



NBOME and COMLEX-USA Update

CMSS & OPDA 2021 Fall Meeting

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NBOME

NATIONAL BOARD OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL EXAMINERS



NBOME

**PROTECTING THE PUBLIC BY
PROVIDING THE MEANS TO ASSESS
COMPETENCIES FOR OSTEOPATHIC
MEDICINE AND RELATED HEALTH
CARE PROFESSIONS**

NBOME & COMLEX-USA UPDATES

01

COMLEX-USA Updates

Attempt Limits | Level 1 Numeric Scoring to Pass/Fail

02

NBOME Special Commission

Clinical Skills Attestation: Pathways to Level 3

03

Resources for Program Directors

Score Reports | Percentile Score Converter | Published Research

A photograph of a family scene, including a young girl, a woman, and a man, overlaid with a blue tint. The woman is leaning in to kiss the girl on the cheek, and the man is looking on. The text 'COMPLEX-USA' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font at the bottom right.

COMPLEX-USA

COMLEX-USA ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

L1

LEVEL 1

One-day computer-based exam. 352 multiple-choice test questions.

L2
CE

LEVEL 2-CE

One-day computer-based exam. 352 multiple-choice test questions.

L3

LEVEL 3

Two-day computer-based exam. 420 multiple-choice questions, clinical decision-making cases, novel test item formats, including 22+ clinical cases.

LEVEL 2-PE

Clinical skills assessment.
****SUSPENDED****

L2
PE

DO
Degree

COMLEX-USA
EXAM CHANGES

**Level 1 Changing from Numeric
Scoring to Pass/Fail**

May 2022

**COMLEX-USA Attempt Limits
Change from
6 to 4**

July 2022

COMLEX-USA LEVEL 1 PASS/FAIL

- Decision was made after years of analysis and input from across the education, training, and licensure continuum
- Done in support of wellness across the continuum:
 - **JAMA Network Open:** “Pass/fail grading during the preclinical years has been shown to be associated with better group cohesion and lower stress levels among students without a detrimental effect on subsequent academic performance.”
- More info at [NBOME.org/assessments/comlex-usa/comlex-usa-level-1](https://www.nbome.org/assessments/comlex-usa/comlex-usa-level-1)



**SPECIAL
COMMISSION**

SPECIAL COMMISSION ON OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL LICENSURE

Suspension of COMLEX Level 2-PE (March 2020) gives the NBOME an opportunity to reimagine how osteopathic competencies including clinical skills can be assessed

