One of the top honors a medical student may achieve in medical school is to be selected for membership in Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA). The University of Illinois College of Medicine is very proud to have been the initiator of this honor medical society and its group is the Alpha Chapter. Medical students in the College of Medicine have two opportunities to be selected into the AOA. The first opportunity is to be selected as a junior student. Students to be selected in the junior year will be chosen on the basis of their performance on the Basic Science Comprehensive (M-1 and M-2) examinations and the USMLE Step 1 scores (each weighted 50%). The top four percent of junior students will be selected for induction.

“Those candidates whose scholastic qualifications place them in the upper twenty-five percent of their class shall be considered for election. From that number, one-sixth of the total number of the class expected to graduate may be elected to membership. Up to one quarter of the quota for any class may be elected to membership in the spring of the junior year. Criteria for election: Scholastic achievement should be the primary but not sole basis for election of a student. Leadership capabilities, ethical standards, fairness in dealing with colleagues, potential for achievement in medicine, and a record of service to the school and community at large should be criteria in addition to the academic record”

To Summarize
1. To be eligible for AOA, you must be in the top 25% of your class (as determined solely by the registrar; see below).
2. Up to approximately 4% (one twenty-fourth) of juniors may be elected from the top 25% of the junior class.
3. Up to approximately 16% (one eighth) of seniors may be elected from the top 25% of the senior class.

In addition, specific UIC College of Medicine criteria require a letter from a UIC faculty member (not necessarily an AOA member) in support of your application packet for potential induction, attesting to your personal and academic merit. A curriculum vitae is also required.

The percentile rank for consideration into AOA is determined by the same ranking system used by the Office of Student Affairs for the Dean’s Letter. Failure of any class/clerkship will automatically exclude a student from consideration.

These guidelines are as follows:

**Junior student criteria:** 50% preclinical grades and 50% USMLE Step 1 score (3-digit score)

**Senior student criteria:** 25% preclinical grades, 25% USMLE Step 1 score, and 50%
Core clerkships (two-thirds clinical, one-third final exam)

After summation of the above data, a rank order list is created that includes students who are already members (junior-year inductees) and all remaining students, including MD/PhD students and ISP students. An additional one-eighth of the senior-year class will be inducted as senior-year members. No more than one-sixth of any class can be inducted into AOA. This one-sixth is made up of the one twenty-fourth inducted as juniors plus the next one-eighth selected as seniors. This rank order list will only be used for consideration into AOA. As a matter of policy, the University of Illinois does not publicize student rank.

**NOTE:** As has been the case for the past several years, MD/PhD students and James Scholar (ISP) students will be eligible for consideration into AOA. These students must have completed at least three-quarters of their third-year clerkships for eligibility.

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE:** The criteria for selection in AOA is subject to change, annually, as the local AOA chapter determines on the criteria for selection.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** To be eligible for consideration for junior or senior selection, a candidate **MUST** complete and return an AOA authorization form by the deadline specified. This form is distributed in the summer. You must complete this for both junior and senior years.

If you wish more information about junior and/or senior selection into the Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Society for the University of Illinois College of Medicine, please contact the Office of Student Affairs.