

POLICY NUMBER: 540.1

POLICY TITLE: COMLEX-USA Level 1 Eligibility Process

I. PURPOSE

To establish a policy describing the student eligibility process for taking the COMLEX- USA Level 1 prior to graduation from the Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (LMU- DCOM).

II. POLICY STATEMENT

All LMU-DCOM medical students are required to take and pass COMLEX-USA Level 1. LMU-DCOM assesses the readiness of an individual student to take COMLEX-USA Level 1 utilizing a variety of data points including a score on a COMSAE (Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Self-Assessment Examination).

III. DEFINITIONS

COMLEX-USA- Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensure Examination – United States of America.

COMLEX-USA Level 1 – “a problem- and symptom-based assessment, administered in a time-measured environment that integrates the foundational biomedical sciences with other areas of medical knowledge relevant to solving clinical problems and promoting and maintaining health during the provision of osteopathic medical care to patients” (<https://www.nbome.org/assessments/comlex-usa/comlex-usa-level-1/>).

Benchmark COMSAE (Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Self-Assessment Examination) – A COMSAE Phase 1 examination delivered by LMU-DCOM, the score of which is utilized as part of the process to determine eligibility for students to pursue COMLEX-USA Level 1 testing.

IV. AUDIENCE

This policy applies to all stakeholders (faculty, staff, students, administration, and community members) interested in learning about the eligibility process for students pursuing the COMLEX-USA Level 1 examination.

V. COMPLIANCE

COCA Standard 11.4a:

“Prior to graduation, all students must demonstrate osteopathic medical knowledge and osteopathic clinical skills by passing the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination of the United States (COMLEX-USA) undergraduate examinations (Level 1 and Level 2) and meeting a national standard for osteopathic clinical skills competency.”

VI. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

LMU-DCOM Office of the Dean: To monitor student pass rates on the COMLEX-USA Level 1; to oversee matriculation of all OMS-II and other students into clinical rotations.

Responsible Office: DCOM Office of the Dean; Assessment Department

Responsible University Officer: Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Assistant/ Associate Dean(s) of Preclinical Academic Affairs/Basic Medical Science, Assistant/ Associate Dean(s) of Curricular Innovation, Assistant/ Associate Dean(s) of Clinical Affairs; Assistant/ Associate Dean(s) of Clinical Medicine

Policy Oversight Committee: LMU-DCOM Policy Process Committee

VII. STANDARDS

COCA Standard 11.4a:

“Prior to graduation, all students must demonstrate osteopathic medical knowledge and osteopathic clinical skills by passing the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination of the United States (COMLEX-USA) undergraduate examinations (Level 1 and Level 2) and meeting a national standard for osteopathic clinical skills competency.”

VIII. PROCEDURE

Please refer to the following table for details outlining student eligibility to take COMLEX-USA Level 1.

	Timing	Outcome	Next Action
NBOME-style board assessment #1	January OMS-II	--	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NBOME-style board question bank self-study
NBOME-style board assessment #2 (all board assessments will be in-person and onsite)	Late April OMS-II	--	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NBOME-style board question bank self-studyConnect with Academic Support faculty/staff as needed
Benchmark COMSAE Phase 1 (all COMSAE testing will be in-person and onsite)	Late May OMS-II	COMSAE Score ≥ 460	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Eligible to take COMLEX-USA Level 1*
		COMSAE Score < 460	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NOT eligible to take COMLEX-USA Level 1*Student meets with the Assistant/ Associate Dean(s) of Basic Medical Science (or designee)Individual Student Success plan established, which may include completing an LMU-DCOM-approved live, on-site Board

			Review Program (attendance verification required)
Subsequent Qualifying COMSAE Phase 1 (different COMSAE version; all COMSAE testing will be in-person and onsite)	June OMS-II	• COMSAE Score ≥ 460	• Eligible to take COMLEX-USA Level 1*
		• COMSAE Score < 460	• NOT eligible to take COMLEX-USA Level 1* • Student meets with the Assistant/ Associate Dean(s) of Basic Medical Science (or designee) • Individual Student Success plan updated • Student assigned Board Prep Elective for OMS- III rotation #1
Board Prep Elective (BPE)	July OMS-III	• Meeting requirements of BPE and • COMSAE (or equivalent) Score ≥ 460	• Eligible to take COMLEX-USA Level 1*
		• NOT meeting requirements of BPE or • COMSAE Score < 460	• NOT eligible to take COMLEX-USA Level 1* • Student meets with the Assistant/ Associate Dean(s) of Basic Medical Science (or designee) • Individual Student Success plan updated • Student utilizes vacation time and/or placed on Recessed Professional Leave of Absence (LOA) for further board preparation
Vacation and/or LOA status - Individual Student Success Plan/	August OMS-III	By October of OMS-III: COMSAE (or equivalent) Score ≥ 460	• Eligible to take COMLEX-USA Level 1*

Independent study for COMLEX prep			
		By October of OMS-III: COMSAE Score <460	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOT eligible to take COMLEX-USA Level 1* • Referral to Community Standards Committee

*LMU-DCOM Associate Dean of Academic affairs and the Assistant/ Associate Dean(s) of Basic Medical Science (or designee) approves student eligibility based upon predictors of student readiness which includes, but is not limited to, COMSAE (or equivalent) scores. Students will take COMLEX within 30 days or the first available testing date closest to 30 days from determination of eligibility.

A student who fails any COMLEX-USA Level exam may be referred to the Community Standards Committee. Students who fail COMLEX-USA Level 1 may be placed on Recessed Professional Leave of Absence and required to participate in exam preparation programs. Please refer to LMU-DCOM Policy 9.2 (Academic Standards) for specific graduation requirements.

IX. CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information regarding this policy, please contact the Assistant/ Associate Dean(s) of Basic Medical Sciences at LMU-DCOM, 423-338-5721.

X. DOCUMENT HISTORY

VERSION S24.1

APPROVED BY LMU-DCOM POLICY PROCESS COMMITTEE 03/04/2024

APPROVED BY LMU-DCOM DEAN'S COUNCIL 03/06/2024

APPROVED BY LMU LEGAL 04/08/2024

XI. FORMS