



ATP  
GLOBAL

INNOVATIONS  
IN TESTING 2023

# *Caring For Candidates: Revising Score Reporting for a High Stakes Examination*

2023 Innovations in Testing Conference  
March 12-15, 2023

**BETTER TOGETHER**

Assessments. Learning. Outcomes.



# NBOME

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

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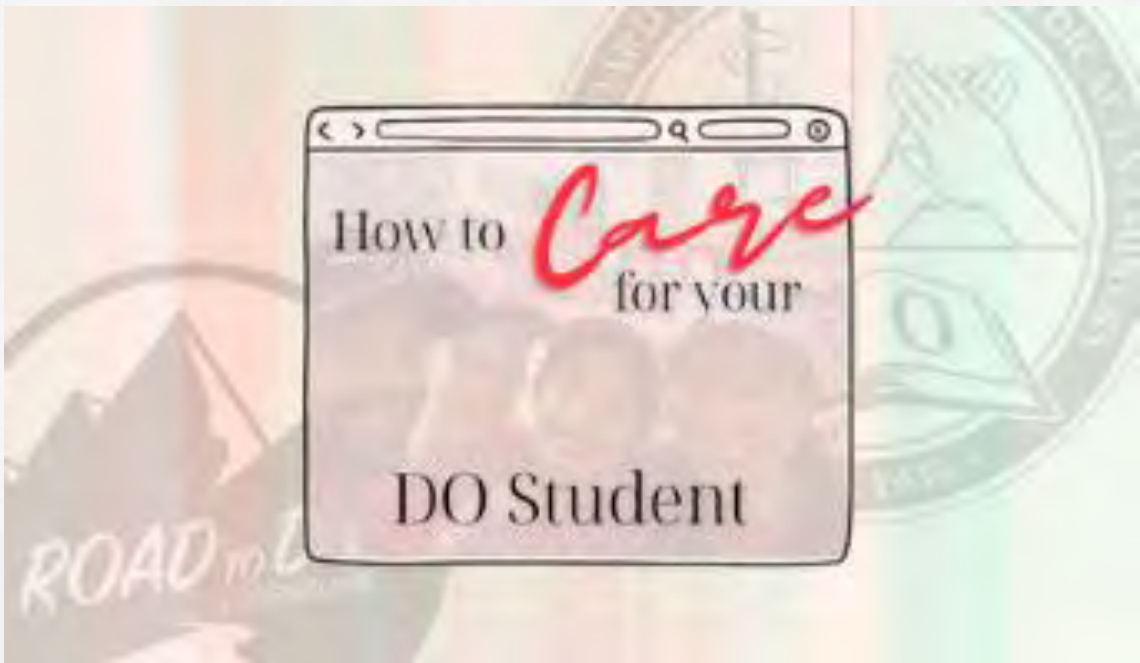
*If you're not sleeping, eating, and nourishing your relationships—your mental, emotional, and spiritual needs—you're not only going to have a hard time showing up for your exam, but also for your life as well as you should be.*



**ONE DAY,  
ONE TEST, AND  
ONE SCORE  
DO NOT  
→ DEFINE ←  
YOU**

# Environment

## Goal: Helping to reduce the stress of osteopathic medical students



-6/4/22  
It's boards season so now is as good of a time as any to tell any aspiring physicians out there that you're more than a board score. Find the courage to keep going and remind yourself of all the good you do as opposed to your shortcomings.  
#MedTwitter #USMLE  
#comlex #nbme  
#nbome

# Osteopathic Medical Student Stress

## What is COMLEX-USA Level 1?

- First examination in a 3-exam licensure series for osteopathic physicians
- Tests content from 2 years of medical school

## Why is there performance stress on Level 1?

- High scores might provide access to competitive clinical rotations
- Secondary use of scores for residency applications- score high and increase your odds

## Preparation for Level 1 takes time and money

- Test prep courses
- Dedicated study time in medical school

# Changing the Reporting Format

- NBOME for years considered changing Level 1 from numeric score to Pass/Fail
- Stakeholder survey in 2020 provided supporting data
- Survey majority agreed with changing to P/F but maintaining formative feedback
- Most felt P/F score reporting would still allow students to advance in their training

**BUT...**

***“How can I stand out without a score?”***

# Considerations for Change To P/F

## Pro

- Enhance student wellness
- Meets licensure assessment objective
- Reduce disparities and inequities (test prep cost, school-sponsored study time)

## Con

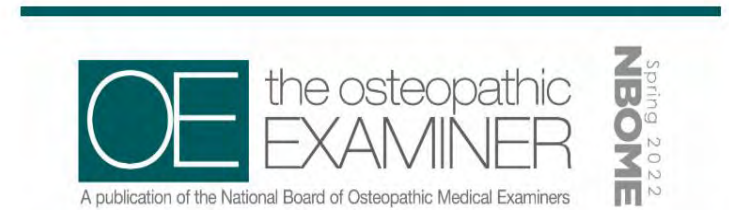
- Reduced content feedback
- Changes the incentive to prepare adequately?
- Transfers stress to the subsequent examination in the series

