

# THE OSTEOPATHIC EXAMINER



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## HIGHLIGHTS

[ACGME Accepts AOA Board Certification](#)

[COMLEX-USA Metrics](#)

[National Faculty](#)

[COMAT: Osteopathically Distinctive Subject Examinations serving the COMs](#)

[Introducing the NBOME Learning Center](#)

[Careers at NBOME](#)

[Get Connected](#)

[NBOME Awarded 3-Year CME Accreditation with Commendation](#)

[Collaboration: NBOME's Cornerstone](#)

[Blue Ribbon Panel on Enhancing COMLEX-USA](#)

[Janice A. Knebl, DO, MBA, Awarded NBOME's Santucci Award](#)

[Other Acknowledgments](#)

[AOA Recognizes Work of NBOME](#)

[Facts in Five](#)

## Introducing: MedEd Briefs – News You Don't Have to Read

### Video News from NBOME

MedEd Briefs was developed to bring you the headlines video-style so you can watch/listen to important news about osteopathic medical education and assessment, the Single Accreditation System (SAS), and more. Keep any eye out for future MedEd Briefs sent to you by email, or on the NBOME website and YouTube channel.



## Updates: Single Accreditation System for Graduate Medical Education

### NRMP Match Rates Highest in History for DO Residency Applications

Great news for DOs—the 2015 National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) match rate for osteopathic applicants into ACGME-accredited programs is the highest ever at 79.3 percent! Based upon entering-student and graduating-student surveys conducted by the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM), DO students align well with those specialties in ACGME programs that both typically interview and rank DO students, and with programs that accept COMLEX-USA for DO applicants. These happen to be most of the residency program specialties of highest interest to DO applicants. For example, over 70 percent of DO students who matched in the NRMP program to ACGME programs in 2014 fell into the following six specialties: Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Emergency Medicine, Psychiatry and OB-GYN.



In these specialties in ACGME programs in aggregate, over 84 percent of program directors surveyed use COMLEX-USA. The increased recognition of and respect for the distinctive qualifications of osteopathic physicians, including the DO degree and the COMLEX-USA examination program, are indeed some of the very positive outcomes thus far in the single accreditation system. For more information: [2015 Match Report](#).

Updates—continued

## ACGME Accepts AOA Board Certification for Program Directors in Additional Specialties

Several ACGME Review Committees have announced they will accept American Osteopathic Association (AOA) board certification as meeting board certification requirements to serve as program directors of residency programs in the new single accreditation system for graduate medical education. These specialties are:

- Allergy and Immunology
- Anesthesiology
- Dermatology
- Diagnostic Radiology
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine

- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Ophthalmology
- Pathology
- Pediatrics
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Plastic Surgery
- Preventive Medicine
- Psychiatry
- Orthopedic Surgery

In addition, programs so designated and approved for “osteopathic recognition” status will use AOA board certification as a primary outcome measure.

## Updates: COMLEX-USA Metrics



THE COMPREHENSIVE OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL LICENSURE EXAMINATION OF THE UNITED STATES – COMLEX-USA

### PATHWAY TO LICENSURE

- COMLEX-USA Level 1
- COMLEX-USA Level 2-Cognitive Evaluation
- COMLEX-USA Level 2-Performance Evaluation
- COMLEX-USA Level 3

The COMLEX-USA examination series is designed to assess the osteopathic medical knowledge and clinical skills considered essential for osteopathic generalist physicians to practice osteopathic medicine without supervision.

CANDIDATE PERFORMANCE ON COMPUTER-DELIVERED COMLEX-USA COGNITIVE EXAMINATIONS				
	YEAR	N 1st Exam/Total Exams	PASSING RATE 1st Exam	PASSING RATE Total Exams
LEVEL 1	2011-2012	4853/5429	91.8%	89.4%
	2012-2013	5056/5722	90.6%	87.1%
	2013-2014	5448/6083	92.0%	89.3%
LEVEL 2-CE	2011-2012	4569/5465	86.8%	82.9%
	2012-2013	4866/5617	89.4%	86.7%
	2013-2014	4973/5531	92.3%	90.1%
LEVEL 3	2011-2012	4357/4741	95.0%	92.8%
	2012-2013	4118/4426	95.1%	93.6%
	2013-2014	4807/5103	96.0%	94.6%

For more data on COMLEX-USA and other examinations refer to [NBOME’s 2014 Annual Report](#).

