

SUBJECT: Advocating for Resident Choice in Taking the In-Service Exam (ISE) vs.  
the In-Training Exam (ITE)

SUBMITTED BY: ACOFP Resident Council

REFERRED TO: 2025 American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP)  
Congress of Delegates

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RESOLUTION NO. 12

1 WHEREAS, osteopathic family medicine residents face no standardization with regards to  
2 knowledge testing while in residency. In order to become board certified through the  
3 American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians (AOBFP), some osteopathic residents  
4 across the country are required by their programs to take two exams annually: the ABFM  
5 In-Training Exam (ITE) and the AOBFP In-Service Exam (ISE); and  
6

7 WHEREAS, allopathic family medicine residents across the country take one standardized exam  
8 annually: the ITE; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) develops and  
11 manages the ISE, there is no algorithm to create a score for program directors to generate a  
12 predicted passing score; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, osteopathic residents must take two ISE exams in order to qualify for the early entry  
15 initial certification (EEIC); most programs require residents who choose to take the ISE to  
16 also take the ITE, making them take five to six exams through the course of their training  
17 while allopathic residents are only required to take three exams; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, residency programs across the country feel more comfortable using the ITE to predict  
20 a resident's ability to pass a board exam given their Bayesian score system. Residents are  
21 more likely to become board certified through the American Board of Family Medicine  
22 (ABFM) as their residency programs do not make them aware of the AOBFP pathway; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, increasing the number of standardized exams discriminates against and places undue  
25 stress on osteopathic residents during their training, while not providing any further  
26 benefit<sup>1</sup>; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, up to date contact information for every family medicine residency program can be  
29 found using the ACGME Program Search function<sup>2</sup>, facilitating the ability for the ACOFP to  
30 help advocate to specific programs; now, therefore be it  
31

32 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) creates a  
33 Bayesian scoring system similar to the In-Training Exam (ITE) score predicting function  
34 using In-Service Exam (ISE) scores along with Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical  
35 Licensing Examination (COMLEX) scores to allow residency programs to predict a

36 resident's likelihood of passing the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians  
37 (AOBOFP) written board exam<sup>3</sup>; and, be it further  
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39 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP works with the AOBFP to collaborate to provide education to  
40 residency program directors across the country that the ISE and ITE are comparable in  
41 their assessment of knowledge to decrease the burden of unnecessary standardized testing  
42 which increases the number of Osteopathic Family Medicine Physicians board certified by  
43 the AOBFP; and, be it further  
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45 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP advocates for a joint task force comprised of representatives of the  
46 ACOFP, AOA, and AOBFP to further increase the number of osteopathic family physicians  
47 becoming board certified through the osteopathic pathways.  
48

49 **FINAL ACTION: AMENDED & APPROVED as of April 2, 2025**

References:

1. Hofmeister S, O'Neill TR, Butler DJ. Comparative Analysis of the American Board of Family Medicine and American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians In-Training Examinations. Fam Med. 2018;50(10):746-750.  
<https://doi.org/10.22454/FamMed.2018.205747>
2. <https://apps.acgme.org/ads/Public/Programs/Search>
3. Torres JW, Bowling JR, Zipp C, et al. The Predictive Value of the Residency AOBFP In-Service Exam, Produced and Administered by ACOFP. Fam Med. 2022;54(8):615-620.  
<https://doi.org/10.22454/FamMed.2022.156954>