



Association for Academic Pathology

AAPath Guidance on USMLE & COMLEX-USA Scores

The Association for Academic Pathology (AAPath), and specifically endorsed by the Program Directors Section (PRODS) and AAPath Chairs Graduate Medical Education Committee, support the initiative towards Osteopathic applicants neither being required nor strongly recommended to provide USMLE testing if they have COMLEX-USA scores. The AAPath recognizes that requiring or strongly recommending additional USMLE testing would put undue burden on Osteopathic (DO) applicants as compared to their Allopathic (MD) counterparts. By accepting COMLEX-USA scores as equivalent to other licensure exams, we are promoting an equitable application process that enables balanced application efforts for both Pathology DO and MD Residency/Fellowship applicants.

The Pathology community values the diverse educational backgrounds of applicants to graduate medical education programs. Pathology Program Directors have historically been inclusive of their applicant choices, as documented by George and colleagues in a recent publication: [https://www.academicpathologyjournal.org/article/S2374-2895\(24\)00001-0/fulltext](https://www.academicpathologyjournal.org/article/S2374-2895(24)00001-0/fulltext), and continue to support DO applicants applying with their COMLEX-USA licensure examination credentials as equivalent to other licensure exams. The support from Pathology Chairs and Program Directors stems from the culture of inclusion at Academic Pathology Departments, and is consistent with recommendations from numerous national organizations across the house of medicine, including the American Medical Association (AMA) and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).