

Notice

There have been several changes with the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine, which are discussed in more detail below.

Suspension of COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners (NBOME) postponed the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE examination indefinitely. While NBOME works with stakeholders to develop a new requirement to accomplish the same goal as the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE examination, NBOME has set up temporary eligibility pathways for graduates of accredited osteopathic medical schools to take the COMLEX-USA Level 3 examination, which includes the following:

- Attestation of the osteopathic medical school dean that you have graduated and demonstrated the fundamental osteopathic clinical skills necessary for graduation.
- Attestation of the Program Director that you are in good academic and professional standing.

To accommodate this change, on April 13, 2022, a motion was passed by the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine (“Board”) to accept the attestation from the osteopathic medical school dean and program director for those students who graduated *after* the suspension of the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE examination as satisfying the requirements for licensure.

Graduate Training Requirements

Effective July 1, 2020, the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) transitioned into a single accreditation system. Under the new system, graduates of osteopathic medical schools (D.O.s) and allopathic medical schools (M.D.s) complete their postgraduate training in ACGME-accredited programs. To address the foregoing, the Board is currently working on a proposed rulemaking package which seeks to provide more specificity relating to internships and graduate training programs at §§ 25.262 and 25.263 (relating to approved internships; and other approved graduate training programs), respectively. The Board is also proposing a new definition of “graduate medical training” to encompass either an approved internship or an approved residency.

Pending completion of the final rulemaking package, and pursuant to 49 Pa. Code § 25.262(b), the Board has determined that the following “approved internships” currently meet the requirement for an unrestricted license in this Commonwealth:

- An AOA approved internship.
- An ACGME-accredited training program (PGY-1) that has received “ACGME Osteopathic Recognition.”

- An ACGME-accredited training program that includes 24 weeks of rotations in internal medicine, general surgery, pediatrics, family medicine, emergency medicine and obstetrics/gynecology.

Additionally, the Board has determined that the following “approved residencies” currently meet the requirement for an unrestricted license in this Commonwealth:

- An AOA-approved or accredited residency program.
- An ACGME-approved residency program.
- A training program provided by a hospital accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals which is acceptable to the AOA or the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) toward the training it requires for certification in a subspecialty.

For more information on “osteopathic recognition,” please review the ACGME website: <https://www.acgme.org/programs-and-institutions/programs/osteopathic-recognition/>

For information on how to obtain AOA recognition of a PGY-1 training, please visit the website for the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) at <https://osteopathic.org/residents/recognition-of-training/aoa-recognition-of-acgme-pgy1-year/>.

Osteopathic Diagnosis and Manipulative Therapy (OMT) Examination

Commencing in 2023, the NBOME no longer requires a practical examination for passage of the NBOME series of examinations. To address the foregoing, the Board is currently working on a proposed rulemaking package which seeks to remove the requirement in the Board’s regulations at 49 Pa. Code § 25.241 (relating to unrestricted license by examination) and § 25.242 (relating to unrestricted license by endorsement) that an applicant for licensure receive a passing score on an OMT examination.

Pending completion of the final rulemaking package, the Board voted to suspend enforcement of the current licensure requirement to pass an OMT examination. Applicants who answer “NO” to having completed an OMT exam can still submit applications to the Board. Upon initial review of all submitted applications, the OMT Examination requirement will be marked as not applicable.