PHASE 1

FEB

Special Commission is formed

FEB-MAR

Feedback period for individuals and organizations

MAR

Temporary alternate pathway details for classes of 2021 and 2020

APRIL

Alternate pathway details announced for Class of 2022

PHASE 2

MAY

Implemented Attestation Pathway for classes of 2020 and 2021

JUL

Enhanced Attestation Inventory sent to all COMs

SEP

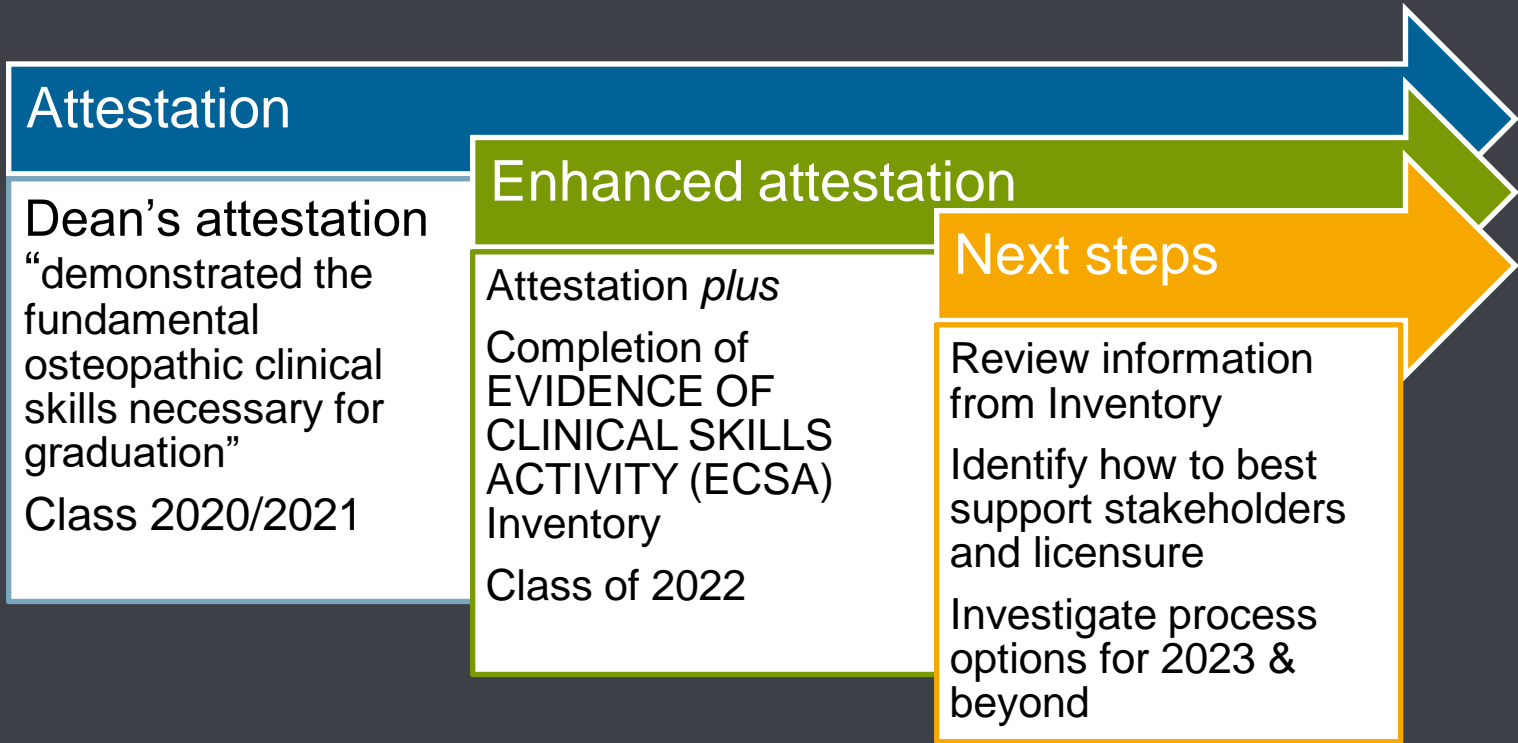
Inventories back to NBOME; assisting with next steps

ONGOING

Developing model for Class of 2023 and beyond; Study of DEI, technology in testing, exam content and competencies

NBOME

REMEMBER: PROCESS – DELIBERATE DESIGN



WHERE WE ARE GOING

Plan for Phase 2 Comprehensive Review of COMLEX-USA



Focus on long-term solutions to assess competencies for osteopathic medicine in the COMLEX-USA program



Expand to consider technology and test delivery advances



Analyze issues of diversity, equity and inclusion in testing



Explore assessment of emerging competencies (e.g. telemedicine)



Investigate inclusion of new test content (e.g. COVID-19)

