

## South Dakota Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners



In 1869, the Dakota Territory government passed a law requiring a person practicing medicine in the territory to be a graduate from a school of medicine. Applicants had to have completed two full courses of instruction from an out-of-state institution, previously practiced medicine in another state or been a medical practitioner for at least 10 years; and be of good moral character. In 1885, the Superintendent of Public Health was given the responsibility of registering physicians practicing medicine in the Dakota Territory.

In 1889, North and South Dakota were admitted to the union as the 39<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> states, respectively. The [South Dakota Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners](#) was subsequently created. The board's mission is to protect the health and welfare of the state's citizens by assuring that only qualified doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathy, physical therapists, advanced life support personnel, physician assistants, athletic trainers, occupational therapists, respiratory therapists, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and dietitians are licensed to practice in South Dakota. The board is comprised of nine members: seven physicians, including one osteopathic physician, and two public members.