

RE: OSTEOPATHIC FAMILY MEDICINE IN-SERVICE EXAM (ISE)

April 22, 2025

Dear Program Director,

We are writing to you collectively to request that your first-year osteopathic residents be allowed to take the annual osteopathic family medicine In-Service Exam (ISE) of the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians (AOBFP), produced and administered by the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP). We understand that your program may traditionally utilize the ABFM's ITE for annual assessment purposes. However, our ISE is an equally valid and accepted assessment tool. Further, funds are available for your residency program through a generous grant from the ACOFP Foundation to cover the costs of the ISE.

The ISE has excellent [predictive value](#) and allows residents to assess their knowledge and skills in osteopathic family medicine and provides valuable feedback to the residency program leadership. The ISE is also administered digitally and remotely through the online CATALYST platform. **No proctors or scheduling is needed.**

Another unique feature about the ISE is that it **allows early board certification eligibility** for your residents through the AOBFP. By taking the ISE in their first and second years of residency, your osteopathic residents would be eligible for the [Early Entry Initial Certification \(EEIC\)](#) pathway program. The EEIC pathway allows residents to demonstrate their competency and commitment to osteopathic principles and practices for family medicine and provides them with the opportunity for a shorter exam (175 items vs 275 items) and lower cost (\$400 vs \$550) than the traditional AOBFP exam.

If your program does not have financial support for the ISE, a grant from the ACOFP Foundation will fully cover the costs for residency programs who have not traditionally supported the ISE. View more at acofpfoundation.org on how you can offer the ISE at no cost.

We appreciate your consideration of this request (and no-cost opportunity for you) and look forward to collaborating with you to support the growth and development of our osteopathic residents committed to family medicine. Thank you very much.

Professionally Yours,

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