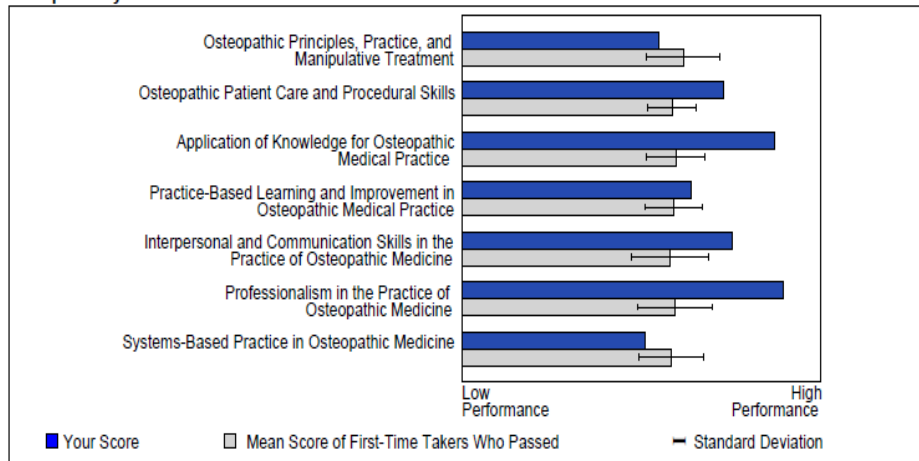


**RESOURCES FOR
UME-GME**

UME TO GME LEVEL 3 SCORE REPORTS

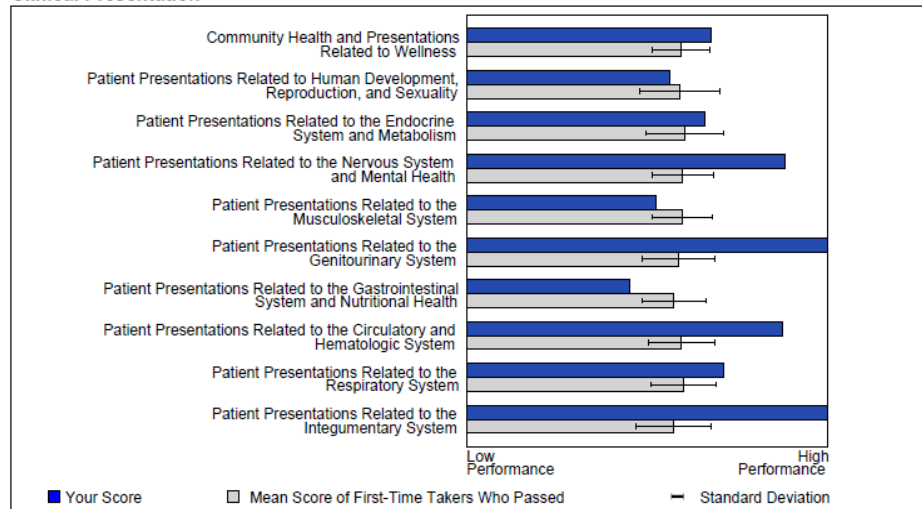
COMLEX-USA Level 3 Performance Profile

Competency Domain



⚠ Subscores based on a relatively lower number of items are not as reliable as the total score based on the entire examination. One should exercise caution when interpreting the subscores on this chart.

Clinical Presentation



⚠ Subscores based on a relatively lower number of items are not as reliable as the total score based on the entire examination. One should exercise caution when interpreting the subscores on this chart.

Notice to Program Director When Scores Are Released

CAUTION

The NBOME cautions residency program directors to **avoid** the sole use of any examination score, or the **overuse** or **sole use** of any examination program, in screening or hiring residents, and supports **holistic admissions reviews**.



PERCENTILE SCORE CONVERTER

COMLEX-USA Level 1 Varies by testing cycle	
SCORE	PERCENTILE
400	7
450	21
500	42
550	64
600	82
650	92
700	98

Converts standard scores into percentile scores for Level 1, Level 2-CE, and Level 3.

The value calculated is the percentile rank in relation to other candidates who took a particular Level examination for the first time, during the same testing cycle.

[Link provided in ERAS for PD use.](#)

SELECT FEATURED RESEARCH

NEW PUBLISHED/PRESENTED RESEARCH

Journal of Graduate Medical Education | In press
Concordance study: COMLEX-USA and USMLE
Barnum S, Craig B, Wang X, Sandella JM, Tsai, TH, Boulet JR, Wang Y.

Journal of Osteopathic Medicine | May 2021
Examining concurrent validity between COMLEX-USA Level 2-Cognitive Evaluation and COMLEX-USA Level 2-Performance Evaluation
Craig B, Wang X, Sandella J, Tsai TH, Kuo D, Finch C.
<https://doi.org/10.1515/jom-2021-0007>

Journal of Osteopathic Medicine | April 2021
Meaningful use of COMSAE Phase 1 in preparation for COMLEX-USA Level 1
Wang X, Maeda H, Craig B, Tsai T-H, Sandella JM, Fleury M.
<https://doi.org/10.1515/jom-2020-0190>

AACOM Educating Leaders 2021 (virtual) | April 2021
Comparison of Proctored and Self-Proctored COMAT Clinical Subject Examination Scores
Maeda H, Barnum S

2019 United States Osteopathic Medical Regulatory Summit: Consensus, Recommendations, and Next Steps in Defining

Association Between Performance on COMLEX-USA and the American College of Osteopathic Physicians In Service Examination

Enhancing COMLEX-USA:
Evidence-Based Redesign of the Osteopathic Medical Licensure Examination Program

Validity Study of COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE and COMAT Clinical Subject Examination

Examining concurrent validity between COMLEX-USA Level 2-Cognitive Evaluation and COMLEX-USA Level 2-Performance Evaluation

An Investigation of the Relationship Between COMLEX-USA Licensure Examination Performance and State Licensing Board Disciplinary Actions

Passing the COMLEX-USA serves as a licensure requirement for osteopathic physicians. The COMLEX-USA (COMLEX-USA) serves as a licensure requirement for osteopathic physicians. This study used logistic regression to assess the relationship between high-stakes exam and performance outcomes. Results from this study support SAS as a reliable and easy-to-implement platform for form assembly. Annotated codes are provided to promote further research and operational work in this area.



THANK YOU

#DOProud | #NBOME | #COMLEX-USA | #RoadToDOLicensure

NBOME