three original or certified letters of recommendation, on letterhead, dated, and signed (at least one from a physician)
- >> Professional resume

The following original documents are required **after** acceptance to Oceania University of Medicine:

- >> Background check or Letter of Good Conduct from state police or federal law enforcement authorities on official letterhead
- >> Health certification from physician, including immunization records
- >> Signed Declarations Page

**The application is submitted electronically and the additional documents should be sent to:**

### US and Canada

Oceania University of Medicine  
Box #4573  
616 Corporate Way, Suite 2  
Valley Cottage, NY 10989-2050

### Australia, New Zealand, and other countries

Medical Education Services Australia Pty Ltd  
Australian Agent for Oceania University of Medicine  
Level 10, 50 Market Street  
Melbourne, Victoria  
Australia 3000

## Selection interview

If an applicant successfully meets the basic admission requirements, the final component in the process includes semi-structured interviews routinely conducted via Skype with members of the admissions staff and a separate interview with faculty members. The interviews focus on personal qualities and attributes agreed to be essential to both the study and practice of medicine, based on internationally accepted criteria for medical school selection.



# The Next Step

*“ OUM has given me a sense of autonomy to think on my own two feet. [The program] allowed me to look deep inside to discover why I really wanted to become a physician. ”*

Dr. N.M. Former Physician Assistant, OUM Class of 2009,  
Practicing Physician in Internal Medicine, Baltimore, USA.

## Pathways to Practice

OUM faculty adhere to a rigorous set of educational objectives which identify the knowledge, skills, and personal behaviors that graduates must gain in order to successfully practice medicine in today's changing medical landscape.

Given the diversity of the faculty, as well as the student body, there is also considerable focus on the various licensing standards and requirements of the countries where graduates intend to practice. Faculty from Australia, New Zealand, and the United States work collaboratively to deliver a common internationally-applicable medical curriculum while providing students with experiences which allow them to localize what they have learned once they become practicing physicians.

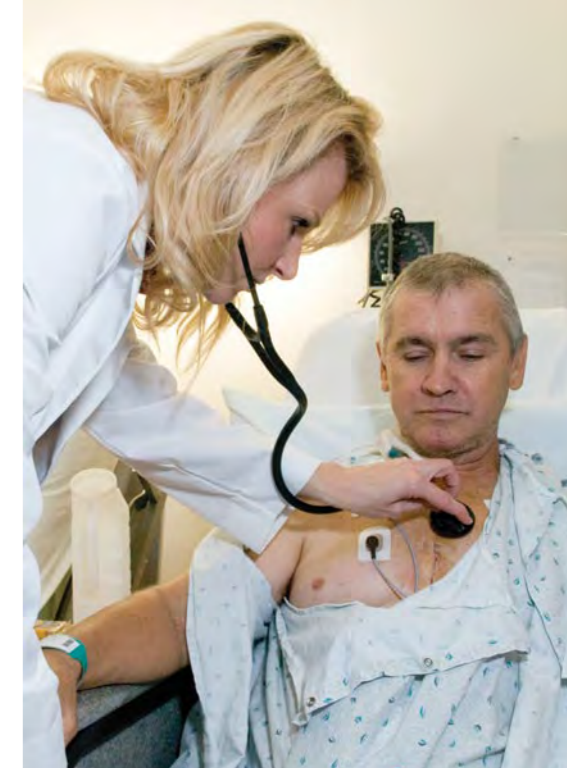
### OUM Graduation Requirements

Graduation from OUM requires satisfactory completion of the following milestones:

- >> Successful completion of the preclinical curriculum including a passing grade for each module ( $\geq 60$  percent);
- >> Successful completion of the required clinical curriculum including a passing grade for each clinical module;
- >> Successful completion of the pre-internship electives;
- >> A passing score on the USMLE Step 1 for students planning to complete clinical rotations at teaching hospitals and practice in the United States;
- >> A passing score for clinical examinations given by the University's Final Clinical Exam (FCE) or on the USMLE Step 2 CK & CS.

### Licensing Requirements

Attending a properly-listed and accredited medical school, obtaining necessary certification(s) (specifically the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates [ECFMG] certification in the US), and completing proper post-graduate training are the basic licensing requirements for applying to practice medicine in most countries and most US states and Canadian provinces. OUM is accredited by the internationally-recognized Philippine Accrediting Association for Schools, Colleges and Universities, recognized by the ECFMG, and listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools, a global compendium of medical educational institutions, and the International Medical Education Directory (IMED).