## Updates: National Faculty



**Peter B. Dane, DO, a member of NBOME’s National Faculty**, took on a new interim role of Scholar in Residence in the Cognitive Testing Department. Board Certified in Emergency Medicine, Dr. Dane earned his DO from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and has held associate dean roles at the University of New England COM and the Ohio University Heritage COM. In this role, Dr. Dane will work with the development of evidenced-based medicine items and COMLEX-USA Level 3, Clinical Decision-Making (CDM) test item development and physician examiner training, as well as various other initiatives.

## Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Achievement Tests (COMAT): Osteopathically Distinctive Subject Examinations serving the COMs

COMAT examinations approach **100,000<sup>th</sup>**  
administration, and more!

The NBOME has launched the following new COMAT examination program products and services:

- An Emergency Medicine COMAT subject exam
- COMAT subject examinations administration option via the iPad
- COMAT subject examinations registration option for Prometric testing centers throughout the country

Beginning July 2015, additional enhancements to COMAT examinations include:

- Removal of laboratory values button and pop-up window; laboratory values embedded directly into test items

- DSM-5 compliant nomenclature and classification
- Examination blueprint updates
- Capability to enlarge font (available on PC, Mac and iPad)
- Capability to alter color scheme (available on PC and Mac)



## Introducing the NBOME Learning Center

NBOME's Department of Continuous Professional Development and Innovations is launching the **NBOME Learning Center** – a delivery system for e-learning modules of various types of content – on August 1, 2015. The NBOME Learning Center will be used in the development of Category 1-A CME, self-paced CME, live webinars, NBOME's Osteopathic Performance Assessment and Improvement Modules (OPAIMs) for the AOA's Osteopathic Continuous Certification (OCC) program, training programs and more.



## Careers at NBOME

Check out these exciting positions at NBOME  
[Senior Vice President for Cognitive Testing](#)  
[Chief Physician for Test Development](#)



## Get Connected



The NBOME routinely announces important information like exam testing dates and score releases on our Social Media pages. Plus, we LOVE retweets! So if you haven't already liked, followed or joined us, please do by clicking the links above.

## NBOME Awarded 3-Year CME Accreditation with Commendation

The American Osteopathic Association's Council on Continuing Medical Education has awarded the NBOME a 3-Year Accreditation/Level 3 with Commendation as a Category 1 CME Sponsor.

## Collaboration: NBOME's Cornerstone

Each year the NBOME Liaison Committee assembles to garner stakeholder input on NBOME's products and services, and to provide important updates to those whom we serve. Representatives from nine organizations, including those representing osteopathic medical students and residents, participated in the meeting. These included representatives from the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, the American Association of Osteopathic Examiners, the American Osteopathic Association, the AOA's Council of Interns

and Residents, the Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators, the Council of Osteopathic Student Government Presidents, the Federation of State Medical Boards, the Organization of Program Directors Associations and the Student Osteopathic Medical Association along with members of the NBOME Board of Directors and NBOME staff. Stakeholder representatives provided input into the development of NBOME's next strategic plan, scheduled to be unveiled in 2016.

## Jobs Well Done

## Blue Ribbon Panel on Enhancing COMLEX-USA Completes Task

The Blue Ribbon Panel on Enhancing COMLEX-USA was initiated in 2010 with the goal of assisting the NBOME in outlining a plan to implement a 2-decision point, competency based COMLEX-USA that is consistent with NBOME's mission, with recognition of the primary purpose of COMLEX-USA as well as the important secondary uses of the examinations. A written update is expected to be accomplished as a result of this final meeting of the Blue Ribbon Panel to include:

- Approval of a working draft of the Competency Domains in preparation for the new COMLEX-USA master blueprint and

an updated Fundamental Osteopathic Medical Competency Domains (FOMCD) document 2016. The new COMLEX-USA blueprint is expected to be implemented into COMLEX-USA Levels 1 and 2 in 2019.

