

TOUCH (Translating Osteopathic Understanding into Community Health) is a national initiative of the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents (COSGP). For the purposes of the TOUCH program, “community service” will be defined as any activity that works to improve the health and wellness of a community. This includes local, state, national, and international activities. Normal student organization activities (such as meetings, bringing in speakers, etc.) are not considered community service. The TOUCH year will extend from April 1st to the March 31st of the next year. The goal of the program is to encourage and recognize osteopathic medical students to work towards improving the health of their local community through service. Those students completing 50 or more hours of community service for the TOUCH year will receive Silver-level recognition. Those completing 100 or more hours will receive Gold-level recognition. The individual from each COM who completes the greatest number of hours will receive Platinum-level recognition. Recognition entitles OMS’ to an award certificate from COSGP and a letter of commendation will be sent to the Dean of LMU-DCOM from the President of AACOM suggesting the Dean include the student’s commitment to service in his Dean Letter.

What Counts as TOUCH Hours?

- Club community service events
- Volunteer coaching
- Community cleanup efforts
- Volunteering at soup kitchens
- Medical and non-medical mission trips (8 hrs/day unless approved with 1st VP SGA)
- Habitat for Humanity
- Volunteering as a counselor at a summer camp
- And much much more!

You can always email the 1st Vice President of SGA to ask if an event qualifies for TOUCH hours

What Does Not Count as TOUCH Hours?

- Any paid position
- Planning and gathering resources for a club event - Events specifically for LMU or LMU-DCOM such as the White Coat BBQ and the Graduation Ceremony
- Travel and sleep time while heading to an event or staying overnight for an event.
- Tutoring fellow DCOM students

Why Should I submit TOUCH Hours?

- If you complete 50 TOUCH eligible hours you will be awarded the Silver TOUCH Award and receive a letter from the Dean
- If you complete 100 TOUCH eligible hours you will be awarded the Gold TOUCH Award and receive a letter from the Dean
- If you complete the most TOUCH eligible hours for LMU-DCOM you will be awarded the Platinum TOUCH Award and receive a letter from the Dean.
- Some honor organization and residencies take community involvement into consideration when you apply for them.

How do I submit TOUCH hours (PLEASE READ CAREFULLY!)

- Go to: www.cosgp.org/TOUCH
 - Choose the Southern Division link
 - Fill out the form completely and accurately
- If you have completed more than 10 hours volunteering for an organization or event you must submit the TOUCH authorization form. This form should include your name and some contact information for the organization you volunteered for.
- TOUCH hours must be submitted within 1 month of the event