



FAQs for COMPLEX-USA Level 2-CE and PE

Why is the COMPLEX-USA Level 2-CE and PE important for me?

COMPLEX-USA Level 2-CE and PE are required for graduation from all US osteopathic medical schools. Also, program directors use exam scores to evaluate applicants when selecting residents. Successful completion of COMPLEX-USA Level 2-CE and PE are required before being able to sit for Level 3.

Please note while COMPLEX-USA Level 2-PE has been “formally discontinued”, the Special Commission for Osteopathic Medical Licensure recommended the development and piloting of a core competency capstone for osteopathic medical students that would assess patient-physician communication skills and hands-on physical exam and OMT skills in a multi-station OSCE model using standardized patients that is designed for entry into residency program level.

At the start of fourth year, during the Residency Development Course, students will complete the Core Competency Capstone for Dos (C3DO), an on-campus multi-station OSCE that requires students to demonstrate successfully the fundamental clinical skills and physician-related competency domains required for graduation, entrance into supervised graduate medical education programs, and the provision of safe osteopathic medical care of patients. COMPLEX-USA candidates are currently verified by attestation from their COM dean that they are proficient in these important clinical skills.

What is the minimum score for COMSAE Phase 2?

In order to sit for COMPLEX-USA Level 2-CE, the student must achieve a “passing” score of 450 or greater on the qualifying exam of the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medicine Self-Assessment Exam (COMSAE) Phase 2. CUSOM will pay for the first COMSAE Phase 2 exam administration (each administration will be timed and administered by CUSOM under standard testing conditions) with students responsible for the cost of subsequent exams.

Students will have three attempts to pass this exam. The COMSAE Phase 2 will be administered on **January 16, 2026, February 13, 2026, and March 13, 2026**, with times yet to be determined. Students must start their exam attempts in January. However, if January is a vacation month or students are on an international rotation, they will start their cycle of exam attempts in February and complete their cycle on **April 9, 2026**. In addition, if any students’ vacation month or international rotation is scheduled for February or March, the students will have until April to complete the three-attempt cycle of COMSAE Phase 2 in order to qualify for COMPLEX-USA Level 2-CE. Again, that date will be **April 6, 2026**.

In the event students do not successfully pass COMSAE Phase 2 on the first attempt, they must continue to take the COMSAE Phase 2 on the subsequent exam dates (up to 3 total attempts will be allowed).

A schedule will be sent out, in December, of your COMSAE schedule. Completion of at least six (6) third-year rotations is required, prior to beginning your qualification process. If you are on a rotation track, that has their vacation block prior to January, you will begin qualifying in February.



Who pays for COMSAE Phase 2?

CUSOM will pay for the first attempt. If the students must take the exam again, they will be responsible for the expenses. The cost for each exam is \$60. It will be billed to your student account.

How will COMSAE Phase 2 be administered?

COMSAE Phase 2 will be administered in-person at CUSOM.

When am I eligible to take the COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE?

Students may take the COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE after June 1st and after the completion of all third-year rotations, if they have achieved at least 450 on the CUSOM-administered COMSAE Phase 2. In order to be eligible to take COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE prior to June 1, students must have scored at least 600 on COMSAE Phase 2 (CUSOM administered) or have completed all core rotations (**Medicine I, Medicine II, Family Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and General Surgery**) with a high pass or honors and have scored at least 500 on COMSAE Phase 2 (CUSOM-administered).

If you have been on a Modified Course of Study or Leave of Absence, and do not finish all third-year courses, by June 1st, you will not be eligible to sit for COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE until the day following completion of your last third year course.

Can I take the COMSAE Phase 2 at nbome.org?

Yes, but students are still required to take the COMSAE administered by CUSOM as previously described. Taking the online versions may be a useful strategy for some students who might want to get the feel for the COMSAE examination in advance, but these results will not count towards the requirement to sit for COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE.

Will I be able to register for the COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE if I haven't yet achieved the minimum COMSAE Phase 2 score?

