5.8 National Board (Licensing) Exams

Students are required to pass the COMLEX-USA Level 1, COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE, and the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE prior to graduation as outlined in the table of milestones below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestones for Each CUSOM Student</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Successful Completion of All Courses During Blocks 1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory Completion of a Qualifying Exam for COMLEX-USA Level 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Successful Completion of COMLEX-USA Level 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Successful Completion of COMAT or Equivalent Subject Examinations for Core Rotations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory Evaluation by Clinical Faculty for Each Clinical Rotation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successful Completion of Third-Year OSCEs that Assess Student Preparedness for the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE Exam, and Core Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) for Entering Residency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Satisfactory Completion of a Qualifying Exam for COMLEX Level 2-CE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Successful Completion of COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successful Completion of COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Accommodations on COMLEX-USA Exams

Students who want to request accommodations for any COMLEX-USA examination must submit their applications directly to the NBOME within the timeframe designated by the NBOME. Please contact the NBOME directly for more information. CUSOM is not responsible for the request or approval for COMLEX testing accommodations.

COMLEX-USA Level 1

CUSOM students complete the Clinical Applications of Biomedical Sciences (CABS) I and II courses in Blocks 5 and 8, respectively, and MUST sit for COMLEX-USA Level 1 prior to July 1 in the period between the second and third academic year. Prior to receiving their COMLEX-USA Level 1 scores, all students, including those on appeal for failure to complete any required coursework, may be considered “provisional” third year students and allowed to participate in clinical rotations. Full third-year status is not granted until a student passes COMLEX-USA Level 1.

Students are provided a course of study within Block 8 which serves as a capstone to the first two years of the curriculum, and also should assist in final preparation for national licensing exams. This course of study is credit-bearing and is provided by CUSOM.
In order to be permitted to sit for COMLEX-USA Level 1, the student must achieve a pre-identified “passing” score on a Qualifying Exam. CUSOM identifies the passing parameters by the end of Block 5 each year. CUSOM pays for the first Qualifying Exam, however students may be responsible for the cost of subsequent exams or programs. Students are allowed three (3) attempts to achieve a minimum pre-identified score on the Qualifying Exam.

Students are permitted to register for COMLEX-USA Level 1 prior to passing the qualifying exam; however, students failing to meet the minimum CUSOM pre-identified score are not permitted to take COMLEX-USA Level 1.

Students who do not pass the Qualifying Exam after three (3) consecutive attempts are referred to the APPS committee and placed in a Modified Course of Study, during which they will be required to complete a Boards preparation program, such as Boards Boot Camp (http://www.boardsbootcamp.com), at the student’s expense and not to exceed a timeframe established by the APPS Committee.

A Modified Course of Study (MCOS) is a credit-bearing, individualized study plan for students who require an alternative educational pathway for reasons such as mandated board preparation, required remediation, illness, leaves of absence, or withdrawals.

Students on a Modified Course of Study must agree to and comply with the conditions and schedule of the Modified Course of Study. Students not following the individualized plan may be placed on Suspension (thus ineligible for financial aid and not considered an active student) at any time.

Upon successful completion of the designated board preparation course of the Modified Course of Study, the student is required to take COMLEX-USA Level 1 within a timeframe as approved by the APPS Committee. Students assigned to a Boards preparation program must meet all program 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 a return visit to APPS Committee with possible sanctions imposed for non-adherence to the agreed process.

**Failure of COMLEX-USA Level 1**

Any student who fails COMLEX-USA Level 1 must meet with the Academic Performance, Promotion and Standards (APPS) Committee. The student will be placed on Academic Probation and subject to sanctions as described below.
Students who fail COMLEX-USA Level 1 are required to complete a Boards preparation program prescribed by CUSOM, such as, but not limited to, Boards Boot Camp (http://www.boardsbootcamp.com), at the student’s expense and within a timeframe as approved by the APPS Committee. This requires the student to enter a Modified Course of Study.

A student who fails COMLEX-USA Level 1 on their first attempt, but has already completed a CUSOM approved or designated Boards preparation program prior to taking COMLEX-USA Level 1, may be placed on Suspension (ineligible for financial aid and not an active student) or be required to complete a different preparation program prescribed by CUSOM, such as, but not limited to the PASS Program (https://www.pass-program.com/). Participation in the required preparation program will be at the student’s expense and within a timeframe as approved by the APPS Committee.

This requires the student to enter a Modified Course of Study. If the student is already on a Modified Course of Study, adjustments to the MCOS may be required. In either case, a Modified Course of Study may result in a delay in the completion of program requirements and graduation, which may in turn affect their ability to participate in the residency match process. Upon successful completion of the remedial program, the student is required to retake COMLEX-USA Level 1 for the second attempt within a timeframe as approved by the APPS Committee.

Any student who fails COMLEX-USA Level 1 a second time must again meet with the APPS Committee. The student may be placed on Suspension (ineligible for financial aid and not an active student) or be required to complete a boards preparation program prescribed by CUSOM, such as, but not limited to, the PASS Program (https://www.pass-program.com/) at the student’s expense and within a timeframe as approved by the APPS Committee. This requires the student to enter a Modified Course of Study. If the student is already on a Modified Course of Study, adjustments to the MCOS may be required. In either case, a Modified Course of Study may result in a delay in the completion of program requirements and graduation, which may in turn affect their ability to participate in the residency match process. Upon successful completion of the remedial program, the student is required to retake COMLEX-USA Level 1 for the third, and final, time within a timeline designated by the APPS Committee. A student is permitted only three (3) attempts to pass COMLEX-USA Level 1, after which they will be dismissed from the program.