- Further work on the two-day COMLEX-USA Level 3, which will be implemented in 2018, including potential portfolio components and additional novel test item formats.
- Discussion of revision of COMLEX-USA examination scoring, including enhanced diagnostic score reporting by competency domains and clinical presentations.

## Janice A. Knebl, DO, MBA, Awarded NBOME's Santucci Award



Janice A. Knebl, DO, MBA, Immediate Past Chair, receiving the Santucci Award from Wayne Carlsen, DO, Board Chair and John Gimpel, DO, MEd, President & CEO

**Maya Angelou once said that you can only become truly accomplished at something you love.**

Her sentiment has been shared by some of the most successful people in the world – Jobs, Gates, Forbes – all of whom agreed that what they did every day to earn their living could never be considered “work,” but passion.

On June 26, 2015, NBOME Immediate Past Chair, Chair of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Enhancing COMLEX-USA, successful geriatric physician, accomplished educator and endowed Chair of Geriatrics at the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (TCOM), Janice A. Knebl, DO, MBA, was presented with the NBOME's highest honor, the Santucci Award, for her extensive contributions to the NBOME and advancement of the NBOME's mission to protect the public.

As Dr. Knebl accepted the award, she said, “I am humbled to have been able to contribute to the growth and success of the NBOME.” Dr. Knebl further stated, “I have truly loved my 16 years on the NBOME Board; it has never been work.”

And she is loved back by NBOME staff, Board and associates for her insights and experience, her vision, her energy, her collaborative nature, and of course, her sense of humor.

## Other Acknowledgments



**Dennis Dowling, DO**, Medical Consultant for OPAIM and Coordinator for OMM Assessment for the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE examination, for receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO)—their highest award!



**Karen T. Snider, DO**, NBOME Board member and Chair of COMAT-OPP, on her induction as a Fellow of the American Academy of Osteopathy (AAO) at their annual convocation!

**John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd**, was appointed to the Management Committee that leads the initiatives of the U.S. Coalition for Physician Accountability. The NBOME is a charter member. The mission of the Coalition is to advance health care and promote professional accountability by improving the quality, efficiency, and continuity of the education, training, and assessment of

physicians. The Coalition's members are the national organizations responsible for the oversight, assessment, accreditation, certification, and licensure of medical students, physicians, medical schools and training programs. Visit the [Coalition's website](#) for information.

For 45 years, the National Sports Center for the Disabled (NSCD), a non-profit organization and one of the largest outdoor therapeutic recreation facilities in the world, helps 3,000 children and adults a year to learn more about themselves and



independence through adaptive sports and recreational adventures. For the past 18 years, our own **Jim Andriole, DO**, NBOME Board Director, has volunteered as a downhill snow ski instructor at the Winter Park, CO facility. Great work, Dr. Andriole!

## American Osteopathic Association Recognizes Work of NBOME

**The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) recognized the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) with the Strategic Team Award and Recognition (STAR)** during its House of Delegates annual meeting on July 18, 2015, in Chicago, IL. The recognition is bestowed upon osteopathic affiliates, osteopathic post-doctoral training programs and colleges of osteopathic medicine, which are implementing innovative activities that make meaningful

advances in osteopathic medicine and support the profession-wide objectives identified in the AOA Strategic Plan.



**NBOME is the leading assessment organization for the osteopathic medical profession.** Its mission is to protect the public by providing the means to assess competencies for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions. NBOME's COMLEX-USA examination series is a requirement for graduation from

colleges of osteopathic medicine and the pathway to licensure for osteopathic physicians in the United States.

In particular, the NBOME Board and executive leadership were recognized by the AOA for conceptualizing, coordinating and hosting the Osteopathic Medical Regulatory Summit meetings in 2012 and 2014, which brought together thought leaders to collaborate on the role of osteopathic medicine, medical education and assessment in a changing health care landscape.

"What resulted was a consensus statement: *Patients are best served by seeking care from osteopathic physicians who have qualified by virtue of passing graduation requirements and competency assessments designed for the practice of osteopathic medicine and validated for that distinct purpose,*" NBOME President and CEO John R. Gimpel, DO, MEd, said.