Yes, but students failing to meet the minimum pre-identified score will not be permitted to take COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE. In fact, students are encouraged to register for COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE by mid-March of their third year in order to ensure testing site availability.

What happens if I fail the COMSAE Phase 2 after all three attempts?

All students must take their initial COMSAE Phase 2 administered by CUSOM starting in January of their third year. Students are permitted to register for COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE prior to passing the COMSAE Phase 2 Qualifying Exam; however, students failing to meet the minimum CUSOM pre-identified score on three (3) consecutive attempts are not permitted to take COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE.

A student who does not pass the QE-L2 after three (3) consecutive attempts will be referred to the APPS Committee for placement in the Multiple Options Pathway (MOP).



The student has the option to remain on rotations or be removed from clinical rotations while they complete a Board preparation program of study for COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE. (Please refer to the DO Academic Bulletin for more information.)

What happens if I fail COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE?

A student who fails COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE on their initial attempt is removed from clinical rotations and **not allowed to resume clinical rotations until they sit for COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE a second time**, placed on Academic Probation, and referred to the APPS Committee.

The student is placed in a Modified Course of Study (MCOS), during which they are required to complete a Board preparation program of study.

If the student is already on a MCOS, adjustments to the MCOS may be required. In either case, a MCOS may result in a delay in the student's completion of CUSOM graduation requirements, which may in turn affect their ability to participate in the residency match process.

The Boards preparation program cannot exceed 90-days duration, and the student is required to sit for COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE for the second time no later than 14-days following successful completion of the Boards preparation program of study.

Students participating in a Boards preparation program of study must meet all associated program of study requirements, which includes, but is not limited to, strict adherence to all timelines related to the completion of study assignments and assessment examinations. Failure to do so will result in referral to the APPS Committee for non-adherence to the agreed process and may result in sanctions up to and including Suspension or Dismissal.

The APPS Committee will provide the student with a list of possible Board preparation programs of study - Multiple Options Pathway (MOP). The student will choose a program(s) of study they wish to use as they prepare for the second attempt at COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE. Any associated costs of these programs are at the student's expense and the student must complete the program(s) of study within ninety (90) days from start of the first program of study.

Failure to follow the timeline established by a program of study, to complete the program within 90 days, or to sit for COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE within 14 days of completion of the program will result in referral to the APPS Committee for non-adherence to the agreed process and may result in sanctions up to and including Suspension or Dismissal

Upon successfully completing the Boards preparation program, the student will be required to retake COMLEX- USA Level 2-CE as required by the Board preparation program. Students who have been taken off rotations for a COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE failure may be permitted to return to clinical rotations while waiting for release of their score. Students who are unsuccessful on the second attempt of the COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE may be placed on Suspension. Students who do not pass COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE after three attempts will be dismissed from school.

See DO Academic Bulletin for further information.



What are the deadlines to register for the COMLEX-USA Exams?

Timeline for COMLEX-USA Exams*

COMLEX-USA Level	Deadline to Register	Information
COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE	Formally discontinued	Physical Exam/Qualifying Exam (PE/QE) is a summative OSCE administered by CUSOM. Successful completion is required for graduation but not for Match participation. PE/QE is scheduled during the first semester of the fourth year.
COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE	March 15 th of MS-3 Year	Deadline for registering for COMLEX- USA Level 2-CE is March 15th of MS-3 year. Students must register to sit for this exam in time for results to be available for the first round of residency program director application reviews in mid-September of the MS-4 year unless otherwise approved.

*Dates Subject to Change

What do I have to do to be eligible for the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE?

Since COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE has been formally discontinued, CUSOM requires successful completion of the Physical Exam/Qualifying Exam (PE/QE), a summative OSCE scheduled in the first semester of the student's fourth year. More information about PE/QE will follow in Residency Development Month and is scheduled and coordinated through the Department of Simulation Medicine.