Students who have been removed from clinical rotations for a COMLEX-USA Level 1 failure may be permitted to return to clinical rotations following their retaking of the exam, while waiting for release of their COMLEX-USA Level 1 score.
COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE and COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE

Third year students must take and pass an end-of-rotation exam after each core rotation. In addition to demonstrating the student has learned the appropriate material on the rotation, the exams function to prepare students for COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE. In addition, at the end of the third year students must take and pass Standardized Patient (SP) Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) exams. These exams are administered to assure the student has competently achieved the clinical skills expected in the third year and to prepare the student for COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE testing.

Students must schedule their COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE no later than March 15 of the MS-3 year and take the exam no later than November 1 of the MS-4 year unless otherwise approved.

In order to sit for COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE, the student must achieve a passing score as determined by CUSOM on a Qualifying Exam, such as a CUSOM-proctored College of Osteopathic Medicine Self-Assessment Exam (COMSAE) or a similar exam.

CUSOM identifies the passing parameters for this exam and pays for the first Qualifying Exam, with students responsible for the cost of subsequent exams. Students are permitted to register for COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE prior to passing the 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.

If the student fails to attain the passing score on the designated qualifying exam after three attempts, the student is required to successfully complete a Boards preparation program prescribed by CUSOM, such as, but not limited to, Boards Boot Camp (http://www.boardsbootcamp.com). Participation in the required preparation program will be at the student’s expense and within a timeframe as approved by the APPS Committee. The APPS Committee may recommend that a student be removed from clinical rotations while completing a Boards preparation program.

Students assigned to a Boards preparation program must meet all program 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 a return visit to APPS Committee with possible sanctions imposed for non-adherence to the agreed process.

In order to sit for COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE, the student must successfully pass the Objective Structural Clinical Examinations (OSCE) that are administered during Residency Development month, which generally corresponds to the first rotation of the fourth year.
If the student fails to pass the OSCE, they will undergo a remediation program at the direction of the Simulation Medicine Department, Chair of Simulation Medicine or other designee. Students are not released to take the COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE exam until approved by the Chair of Simulation Medicine or other designee.

Students who fail the OSCE exam are required to successfully complete the designated remediation program a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to taking COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE. Students who do not successfully remediate will have their COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE release withdrawn.

Students are required to take COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE by October 1 in their fourth year. As it takes a minimum of ninety (90) days to receive scores for COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE, it may be to the student’s advantage to take this exam earlier in order to provide them with ample time to retake the exam prior to graduation in the case that they do not pass the exam.

Passing both COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE and COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE is required to graduate. In addition, most residency programs require students to pass COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE to match with their program. Some residency programs also require proof of passing COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE prior to interviewing with their program.

**Failure of COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE or COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE**

Passing both COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE and COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE is required to graduate. Students who do not pass both CE and PE by graduation within the maximum number of three (3) attempts each will be placed on Suspension. Students on Suspension do not qualify for financial aid and are not active students.

Students are not removed from Suspension until they demonstrate a passing score on the deficient exam(s). Students on Suspension for a period exceeding six (6) months will be reviewed by the Academic Performance, Promotion and Standards (APPS) Committee and are subject to dismissal from the program.

Any student who fails their initial attempt on COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE will be immediately placed on Academic Probation and, as determined by the APPS Committee, will be withdrawn from clinical rotations until they successfully pass the exam. Any student who fails COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE must meet with the Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and the APPS Committee within seven (7) days of receiving a failing score.

Students who fail COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE will be required to complete a remedial program prescribed by CUSOM, such as, but not limited to, Boards Boot Camp (http://www.boardsbootcamp.com), at the student’s expense and
within a time frame as approved by the APPS Committee. Upon successful completion of the remedial program, the student will be required to retake COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE within a timeframe as approved by the APPS Committee. Students assigned to a Boards preparation program must meet all program 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 a return visit to APPS Committee with possible sanctions imposed for non-adherence to the agreed process.

Students who have been removed from clinical rotations due to a COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE failure are placed in a Modified Course of Study and may be permitted to return to clinical rotations following their retaking of the exam while waiting for release of their COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE score by the NBOME. Students who are unsuccessful on the second attempt of the COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE will be referred to the APPS Committee and may be placed on Suspension (ineligible for financial aid). Students on Suspension for a period exceeding six (6) months will be reviewed by the Academic Performance, Promotion and Standards (APPS) Committee and may be dismissed from the program. A student is permitted only three (3) attempts to pass COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE, after which they will be dismissed from the program.

A Modified Course of Study (MCOS) is individually designed based upon the student’s performance and needs by the respective Associate Dean and approved by the APPS Committee. Students in a Modified Course of Study must agree to and comply with the conditions and schedule of the Modified Course of Study. Students not following the MCOS may be placed on Suspension (thus ineligible for financial aid and not considered an active student) at any time.

Students must pass COMLEX-USA Level 1, COMLEX-USA Level 2-CE and COMLEX-USA Level 2-PE in order to meet graduation requirements. Students are allowed a maximum of three (3) attempts to pass each of these exams. Failure to pass any of these exams during the required timeframe will result in a referral to the APPS Committee and will result in dismissal from the program.