

June 12, 2026

## CI MED AOA Portfolio Rubric

Applicant eligibility: To be eligible for consideration for CI MED *Alpha Omega Alpha*, a student must either score in the top 20% of their class in pre-clerkship progress exams, pre-clerkship final exams, clerkship shelf/subject exams, or service-learning hours, or earn an honors grade in at least one clerkship. Additionally, eligible students cannot have had more than one failure on pre-clerkship exams, any failures on clerkship shelf/subject exams, any course failures, or any substantiated professionalism concerns. Students also must have passed USMLE Step 1 by June 1 and have had no USMLE failures. The offices of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs will ensure these eligibility criteria are met prior to notifying students of their eligibility.

Applicant prompt: To be considered for CI MED AOA, you must submit a portfolio to the committee for review. The portfolio should **showcase activities from your time at Carle Illinois that demonstrate the CI MED values of Creativity, Compassion, and Curiosity as they relate to your professional journey in medicine**. In addition, as a proxy for *Alpha Omega Alpha*, CI MED Honors Committee will also seek evidence in your portfolio of the qualities celebrated by *Alpha Omega Alpha*, and how they relate to the CI MED values: **excellence in academic achievement, research, education, leadership, humanism, professionalism, and service**.

### Applicant instructions:

1. Powerpoint must be used for your portfolio and submitted as a single pdf.
2. One slide as a title slide including your name
3. One slide for each value based on the prompts for each value: Creativity, Compassion, Curiosity
4. One slide after each value slide sharing in 250 words or less (bullet points are encouraged) how your activities reflect the value and AOA celebrated attributes.
5. Total slides: 7
6. Your final submission must be a single pdf of the 7 slides.

### Creativity Prompt:

Carle Illinois College of Medicine asserts that complex problems require thinking outside the box, engaging difference as a creative asset, and effective teamwork. **Creativity is a process of ideation (generating lots of ideas), experimentation (testing those ideas), and learning from mistakes.** Process of ideation comes in many forms, and we encourage artistic expressions demonstrating processes that generate creative solutions. CI MED seeks to understand your commitment to creativity as it pertains to your journey in medicine.

Show Us: Submit an example of an activity or activities in 250 words or less that demonstrates how you **engaged** with other individuals in **generating** different ideas, **experimented to test those ideas**, and what you **learned from mistakes or setbacks** to improve the overall creative process as they pertain to your journey in medicine. The example is less about the final product(s) and more about the process. We welcome creative formats to submit descriptions, including collages. Highlight how your CI MED activities in research, education, leadership, or service, or other AOA attributes reflect **creativity**; please comment on these attributes if they are relevant to creativity.

### Creativity Rubric

Criteria	Limited or No Evidence 1 point	Moderate Evidence: 2 points	Strong Evidence 3 points	Total
<b>Idea Generation &amp; Collaboration</b>	Little or no evidence of collaboration or ideation;	Shows some collaboration and idea generation, but limited in scope or depth	Demonstrates active collaboration with others to generate multiple and diverse ideas	3 points max
<b>Experimentation &amp; Testing</b>	No meaningful experimentation or testing described	Some evidence of trying out ideas, though details may be limited	Clearly illustrates how ideas were tested or explored through experimentation	3 points max
<b>Learning from Mistakes &amp; Iteration</b>	No reflection on learning, mistakes, or adaptation	Mentions learning from a mistake or challenge with some reflection	Thoughtfully reflects on mistakes or challenges and explains how they improved the process	3 points max
<b>AOA attributes:</b> research, education, leadership, humanism, professionalism, and service	AOA attributes not addressed.	AOA attributes mentioned	Well-described relationship between activities and one or more AOA attributes	3 points max

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<b>Creative Expression &amp; Format (0 or 1 point)</b>	Format is unclear, lacks creativity, or detracts from understanding the process = 0 points	Uses a creative, engaging, or unique format that enhances the message = 1 point	1 point max
<b>Total</b>			13 points max

**Scoring Guidance for Creativity:**

- 10-13 points: Strong demonstration of creative thinking and process; highly aligned with the prompt
- 7-9 points: Solid response; meets expectations with some areas for deeper development
- 5-6 points: Partial fulfillment of the prompt; needs stronger reflection, collaboration, or process detail
- Below 5: Major elements missing or unclear; submission does not meet expectations

**Compassion Definition and Instructions:**

Compassion for others is a core value of Carle Illinois College of Medicine. Compassion means to empathize with someone who is suffering, struggling, vulnerable, and, perhaps, in a difficult situation and to feel compelled to help.

Show Us – Demonstrate how you have gained understanding of another person’s or community’s struggles, vulnerability, and/or suffering. How did this understanding compel you to do something to help? Share what you did and the impact that it made. Highlight how your CI MED activities in research, education, leadership, humanism, or service, or other AOA attributes reflect **compassion**; please comment on these attributes if they are relevant to compassion.

