

Resolution 2026-03

Submitted For Consideration to the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association House of Delegates

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR ENSURING DO STUDENTS ACHIEVE A NATIONAL STANDARD IN OSTEOPATHIC CLINICAL SKILLS COMPETENCIES

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Check one:

- Resolution is intended for Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association
- Resolution is intended to be submitted by the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association for consideration of the American Osteopathic Association House of Delegates
- Resolution is intended for both the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association and for consideration of the American Osteopathic Association House of Delegates

1 WHEREAS, The osteopathic profession has the duty to self-regulate, which contributes to the
2 ongoing protection and trust of the public; and

3 WHEREAS, the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners Comprehensive Medical
4 Licensing Examination for the USA (NBOME COMLEX-USA) serves as the only
5 osteopathic medical licensure assessment accepted by all 50 states and many
6 international jurisdictions; and

7 WHEREAS, clinical skills, including physical examination, gathering a patient history, and
8 performance of osteopathic manipulative treatment (OMT) as well as communication
9 skills, interpersonal skills, empathy, professionalism, compassion and respectfulness, are
10 important for establishing a therapeutic relationship with patients and have direct
11 impact on the quality of patient care, provision of equitable care, and improved patient
12 outcomes¹⁻⁶ and,

13 WHEREAS, deficiencies in these skills lead to medical errors, delay of diagnosis and
14 inappropriate treatment of patients, which further erodes the physician-patient
15 relationship,⁷⁻¹¹ and

16 WHEREAS, these skills can only be evaluated through direct observation^{6,12-14} and

17 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to the opportunity to re-evaluate the role
18 of national clinical skills assessments as part of the osteopathic medical licensure
19 examination series, COMLEX-USA¹²⁻¹⁴; and

20 WHEREAS, the Special Commission on Osteopathic Medical Licensure Assessment convened
21 in 2021-2023 and recommended the establishment of a “ COM-based COMLEX-USA
22 national standardized assessment which includes an in-person, hands-on evaluation of
23 fundamental osteopathic clinical skills including interpersonal and communications
24 skills and OMT, with quality assurance”¹⁵ and

25 WHEREAS, national medical clinical educator groups called for collaboration amongst
26 educational institutions and licensing assessment organizations to support and require
27 high quality clinical skill assessments;¹²⁻¹⁵ and

28 WHEREAS, the NBOME has worked since 2021 to develop and pilot an assessment program
29 to these ends, which is now known as the Core Competency Capstone for DOs
30 (C3DO);¹⁶and

31 WHEREAS, over 4000 students across seventeen Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (COM)
32 locations have participated in C3DO pilot testing, reducing cost and travel requirements
33 for the continued assessment of these essential skills, two main drivers of student
34 dissatisfaction with previous assessment models; and

35 WHEREAS, 89% of students participating in C3DO state that C3DO allowed them to
36 demonstrate their osteopathic clinical skills, including history building; physical
37 examination skills; communication, interpersonal skills and professionalism; clinical
38 decision making; and the performance of osteopathic manipulative treatment;

39 Now, therefore be it

40 RESOLVED, that the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association supports education and
41 assessment programs that assure that all D.O. students demonstrate meeting a national
42 standard for osteopathic clinical skills competencies prior to graduation.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$ 0

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