

**B9**  
**American Medical Student Association**  
**House of Delegates 2022**  
**Resolution:**

**Introduced by:** Nadiya Yerich, Zoreed Mukhtar, Trevor Lyford, Thomas Pak, Donato Mignones, Adrianna Diviero, Erum Chowdhry, Israa Ismail, Raj Patel

**School(s):** UNC Chapel Hill School of Medicine, Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine, Milken Institute School of Public Health, Carver College of Medicine, New York Institute of Technology College of Osteopathic Medicine, Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, University of Nevada - Reno School of Medicine, CUNY Brooklyn College, VCOM

**Subject:** Principles Regarding Medical Education – Curriculum Content

**Type:** Addition to Principles

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WHEREAS The Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX) USA is a licensing exam series that is currently required by the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) to be taken by all osteopathic medical students in order to graduate from a COCA-accredited medical school (*Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation Accreditation of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine: COM Continuing Accreditation Standards*, 2019).

WHEREAS The United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) is a licensing exam series that is currently taken by all allopathic medical students and most osteopathic medical students (“Performance Data | USMLE,” 2020).

WHEREAS most osteopathic medical schools either require or encourage students to take both the USMLE and COMLEX to increase their training opportunities for residency, this is often cost prohibitive. These students also have to take more time to study for both exams which creates an unfair burden on osteopathic-trained students. (Gimpel, 2010)

WHEREAS in 2015, the governing bodies of the M.D. and D.O. matching process initiated a five-year integration process between the residency match where D.O. students may now apply for previously M.D.-specific slots. (“Understanding the Merge: Institutionalizing Differentiation in Health Care,” n.d.)

WHEREAS given the merge of the residency programs amongst M.D. and D.O. students, taking the same exam would simplify and standardize the selection process for residency program directors.

WHEREAS various studies have published results suggesting strong correlation of performance of students that take both the COMLEX 1 and STEP 1 exams for osteopathic medical students. (Sandella et al., 2016)

WHEREAS, there is a separate subject exam, Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Achievement Test, that tests Osteopathic Principles & Practice (“COMAT · Osteopathic Principles & Practice — NBOME,” n.d.)

WHEREAS, The National Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA) has adopted resolution S-20-30, Single Licensing Exam, and has encouraged the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME), National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME), and Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) to develop a single licensing examination series for all medical students with an additional osteopathic specific subject test for osteopathic medical students. (*Instagram Photo by National SOMA • Jun 28, 2020 at 11:00 PM, n.d.*)

WHEREAS, SOMA has advocated to the COCA to adjust their continuing accreditation standards such that Element 6.12 no longer requires the COMLEX USA series to be passed prior to graduation from an Osteopathic medical school, rather Osteopathic medical students must pass a new single licensing exam developed by the NBOME, FSMB, and NBME. (*Instagram Photo by National SOMA • Jun 28, 2020 at 11:00 PM, n.d.*)

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Principles Regarding Medical Education – Curriculum Content pg.11 be **AMENDED BY ADDITION** to state:

The American Medical Student Association

1. **SUPPORTS** the development of a single licensing examination series for all medical students attending a medical school accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) or the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA), with a separate, additional osteopathic-specific subject test for osteopathic medical students.

Fiscal Note: None

Citations:

COMAT · Osteopathic Principles & Practice — NBOME. (n.d.). Retrieved November 19, 2021, from <https://www.nbome.org/assessments/comat/clinical-subjects/comat-principles/>

*Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation Accreditation of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine: COM Continuing Accreditation Standards.* (2019).

Gimpel, J. R. (2010). Re: “COMLEX-1 and USMLE-1 Are Not Interchangeable Examinations.” *Academic Emergency Medicine*, 17(10), 1146–1147. <https://doi.org/10.1111/J.1553-2712.2010.00898.X>

*Instagram photo by National SOMA • Jun 28, 2020 at 11:00 PM.* (n.d.). Retrieved January 30, 2022, from <https://www.instagram.com/p/CCAM0ZwhyF5/>

Performance Data | USMLE. (2020). Retrieved November 19, 2021, from <https://www.usmle.org/performance-data>

Understanding the Merge: Institutionalizing Differentiation in Health Care. (n.d.). Retrieved July 18, 2021, from [https://opmed.doximity.com/articles/understanding-the-merge-institutionalizing-differentiation-in-health-care?\\_csrf\\_attempted=yes](https://opmed.doximity.com/articles/understanding-the-merge-institutionalizing-differentiation-in-health-care?_csrf_attempted=yes)