



**Chancellor Brian McCall**  
The Texas State University System



**Per Education Code Sec. 61.0512: the THECB  
“may not summarily disapprove” a new academic  
program unless it determines that the program  
does not meet one of four standards.**



## 1. Is not needed by the state or local community and is duplicative of programs offered by other institutions of higher education;

- According to the “Texas Projections of Supply and Demand for Primary Care Physicians and Psychiatrists, 2017 – 2030” report: In both 2017 and 2030, all regions of the state are projected to experience primary care physician shortages
- There are only 2 other DO schools in the state, compared to 11 MD programs. Of the other DO programs, neither is mission focused on rural primary care, and both are located in major metropolitan areas
- From the independent site visit report:
  - “...the mission to provide and enhance primary car and rural medicine in east Texas is commendable and needed”.
  - “...there is a recognized, unmet need for physicians in Texas. Specifically, eastern and southern Texas have a significant need for primary care physicians as well as physicians practicing in rural areas.”



## 2. Does not have sufficient funding from whatever source;

- The land for the school as well as the first three years of operating expenses have been donated. DO Schools around the country are thriving with similar finance models, and most do not have the infrastructure of an established public university attached
- From the Site Visit report: “The composite of financial resources should allow the proposed program to flourish.”
- Sam Houston’s financial plan has been reviewed by our finance team and independently verified by a major independent accounting firm



### 3. Does not have necessary faculty or other resources to ensure student success;

- From the independent site visit report:
  - “There is a comprehensive hiring plan in place to successfully launch a program... Additionally, the plan is sufficiently detailed to progressively employ and facilitate the necessary clinicians and clinical experiences to adequately prepare graduates.”
- The program needs THECB approval before COCA will grant candidacy status. Without candidacy status, potential faculty may express interest but will not commit.



### 4. Does not meet academic standards;

- From the independent site visit report:
  - “The proposed year 1 and 2 curriculum is an excellent blend of clinical sciences, psychosocial elements, biomechanical concepts, and Student Wellness.”
  - “The amount of coursework is appropriate for a doctoral level degree and meets the standards for the DO degree.”



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