NBOME and COMLEX-USA Update
CMSS & OPDA 2021 Fall Meeting

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Friday, October 22, 2021
PROTECTING THE PUBLIC BY PROVIDING THE MEANS TO ASSESS COMPETENCIES FOR OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE AND RELATED HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS
TOPICS

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
LEVEL 1
One-day computer-based exam. 352 multiple-choice test questions.

LEVEL 2-CE
One-day computer-based exam. 352 multiple-choice test questions.

LEVEL 2-PE
Clinical skills assessment. **SUSPENDED**

LEVEL 3
Two-day computer-based exam. 420 multiple-choice questions, clinical decision-making cases, novel test item formats, including 22+ clinical cases.

COMLEX-USA
ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW
EXAM CHANGES

Level 1 Changing from Numeric Scoring to Pass/Fail

May 2022

COMLEX-USA Attempt Limits Change from 6 to 4

July 2022
• 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
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
- **February**
  - Special Commission is formed
- **February-March**
  - Feedback period for individuals and organizations
- **March**
  - 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
- **July**
  - Enhanced Attestation Inventory sent to all COMs
- **September**
  - 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
Attestation

Dean’s attestation
“demonstrated the fundamental osteopathic clinical skills necessary for graduation”
Class 2020/2021

Enhanced attestation

Attestation *plus*
Completion of EVIDENCE OF CLINICAL SKILLS ACTIVITY (ECSA) Inventory
Class of 2022

Next steps

Review information from Inventory
Identify how to best support stakeholders and licensure
Investigate process options for 2023 & beyond
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
Notice to Program Director When Scores Are Released
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.
COMLEX-USA
PERCENTILE SCORE CONVERTER

Variates by testing cycle

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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.
Concordance study: COMLEX-USA and USMLE
Barnum S, Craig B, Wang X, Sandella JM, Tsai, TH, Boulet JR, Wang Y.

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

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

Comparison of Proctored and Self-Proctored COMAT Clinical Subject Examination Scores
Maeda H, Barnum S
THANK YOU

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