

B11
American Medical Student Association
House of Delegates 2022
Resolution:

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School(s): UNC Chapel Hill School of Medicine, Harvard College, Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine, CUNY Brooklyn College, Edward Via COM

Subject: Principles Regarding Graduate Medical Education and Specialty Distribution

Type: Addition to Principles

WHEREAS the Alpha Omega Alpha (AΩA) medical honor society was founded in 1902, and has elected close to 200,000 members to date. Election to AΩA signifies lifelong membership. The AΩA website declares that they are committed to increasing diversity in their membership pool in their “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement,” but does not state a plan of action for doing so. (*About - Alpha Omega Alpha*, n.d.)

WHEREAS AΩA eligibility criteria and member selection is left up to individual medical school chapters to determine. (*How Members Are Chosen - Alpha Omega Alpha*, n.d.)

WHEREAS a study that analyzed data from over 4000 applications in the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) from over 100 allopathic medical schools determined that Black and Asian medical students were significantly less likely to be AΩA members than their white counterparts, even after controlling for USMLE Step 1 scores, research productivity, community service, leadership, and Gold Humanism society involvement. The odds of AΩA membership for white students were “nearly 6 times greater than those for black students and nearly 2 times greater than for Asian students.” There was no statistically significant difference for AΩA membership between white and Hispanic students. (Boatright et al., 2017)

WHEREAS multiple studies have reported that membership in AΩA is associated with greater chance of matching into the member’s residency specialty of choice, particularly in surgical subspecialties. (Boatright et al., 2017; Decroff et al., 2010; Rinard et al., 2010) AΩA membership is also associated with greater achievement in academic medicine over 20 years in the future. (Brancati et al., 1992)

WHEREAS the implication for lower selection of diverse members in AΩA is an undermined pipeline for minority students entering the academic medicine sphere as AΩA membership is associated with pursuing a career in academic medicine. (Boatright et al., 2017)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Principles Regarding Graduate Medical Education and Specialty Distribution (pg. 31) be **AMENDED BY ADDITION** to state:

The American Medical Student Association

1. **SUPPORTS a holistic membership selection process free of bias in the Alpha Omega Alpha (AΩA) medical honor society to increase membership diversity.**

Fiscal Note: None

Citations:

- About - Alpha Omega Alpha.* (n.d.). Retrieved January 16, 2022, from <https://www.alphaomegalpha.org/about/>
- Boatright, D., Ross, D., O'Connor, P., Moore, E., & Nunez-Smith, M. (2017). Racial Disparities in Medical Student Membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society. *JAMA Internal Medicine*, 177(5), 659–665. <https://doi.org/10.1001/JAMAINTERNMED.2016.9623>
- Brancati, F. L., Mead, L. A., Levine, D. M., Martin, D., Margolis, S., & Klag, M. J. (1992). Early Predictors of Career Achievement in Academic Medicine. *JAMA*, 267(10), 1372–1376. <https://doi.org/10.1001/JAMA.1992.03480100078035>
- Decroff, C. M., Mahabir, R. C., & Zamboni, W. A. (2010). The impact of alpha omega alpha membership on successfully matching to residency. *Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery*, 126(2). <https://doi.org/10.1097/PRS.0B013E3181DF70B3>
- How Members Are Chosen - Alpha Omega Alpha.* (n.d.). Retrieved January 16, 2022, from <https://www.alphaomegalpha.org/about/how-members-are-chosen/>
- Rinard, J. R., Garol, B. D., Shenoy, A. B., & Mahabir, R. C. (2010). Successfully matching into surgical specialties: an analysis of national resident matching program data. *Journal of Graduate Medical Education*, 2(3), 316–321. <https://doi.org/10.4300/JGME-D-09-00020.1>