



# Midwestern University Bridges Pathway

Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine | College of Graduate Studies

The **Midwestern University (MWU) Bridges Pathway** provides a path to achieving the goal of becoming an osteopathic physician for qualified students in our College of Graduate Studies (CGS) Biomedical Sciences Programs who are members of economically and/or environmentally disadvantaged populations.

The Bridges Pathway allows students to apply for provisional early acceptance to the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine (AZCOM) through the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine Application Service (AACOMAS) when they meet program criteria and are a current applicant to the Master of Arts (M.A.) in Biomedical Sciences Program or have completed their first year of the Master of Biomedical Sciences (M.B.S.) Program.

## What are the benefits?

- Students gain provisional early acceptance into AZCOM, and successful students will also earn a master's degree, which may improve their applications to residency programs and broaden their future career options.
- Provides students with an excellent foundation in pre-medical education.
- Allows students to increase their basic science knowledge and improve their study skills.
- Students receive graduate faculty mentoring and academic counseling to help keep them on track for success.
- Students have a plan for their next academic step, allowing them to focus on their studies and improve their preparedness for AZCOM.

## How do I learn more?

For questions about the Bridges Pathway, our degree programs, or a potential career in osteopathic medicine, contact the Midwestern University Office of Admissions: 623-572-3215 or [admissaz@midwestern.edu](mailto:admissaz@midwestern.edu)



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## What are the eligibility requirements?

- Be a member of an economically and/or environmentally disadvantaged population as defined by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and as verified by MWU.
- Meet the technical standards for the AZCOM degree program as defined in the [MWU Catalog](#).
- Achieve a minimum cumulative GPA and science GPA in undergraduate studies of 2.75 (on a 4.00 = A scale).
- Complete all admissions requirements for both the Biomedical Sciences and Osteopathic Medicine Programs as described in the [MWU Catalog](#).
- Be accepted into the CGS M.A. in Biomedical Sciences Program in the same year as applying to AZCOM or upon completion of the first year of the Master of Biomedical Sciences Program.
- Receive a score of 495 or higher on the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) within the three years prior to anticipated matriculation at AZCOM.
- Interview and be recommended for admission by the AZCOM Admissions Committee.
- Demonstrate a good understanding of osteopathic medicine and a sincere interest in a career in the field.
- Apply for admission to AZCOM through AACOMAS by August 1 prior to matriculating into the CGS M.A. in Biomedical Sciences Program or upon completion of the first year of the Master of Biomedical Sciences

Program. AACOMAS typically opens in May for the upcoming academic year, so applicants have from May 1 to August 1 to apply through AACOMAS.

- Apply to the Bridges Pathway by August 1 of the year matriculating into the M.A. in Biomedical Sciences Program or upon completion of the first year of the Master of Biomedical Sciences Program.
- Complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Provide a personal statement with your application addressing both:
  - How your background and experiences impact your interest in and commitment to osteopathic medicine.
  - How you meet the criteria for an environmentally or economically disadvantaged background as defined by HRSA.
- Provide a letter of support from a physician or from a faculty member in the applicant's undergraduate or graduate program.
- Due to requirements set by clinical rotation sites, state medical licensure boards, and residency programs, preference will be given to Bridges Pathway applicants deemed eligible for residency placement in any residency throughout the United States.

## To remain eligible for the Bridges Pathway, the applicant must:

- Pass all courses and complete the CGS Biomedical Sciences Program with a science GPA of 3.2 (no course replacements or repeated courses will be accepted);
- Participate in MWU Bridges Academic Success Program;
- Complete the CGS Biomedical Sciences Program at the end of the spring quarter prior to the start of classes at AZCOM;
- Be in academic and professional good standing throughout the CGS Biomedical Sciences Program. Disciplinary actions (warning or probation) will result in removal from the Bridges Pathway, and the student will not be accepted to AZCOM in that same admissions cycle;
- Provide a letter of support from a CGS Biomedical Sciences faculty member, which also indicates the student's final science GPA, by May 31 of the Biomedical Sciences Program year.

## How to apply:

The AZCOM Bridges Pathway is available through the Biomedical Sciences Program on both campuses. Eligible applicants will have access to the AZCOM Bridges application within their MWU Student Portal.

## When to apply:

The application deadline is August 1 each year.