Prior to enrolling at OUM, prospective students are encouraged to research medical licensure requirements for the locations where they wish to practice to understand what is required of foreign medical graduates in order to be approved for licensure or registration. Applicants should also inquire whether physicians are permitted to “mentor” foreign medical students in the country, state, or province where they plan to practice.

# Licensure and Registration

## Australia

The Australian Medical Council (AMC) administers national examinations to foreign-trained physicians who want to practice in the country. OUM graduates are eligible to take the AMC exams because the school is accredited and listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools and the International Medical Education Directory (IMED). Upon finishing their studies, OUM graduates wishing to practice medicine in Australia must contact the AMC to register for its two-part examination. For registration, the graduate must have completed an Intern Year and passed both AMC exams (parts 1 and 2). For more information, visit [www.amc.org.au](http://www.amc.org.au) and [www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au).

## Canada

The Medical Council of Canada (MCC) administers the Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination (MCCEE) and the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examinations (MCCQE Parts I and II) to all foreign medical graduates planning to practice in one of its provinces or territories. OUM graduates are eligible to sit for these exams due to the school's accreditation and listing in the World Directory of Medical Schools. The MCCEE is a prerequisite for eligibility to the MCCQE exams Parts I and II, which assess readiness for postgraduate training and clinical skills. Detailed information on the Canadian licensure process can be found through the Medical Council of Canada at [www.mcc.ca](http://www.mcc.ca). Individuals are also encouraged to contact the medical regulatory authority in the province or territory in which they would like to practice.

## New Zealand

OUM graduates planning to practice medicine in New Zealand are eligible to sit for the New Zealand Registration Examination (NZREX), due to the school's accreditation and listing in the World Directory of Medical Schools. Prior to taking the NZREX, OUM graduates must have also passed the United States Medical Licensing Examinations (USMLE) Steps 1 and 2, the AMC Part 1 exam, or the UK's Professional Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB) Part 1 exam within the previous five years. Students and prospective students hoping to practice in New Zealand upon graduation should contact the Medical Council of New Zealand ([www.mcnz.org.nz](http://www.mcnz.org.nz)) about specific requirements.

## Samoa

OUM graduates may be registered to practice medicine in Samoa following an 18-month postgraduate internship. Citizens from other countries wishing to practice in Samoa must meet the country's immigration requirements and successfully apply to the Samoa Medical Council for provisional registration. In fact, being eligible to practice in a foreign medical school's home country helps to meet US licensing requirements in some states.