## Anticipated Outcomes

- Schools reduce “teaching to the test”
- Encourage holistic selection rather than test scores for residency program applications

# NBOME Implementation

- Converted from 3-digit standard score to Pass/Fail in May 2022
- Kept a revised formative performance profile
- Offered same report format to Passers and Failers
- Cautioned against unintended uses by students



## LEVEL 1 SCORING UPDATES TRANSITION TO PASS/FAIL

See the latest timeline and a sample score report as the NBOME prepares to transition to pass/fail score reporting for COMLEX Level 1 in May.



Name: Jane Doe  
NBOME ID: 012345  
School: UCOM

Test Date: MM/DD/YYYY

### COMLEX-USA Level 1 Score Report

The Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX-USA) series is designed for use for all applicants for osteopathic medical licensure. COMLEX-USA consists of three progressive levels. Passing Level 1 indicates that the candidate has demonstrated competence in the foundational biomedical sciences and osteopathic principles and related physician competency domains for osteopathic medical care of patients as required to enter supervised patient care settings and to continue lifelong learning. Your result for **COMLEX-USA Level 1** is reported below.

Result: **PASS**

**Result:** The result indicates the pass/fail decision based on your examination performance. Passing COMLEX-USA Level 1 is based solely on achieving an overall standard score of 400 or higher. The standard score of 400 reflects the minimum passing level recommended by the NBOME for COMLEX-USA Level 1.

This candidate score report does not constitute an official transcript.  
Only official transcripts from the NBOME should be used for primary verification of COMLEX-USA performance.

Name: Jane Doe  
NBOME ID: 012345  
School: UCOM

Test Date: MM/DD/YYYY

### COMLEX-USA Level 1 Formative Performance Profile

This performance profile provides a comparison of your performance to the performance of other first-time test takers in the content areas tested in the examination.

- "Lower" indicates performance below an approximate 68% confidence interval of the national mean performance.
- "Average" indicates performance within an approximate 68% confidence interval of the national mean performance.
- "Higher" indicates performance above an approximate 68% confidence interval of the national mean performance.

Because the examination is highly integrative, NBOME recommends reviewing all content areas if retaking the examination.

**⚠ The NBOME provides this formative information to the candidate and the school for the purposes of continuous quality improvement and lifelong learning. The relative strengths and weakness information relates to the COMLEX-USA master blueprint. The NBOME strongly cautions against the use of this information for any other purposes, including sharing in any form as part of application to residency programs.**

Please visit our website at [www.nbome.org](http://www.nbome.org) for details about the COMLEX-USA Master Blueprint.

Competency Domain	Minimum % of Test Questions on Level 1	Your Performance Level		
		Lower	Average	Higher
Osteopathic Principles, Practice, and Manipulative Treatment	11%	■		
Osteopathic Patient Care and Procedural Skills	6%	■		
Application of Knowledge for Osteopathic Medical Practice	60%			■
Practice-Based Learning and Improvement in Osteopathic Medical Practice	5%			■
Interpersonal and Communication Skills in the Practice of Osteopathic Medicine	3%			■
Professionalism in the Practice of Osteopathic Medicine	3%		■	
Systems-Based Practice in Osteopathic Medicine	2%		■	

Clinical Presentation	Minimum % of Test Questions on Level 1	Your Performance Level		
		Lower	Average	Higher
Community Health and Patient Presentations Related to Wellness	12%			■
Patient Presentations Related to Human Development, Reproduction, and Sexuality	5%	■		
Patient Presentations Related to the Endocrine System and Metabolism	5%	■		
Patient Presentations Related to the Nervous System and Mental Health	10%	■		
Patient Presentations Related to the Musculoskeletal System	13%			■
Patient Presentations Related to the Genitourinary/Renal System and Breasts	5%		■	
Patient Presentations Related to the Gastrointestinal System and Nutritional Health	10%			■
Patient Presentations Related to the Circulatory and Hematologic Systems	10%			■
Patient Presentations Related to the Respiratory System	10%			■
Patient Presentations Related to the Integumentary System	5%		■	

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# USMLE IMPLEMENTATION

- USMLE also converted their Step 1 exam to Pass/Fail
- Offered different score report formats to Passers and Failers

*We did not confer with USMLE on the decision*

# Outcomes

- Student feedback - mostly positive
- School feedback - varied
- Social media feedback - positive
- Clinical rotation directors - varied



# Next Steps

## Provide the failing students with more information

- “How close was I to passing?”
- “What do I need to study next time?”

## Research topics

- Impact on pass rates
- Exam prep and changes in stress
- Candidate satisfaction pre/post
- Residency application performance pre/post

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Playlist: LoFi and Chill Study Beats



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