**Compassion Rubric:**

Criteria	Limited or No Evidence 1 point	Moderate Evidence: 2 points	Strong Evidence 3 points	Total
<b>Empathy &amp; Understanding</b>	Little or no evidence of understanding others’ struggles or context	Shows some understanding of another’s struggles, but lacks depth or detail	Clearly demonstrates deep understanding of another person’s or community’s struggles or vulnerability, showing thoughtful reflection	3 points max
<b>Motivation to Act</b>	No clear connection between understanding and the motivation to help	Describes taking action, but connection to understanding or compassion is vague	Clearly connects understanding with a strong personal motivation to help; the response shows genuine compassion	3 points max
<b>Action Taken &amp; Impact</b>	Action is unclear, minimal, or lacks demonstrated impact	Describes some action, but with limited detail about what was done or its effect	Describes meaningful action taken and clearly articulates the positive impact on others	3 points max
<b>AOA attributes</b> research, education, leadership, humanism, professionalism, and service	AOA attributes not addressed	AOA attributes mentioned	Well-described relationship between activities and one or more AOA attributes	3 points max
<b>Total</b>				12 points max

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**Scoring Guidance:**

- 10-12 points: Strong demonstration of compassion; clear connection between empathy, action, and impact
- 7-9 points: Solid response; shows some compassion and action, but may lack clarity or depth
- 5-6 points: Partial fulfillment of the prompt; lacking depth

Below 5: Limited alignment with the prompt; missing key elements of understanding, action, or impact

**Curiosity Definition and Instructions:**

Carle Illinois College of Medicine believes that curiosity is key to innovation through the acquisition of new information and generation of new knowledge. That is, curiosity is **information seeking by exploring new and unfamiliar frontiers and asking novel questions**; CI MED seeks to understand your commitment to curiosity as it pertains to your journey in medicine.

Show Us - As it pertains to your professional journey in medicine and experience at CI MED, describe in 250 words or less your experience with curiosity: for example, how have you , sought to understand a patient’s experiences which in turn led you to an IDEA project, Data Science Project or Capstone Project, or prompted you to ask a question that motivated you to dig deeper? Or, how have you tried to uncover how something works without being prompted to do so? Share how these new experiences resulted in seeing the world differently, and how they led to **asking novel questions** that you had not thought about before. **Help us understand where your curiosity has taken you.** Highlight how your CI MED activities in research, education, leadership, or service, or other AOA attributes reflect **curiosity**; please comment on these attributes if they are relevant to curiosity.

**Curiosity Rubric:**

Criteria	Limited or No Evidence 1 point	Moderate Evidence: 2 points	Strong Evidence 3 points	Total
<b>Self-Directed Exploration</b>	Little or no evidence of self-directed exploration or learning	Shows some initiative in exploring something new or unfamiliar, though the experience may be limited or externally prompted	Clearly demonstrates proactive curiosity through exploration of new cultures, communities, or interests without external prompting	3 points max
<b>Perspective Shift</b>	No meaningful reflection on new perspectives or insights	Mentions a shift in thinking or awareness, but lacks detail or depth	Thoughtfully describes how the experience changed their perspective or understanding of the world	3 points max
<b>Question Generation</b>	No new questions or sense of wonder demonstrated from the experience	Identifies at least one new question or curiosity, though it may be vague or underdeveloped	Clearly articulates new, original questions or areas of inquiry that emerged from the experience	3 points max
<b>AOA attributes: research,</b>	AOA attributes not addressed	AOA attributes mentioned	Well-described relationship	3 points max

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education, leadership, humanism, professionalism, and service			between activities and one or more AOA attributes	
<b>Total</b>				12 points max

**Scoring Guidance:**

- 10-12 points: Strong demonstration of curiosity; clear, reflective, and aligned with prompt
- 7-9 points: Moderate demonstration of curiosity; meets core elements but may lack depth or originality
- 5-6 points: Partial fulfillment of the prompt; lacking depth or a tie to medicine
- Below 5: Limited evidence of curiosity; key components (exploration, perspective, or inquiry) are missing or unclear

**Excellence in Academic Achievement (to be completed with data from Academic Affairs; a portfolio slide is NOT required for this category):**

Carle Illinois College of Medicine celebrates the many achievements of its students, including excellence in academic achievement, one of the core attributes of *Alpha Omega Alpha*. We want to celebrate you, and the academic excellence that you have achieved.

**Academic Achievement Rubric:**

Criteria	Limited or No Evidence 1 point	Moderate Evidence: 2 points	Strong Evidence 3 points
<b>AOA attribute: excellence in academic achievement</b>	Little evidence of excellence in academic activities (in top 10 students of averaged scores for preclinical exams* OR honors in a clerkship)	Shows excellence in at least three activities (such as one clerkship honors AND in top 10 of averaged scores for preclinical exams AND [in top 10 of subject exam scores OR top 10 General Clinical Assessments])	Shows robust excellence in four or more activities (such as multiple clerkship honors AND in top 5 of averaged scores for preclinical exams AND [in top 5 of subject exam scores OR top 5 General Clinical Assessments])
<b>Total</b>			

\* If a student has one failure on a preclinical exam, that score plus the passing score will be averaged to determine the student's ranking on preclinical exams.

**Maximum total score: 40 (12 points per value + 1 extra point for creative format + 3 points for excellence in academic achievement)**

**Selection Process:**

- Portfolios will be judged by the AOA faculty awards committee by assigning points based on the rubric.
- Please note that Academic Affairs will provide specific data about student academic achievements, which will add up to 3 additional points to candidates' final score.
- Those with the highest total points will be elected to AOA; up to 20% of the graduating class may be elected.
  - Discussion, debate for divergent ranks
- In the event of a tie, the committee will work with Academic Affairs to evaluate academic performance in further detail to select the awardees.