Differences between M.D. and D.O.

D.O. - Doctorate of Osteopathic Medicine
- Encourages the body's natural desire to care for and heal itself.
- Trained in treatment methods that involve the musculoskeletal manipulation process.
- Often links unrelated symptoms to find the root cause of the problem.

M.D. - Doctorate of Medicine
- More likely to treat illnesses and injuries with traditional medications and treatment options.
- Likely to treat only the affected area.

“With my ambition of becoming an osteopathic physician, I seized the opportunity to share qualities of osteopathy, particularly the area of manipulative therapy. I believe it is an exceptional approach to health care, where the body has an inherent ability to heal itself, and that alignment of the body is essential in that healing process. During my volunteer experience, I found a greater enthusiasm for holistic care.” - the words of a prospective D.O. student from GVSU

Facts about D.O.
1. Currently, there are 26 D.O. programs
2. Of the 13,147 applicants in 2010, 5,031 matriculated into the entering class of 2010

Facts about M.D.
1. Currently, there are 151 M.D. programs
2. Of the 42,742 applicants in 2010, 18,665 matriculated into the entering class of 2010

Both M.D. and D.O. students:
- Complete a four year medical program
- Complete similar coursework in the first two years of medical school and complete similar rotations during the third and fourth year of medical school
- Choose to specialize in a particular area of medicine
- Complete a residency program following the completion of medical school
- Can practice Internationally