Programmatic Innovation Abstract
Submission Guide

Programmatic Innovations abstracts describe evaluated changes to educational practices in osteopathic medical education that lead to improved outcomes or meaningful insights. These may involve new interventions, adaptations to existing approaches, or solutions to persistent challenges. While not typically intended for publication, these evaluations provide evidence for decision-making and contribute to improvements in teaching, learning, and program effectiveness.

Review the Track, Types and Theme Document before entering your abstract in the portal and be prepared to **select the theme** that best fits your proposal.

An effective abstract should clearly address the following: What challenge or opportunity prompted the change? What was done to address it? What were the outcomes? And what lessons were learned that others could apply?

All abstracts must be submitted through the Educating Leaders 2026 Abstract Submission Portal.

1. **Abstract title** (character limit: 90): Use title format (no bold, italics or symbols). Use lowercase linking words in the title, unless used at the beginning of the title or after a colon.
   > **This is a Properly Formatted Abstract Title**
   > **The Abstract: An Example of Proper Title Format**

2. **Speaker(s):** List only individuals who will be **presenting** and **registering** for the conference**. Do not** include co-authors or contributors who are not presenting. This policy allows us to manage speaker logistics, collect required disclosures, and streamline communication and registration. Since abstracts and author lists are not published, only presenting speakers are required. Each presenter must complete a disclosure and register during the early-bird period.

3. **Primary Presenter:** The primary presenter is **the main contact for communication** and is the **only person able to edit or upload** materials related to this presentation. This may be different from the primary author or most senior presenter.

4. **Brief Description for Attendee:** (word limits: max. 200, min. 30) This description **will appear in marketing materials** to promote your presentation and attract attendees. Succinctly summarize what participants will gain or discover by engaging with your session. Focus on key takeaways, insights, or relevance to osteopathic medical education. *Do not include the session title, author names or institutional affiliations in this text.*

5. **Attendee Learning Objectives:** (word limits: max. 50, min. 6) per objective) Each abstract must include **three** learning objectives, which describe what attendees (or poster viewer) will be able to take away from the session. These objectives support the continuing education accreditation process and should reflect **what learners will gain** from engaging with your presentation. Use clear, action-oriented verbs (e.g., describe, identify, discuss, develop, demonstrate, etc.). Refer to Bloom's Taxonomy as a helpful guide when writing your objectives.

6. **Abstract:** (total word limits: max: 500, min. 20) This section will be assessed by the reviewers using a standardized rubric. The abstract should be **clear, concise, and self-contained**. **Do not include graphs, tables, figures, footnotes or citations.** All content must be fully described within the body of the abstract. Include a **statement on IRB status** within the abstract, indicating whether approval was obtained, not required or pending.

   Note: The section headers and descriptions below are **specific to Programmatic Innovation** abstracts. Please follow them carefully, as they reflect the unique criteria used to evaluate your submission.

   - **Context and Rationale:** Briefly describe the issue, challenge, or gap in practice that prompted your innovation or evaluation. Explain why this topic is relevant to osteopathic medical education and what prompted the change. Establish the importance of addressing this challenge or opportunity within your specific context. **Strong abstracts clearly describe a meaningful challenge or opportunity, demonstrate relevance to osteopathic education, and provide a compelling rationale for programmatic innovation**.

   - **Innovation Purpose:** Clearly state the primary objective of programmatic innovation. Include secondary objectives if relevant. Objectives of the programmatic change(s) should align with the issue described above and guide a coherent evaluation or initiative. **Strong abstracts present focused, well-organized objectives that directly address the identified challenge and clarify the intended outcomes of the innovation.**

     Tip: Use action verbs such as implement, improve, develop, increase, reduce, or support to ensure your objectives are specific and practical.

   - **Implementation Approach:** Describe the innovative strategy, adaptation, or new practice implemented. Summarize the steps taken, who was involved, and how this approach differs from or improves upon existing practices in osteopathic medical education. Some data, even if the data is only preliminary, should be described. **Strong abstracts present approaches that are clearly linked to their objectives, describe implementation in sufficient detail, and highlight novel or impactful elements.**

   - **Outcomes and Impact:** Present key outcomes or projected impacts. Highlight any measurable results, such as performance metrics, user satisfaction, or process improvements. When possible, provide data from evaluations (e.g., surveys, assessments, or outcome tracking). Results of any quality improvement or learning outcomes studies should be included. Failure to include evidence of improvement will result in a lower score for the abstract. Note any barriers encountered and how they were addressed. **Strong abstracts use relevant data to demonstrate the impact of the innovation and include outcomes that are practical, observable, and aligned with the initial goals.**

   - **Lessons Learned:** Reflect on what you discovered during implementation. Share insights gained—both expected and unexpected—that could help others adapt or scale the innovation. If your project is in early stages, this section can include insights from planning, stakeholder feedback, or lessons anticipated based on your experience to date. Consider what you would do differently and what made the effort successful or challenging. **Strong abstracts offer thoughtful reflections, demonstrate critical insight into the implementation process, and present implications that extend beyond the original setting.**

7. **Topic Tags (Keywords):** Choose 1-5 topic tags that reflect your presentation content. These tags will help attendees search for and discover your session**.**

8. **Additional Information**

   ☐ Will this presentation be promoting a product or service?
   ☐ Will a representative from product or service be presenting?

9. **Print:** Remember to select "print a copy" for your files *and* to email yourself confirmation.

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