Additionally, upon presentation of the STAR award, the AOA noted the NBOME's outreach to residency program directors and others in the graduate medical education community that has helped foster education about the COMLEX-USA examination series, benefiting osteopathic medical students and the profession. As well, adherence to the NBOME's strategic objectives of performance excellence, engaging the workforce, collaboration, and international growth and development has helped increase recognition of DOs around the world.

NBOME Board Chair, Wayne R. Carlsen, DO, Vice Dean and Associate Professor of Geriatric Medicine/Gerontology at the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine (OU-HCOM), and Board Vice Chair, Gary L. Slick, DO, MA, Chief Academic Officer and Director of Medical Education at the Oklahoma State University Medical Center accepted the award on behalf of the NBOME Board, staff and National Faculty. "It is the dedication and excellent work of our staff, the vision and leadership of our Board, and the expertise and quality of our National Faculty that produce excellent products and services that help to meet NBOME's mission and help assure quality care within the osteopathic medical profession for the patients we serve," Dr. Carlsen said.

## Osteopathic Medical Students: Facts in Five

**1 NBOME Announces Opening of a Second National Clinical Skills Testing Site in Chicago in Late 2016** This will provide two testing sites for the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE examination, Philadelphia (Conshohocken) and Chicago (O'Hare). Stay tuned for scheduling updates and other information as it becomes available.

**2 Sample COMLEX-USA-Style Items Posted Monthly on the NBOME's Facebook Page**

We get many requests from osteopathic medical students to share sample COMLEX-USA test items. Similar to sample test items already provided in the free COMLEX-USA tutorials on NBOME's website, these sample test items are intended to be written in the style typically found in COMLEX-USA examinations. The actual items released through this campaign are not currently found, nor will they be in any actual COMLEX-USA examination. Follow the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners on [Facebook](#) for the COMLEX-USA style question of the month!

**3 Clinical Decision-Making Cases**  
Beginning on September 1, 2015, the COMLEX-USA Level 3 examination includes a section containing [Clinical Decision-Making \(CDM\)](#) cases. The NBOME's CDM cases assess the ability to make appropriate patient management decisions as an independently practicing osteopathic generalist physician. Candidates are encouraged to take the [CDM practice exam](#) as well as the [COMLEX-USA Level 3 Practice Exam](#).

**4 NBOME No Longer Reporting 2-Digit Scores**  
In 2015, the NBOME discontinued reporting of 2-digit standard scores for COMLEX-USA Level 1, Level 2-CE and Level 3. COMLEX-USA 3-digit standard passing scores of 400 for Level 1 and Level 2-CE, and 350 for Level 3 are equivalent to a 2-digit standard score of 75 for the purposes of meeting statutory requirements for licensure. The COMLEX-USA 3-digit standard score is more precise and the primary reporting scale that is developed in a manner that allows the reasonable comparison across time. COMLEX-USA 2-digit percentile scores are still available by using the COMLEX-USA percentile score conversion tool available on [NBOME's website](#) or via the NBOME iPhone App.

**5 New Client Service: Overnight Delivery of Transcripts**  
NBOME is pleased to announce an overnight shipping option for the receipt of transcripts. All purchase and shipping options are easy to access under the "Purchase Transcripts" tab in the Client Registration System. First class mail through USPS is always an option at no added cost, or, candidates will be able to choose overnight shipping via FedEx for an additional \$35.00 fee.

## NBOME'S STRATEGIC GOALS

### Continuum of Competency Assessment

Expand competency assessment across the osteopathic medical education, training and practice continuum

### Performance Excellence

Integrate performance excellence in our products, processes and services

### Engaged Workforce

Cultivate the most capable, most qualified and engaged national faculty and staff

### International Growth & Development

Expand our presence and participation in the international arena

### Collaboration

Strengthen collaborative efforts in research, innovations, and patient safety

Send submissions, questions or comments about *The Osteopathic Examiner* to the Editor:

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## The NBOME's Mission

To protect the public by providing the means to assess competencies for osteopathic medicine and related health care professions