Texas Tech University
Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society
Criteria for Selection

Alpha Omega Alpha, founded in 1902, is the national medical honor society. Its mission statement is:

Alpha Omega Alpha — 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
  • promoting service to others

The Texas Tech University School of Medicine’s chapter of AOA was organized early in the history of the school, with 6 students in the graduating Class of 1974 being inducted into the chapter. Our criteria for selection are consistent with the national AOA Constitution. To be eligible to apply for membership, students must be in the top 25% of the class, although no more than 16% of the class may be selected for membership in AOA. Those students chosen from the top quartile for election are picked not only for their high academic standing, but as well for leadership among their peers, professionalism and a firm sense of ethics, promise of future success in medicine, and a commitment to service in the school and community.

Junior AOA Members
During the spring of the 3rd year of medical school, the top 15% (as measured by cumulative GPA at that time) of the class will be invited to apply for AOA membership. All first and second year grades will be considered along with the first three clerkships completed in the fall of the third year. The applicants will be asked to submit a CV and a personal statement describing their commitment to scholarship, leadership, professionalism, and service in medicine. Candidates will be evaluated using the categories listed below. About half of these applicants may be inducted.

Senior AOA Members
During the fall of the 4th year of medical school, the top 25% (as measured by cumulative GPA at that time) of the class will be invited to apply for AOA membership. Up to 1/6th of the class can be selected for membership (including those selected as juniors). All first, second, and third year grades will be considered. Electives will not be considered. The applicants will be asked to submit a CV and a personal statement describing their commitment to scholarship, leadership, professionalism, and service in medicine. Candidates will be evaluated using the categories listed below.
Categories of Evaluation

1. Grades
   ➔ Points will be assigned as follows:
     - 0 points for grade of Pass
     - 1 point for grade of High Pass
     - 2 points for grade of Honors
   ➔ These points will be added together to calculate a student’s total points for this category. Students will then be ranked according to total points.

2. USMLE Step 1 Scores
   ➔ Students will be ranked according to USMLE Step 1 scores

3. CV and Personal Statement Review
   ➔ A committee consisting of AOA faculty members from each campus will review all CVs and personal statements.
   ➔ 4 categories will be evaluated and up to 5 points given per category depending on the involvement and excellence within each category. There will be a max of 20 points available.
     - Leadership (class officer, tutor, club officer, member of organizations, etc).
     - Community Service (organize service projects, volunteers for projects, etc).
     - Research (author on a paper, presented at a meeting, research ongoing, etc).
     - Personal Points (compelling personal statement, outside work, involvement in other things outside of medical school, other strong attributes, etc).
   ➔ Points will be added from each committee member and the students will be ranked according to total points

4. Professionalism and Overall Performance
   ➔ Senior AOA
     - 3rd year clerkship directors will be asked to provide feedback on applicants. Specifically, they will be asked if they would highly recommend, recommend, or would not recommend a student for selection to AOA.
   ➔ Junior AOA
     - 1st and 2nd year course directors will be asked to provide feedback on applicants. Specifically, they will be asked if they would highly recommend, recommend, or would not recommend a student for selection to AOA.
   ➔ The goal of this is to obtain feedback from those directly working with students.
   ➔ Points are not awarded in this category. However, if a student receives unfavorable comments from clerkship directors, this will be further investigated. Unprofessional behavior may prevent a student from being selected into AOA.
**Overall Ranking for AOA Induction**
After students are ranked according to grades, step scores, and CV/Personal statement, the rank numbers will be weighted. Grades will account for 40%, step scores will be 20%, and CV/personal statement will account for 40% of the final ranking. The weighted numbers will then be added together.

The AOA membership positions will be filled by the students with the lowest overall rank numbers. In the event that a tie in the Overall Rank # creates a problem in selecting who to induct, the student with the highest ranked grades will be inducted. If the tie persists, then the student with the highest CV/personal statement rank will be inducted.

**Induction into AOA**
Those students who are selected to join AOA will be formally inducted during the Spring AOA Banquet.

**Conditional AOA Membership**
Students are not truly members of AOA until they register with the national office and pay dues. We will give you information about how to do this. Also, any student who is offered AOA membership must continue to exhibit professional behavior. If there is a serious professionalism offense, then the AOA membership may be forfeited. At the same time, if any inductee fails any of the remaining clerkship courses or electives, he/she forfeits their AOA membership, and that membership will be transferred to the AOA candidate who has the next best Overall Rank.

**Other Notes:**
Any extraordinary circumstance not specifically addressed in these guidelines will be evaluated by the AOA Councilor, who will determine an appropriate response in accordance with the AOA Constitution.

These criteria for AOA induction are deliberately designed to favor students who demonstrate excellence in ALL of the following areas: leadership, community service, research, development of professional relationships, grades, and USMLE Step 1.

In an effort to be as fair and objective as possible, the point system outlined above will be followed for reviewing and ranking each applicant, but the AOA Councilor and Selection Committee reserve the right to make changes at any time.