The Office of Student & Multicultural Affairs organizes and sponsors a wide range of support services, academic enrichment programs, events, and training opportunities designed to fulfill our mission to support students, diversity the physician workforce and provide leadership in cultural competence.

Prospective Students
For students wishing to pursue a career as a health care professional, OSMA offers a number of Pipeline Programs (SEEP and Pre-matriculation), organizes the Igniting the Dream of Medicine Conference and hosts Second Look, for accepted students. OSMA is also involved in recruitment and scholarship efforts.

First & Second Year Medical Students
OSMA works to support students and diversify the medical school curriculum in various ways. The Health Equity and Access Leaders (HEAL) elective provides medical students with opportunities to explore health disparities and work within the local community. Academic support is offered through the Supplemental Instruction Program (SIP), as well as a variety of initiatives, including advising offered by the Class Deans and Academic Houses. OSMA also organizes special events such as Orientation and White Coat, advises a number of student groups, is involved in teaching the Essentials of Clinical Medicine (ECM) course and is represented on multiple committees.

Third & Fourth Year Medical Students
Special events organized by OSMA include Match Day, Hooding and Graduation. Additionally, the office helps organize rotations at partner campuses, hospitals and clinics across the state to help facilitate specialty choice through diverse clerkship experiences and also manage the Dean’s Letters for residency.

Outreach and Partnerships
Local partnerships help support our programs while giving back to the community. A donation campaign seeks to raise funds for medical school scholarships and Homecoming events celebrate alumni of the OSMA Pipeline Programs. The various memberships, publications and conference presentations of OSMA faculty target topics related to medical education.

OSMA Leadership Team

Dr. Kimberly Vess Loomer  
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khalbur@augusta.edu

Dr. Lynnette Bauza  
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Dr. Greer Falls  
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Director, Diversity Outreach  
ljames@augusta.edu

Diversity Accomplishments

✓ OSMA’s Student Educational Enrichment Program (SEEP) for high school and college students continuously produces a significant number of students for competitive entry into medical, dental, allied health, and other health profession programs at MCG and throughout the nation.

✓ A 200 percent increase of underrepresented minority student enrollment (African American/Black & Hispanic) at MCG over the past four years demonstrates our commitment to enhancing diversity in the physician workforce and eradicating health disparities.

✓ In 2016, the US News & World Report ranked MCG as #6 among the top ten medical schools with the most African American students.

Students Matter at MCG!

Mission and Vision:
The Office of Student & Multicultural Affairs (OSMA) in the Medical College of Georgia (MCG) at Augusta University is dedicated to helping each student achieve his or her highest potential personally, professionally and academically by fostering a diverse, inclusive and student-centered community. OSMA provides leadership in overseeing the progress of students throughout their medical school years by providing education, counsel and advice to help transform students into culturally competent, empathic patient-centered and ethical physicians. Cultural Transformation and Diversity is one of MCG’s strategic goals. MCG offers pipeline programs for talented minority high school and college students, with OSMA providing robust leadership with these programs.
Goals of the OSMA Pipeline Programs:
The goals that encompass all of the Office of Student & Multicultural Affairs Pipeline Programs are to: 1) Increase the number of students from underrepresented, nontraditional and/or economically disadvantaged backgrounds choosing and entering careers in the health care professions; 2) Identify, educationally prepare, and facilitate the entry, enrollment and graduation of students who aspire to enter the health professions, with emphasis on matriculation into the Medical College of Georgia and Augusta University as a whole.

Student Educational Enrichment Program (SEEP)
Implemented in 1970, SEEP is a 7-week summer program with three levels: Pre-College (for high-school students), Intermediate College (for Sophomores and Juniors) and Advanced College (for Seniors and recent graduates). Each track prepares students for a future career in the health sciences through an extensive academic program. For additional information, requirements and application materials, please visit: www.augusta.edu/mcg/students/seep.php or contact Linda James at ljames@augusta.edu

Pre-matriculation
Begun in 1980, Pre-matriculation is a 6-week summer program designed to facilitate the academic, social and environmental adjustment of incoming Augusta University Medical and Dental students. Included in the program are introductions to 1st year courses, specialized seminars on success strategies, exposure to clinical and research settings and valuable networking opportunities. Eligible students are personally invited to participate in the program and receive a stipend. For additional information, please visit: www.augustauniversity.edu/mcg/students/prematriculation.php

Mentoring

Student Support
Each year of medical school has its own important milestones, moments and expectations. Dr. Kimberly Vess Loomer oversees the OSMA to ensure medical students’ needs are properly and effectively addressed. In addition to Dr. Loomer, a class dean is responsible for mentoring each individual medical school class. Class Deans who rotate annually, are available to discuss personal concerns, career development, academic progress, research opportunities and letters of recommendation.  
M1 Class Dean: Dr. Lynnette Bauza  
M2 Class Dean: Dr. Greer Falls  
M3 Class Dean: Dr. Eric Lewkowiez  
M4 Class Dean: Dr. Stewart Shevitz

Academic Houses
As one of the largest medical schools in the country, it was important to think of ways to foster mentoring and a sense of community on a smaller scale. The Academic Houses allow for students from each year to belong to a smaller community where students can mentor each other, attend various events and just hang out or study in the new dedicated spaces for the Academic Houses, each with a kitchen, lounge area and study spaces that will appeal to any learning style. Students from each year are assigned to one of the 13 Academic Houses. Two faculty members serve as House Advisors for each House. One dedicated House Activity occurs monthly, and House Advisors are available for students as well. At the end of each year, Academic Houses compete against each other for the coveted Skull & Crossbones Cup!

Giving Back

Supplemental Instruction Program (SIP)
The SIP program is a free peer-to-peer academic tutoring that supports adjustment to the rigorous demands of medical school. Students serve as SIP leaders are compensated for tutoring others. For additional information, please visit: www.augusta.edu/mcg/students/sip.php

Health Equity and Access Leaders (HEAL)
HEAL participants provide the MCG community with programs related to diversity, cultural competence and health disparities. Students earn elective credit by attending weekly seminars and providing community service through one of two components. Students can choose to mentor local Harrisburg students through the tutoring program Kids with a Future or work on education and advocacy initiatives designed to increase awareness of culture, diversity, and health disparities in the local community. For additional information please contact Dr. Kimberly Loomer, khalbur@augusta.edu or visit: www.augusta.edu/mcg/students/heal.php

"For me, HEAL allows Augusta University students to enhance the practice of medicine by empowering future practitioners with invaluable knowledge about their culturally diverse patients." – HEAL Student Leader