## United States

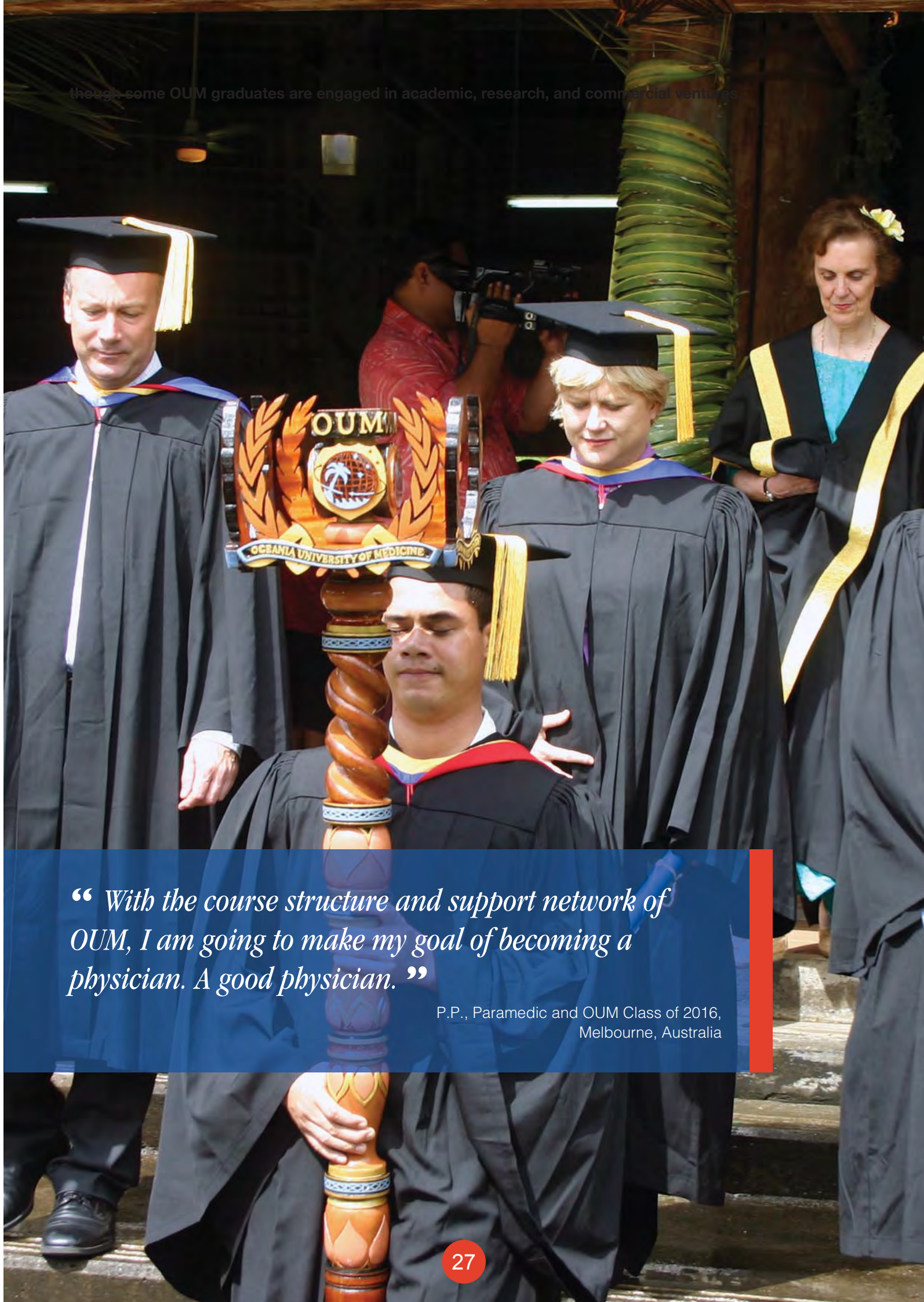
In the US, students who graduated from a school listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools, who have also passed the USMLE examinations (Steps 1, 2, and 3), are eligible to apply for licensure in many states. OUM has surveyed all 50 US states—each of which has its own regulations for licensing physicians. Many have indicated that OUM meets their basic requirements. For more information on licensing requirements in the US, please visit the Federation of State Medical Boards' website at [www.fsmb.org](http://www.fsmb.org).

Passing the University's in-house examination qualifies the student to sit for the USMLE. At OUM, passage of Steps 1 and 2 are graduation requirements for students who plan to complete clerkships in teaching hospitals and practice in the US. OUM also follows the guidelines set by the Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) and the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) to prepare student credentials for the National Residency Match Program (NRMP).

The ECFMG facilitates match applications for foreign medical students and graduates. Those applying to residency programs will also have exposure to the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS). Students must pass the USMLE Step 1 and take or schedule their Step 2 exams, as well as complete all core clinical rotations, before applying for the residency match. In accordance with AAMC guidelines, the school prepares Medical Student Performance Evaluations (MSPE) to submit with residency applications. Students and OUM faculty work together on match applications to ensure timeliness, clarity, and compliance with requirements. For additional information, visit the NRMP website at [www.nrmp.org](http://www.nrmp.org) or the ECFMG site at [www.ecfm.org](http://www.ecfm.org).

**After completing post-graduate training and receiving full licensure, graduates may practice as a physician,**

though some OUM graduates are engaged in academic, research, and commercial ventures.



*“ With the course structure and support network of OUM, I am going to make my goal of becoming a physician. A good physician. ”*

P.P., Paramedic and OUM Class of 2016,  
Melbourne, Australia



### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

In North America, contact the Admissions Office at 1-877-463-6686 (toll free in the USA) or email [admissions@oum.edu.ws](mailto:admissions@oum.edu.ws).

Students outside of North America can direct their enquiries to the Australian agent for Oceania University of Medicine at +61 3 9008 5933 or 1300 665 343 (Australia only), 0800 99 01 01 (New Zealand only, toll free), or email [enquiries@oum.edu.ws](mailto:enquiries@oum.edu.ws).

Take the next step @ [www.oum.edu.ws](http://www.oum.edu.ws)

