

CAMS Success! Enhancing Clinical and Management Skills Proficiency Through Staged Competencies

AOMA Graduate School of Integrative Medicine is a private graduate institution enrolling 200 students in master's and doctoral programs in acupuncture and Oriental medicine. The QEP focuses upon enhancement of student learning by building confidence and competence for a successful career in the healthcare professions. Student clinical internship in the master's program has been restructured into three levels, each with specific competencies and assessments.

AOMA recognizes that clinical skills, critical thinking, and the ability to work in integrative healthcare settings are crucial in a rapidly changing healthcare environment. The critical issue to be addressed is that beginning clinic interns need greater support to build confidence and skills, while experienced interns benefit from more advanced opportunities in preparation for clinical practice after graduation.

Accordingly, the goals of CAMS Success! are:

- Provide clinical practice that progressively and systematically develops interns through stages competencies
- Provide educational experiences that build learner confidence and competence
- Educate interns to successfully practice in fast-paced, specialty or collaborative integrated settings.

Through CAMS Success! Level 1 interns will be paired with recent graduates for extensive hands-on training. Level 2 interns will practice as they have traditionally done at AOMA. Level 3 interns will expand their repertoire in different healthcare settings, through rotations for a particular patient population or disease/disorder spectrum, integrative clinics, and in various paced clinic experiences that more closely reflect real-world practice. Assessment of learner outcomes at all levels will include tiered checklists of procedures and skills, clinical performance evaluations, practical exams, case study presentations, and surveys of student confidence in a variety of competency domains.

The five-year QEP timeline includes faculty and curriculum development, assessment of the CAMS Success! QEP, modifications based upon assessment, and the writing of the Impact Report. The development of acupuncture and Oriental medicine professionals is a major component of AOMA's mission. The CAMS Success! initiative supports fulfillment of this aspect of AOMA's mission to transform lives and communities through education in Oriental medicine.

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