

# InCUS



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## USMLE Numeric Scores – Pros and Cons

PROS	CONS
USMLE offers highly reliable, objective assessment of relevant competencies. A national standard.	A passing score on USMLE demonstrates minimum competency. Pass/Fail reporting suffices for this.
Mitigates the reliability challenges of some medical school assessments	Licensure requires only a Pass/Fail outcome
May stimulate student preparation more than a Pass/Fail outcome	Focus on numeric scores negatively impacts student well-being
Incremental numeric USMLE performance correlates with other valued measures e.g., specialty board certification, state board disciplinary actions, improved practice	Standardized test scores best predict other standardized test scores (vs. clinical performance)
Offers a "level playing field" for all examinees, including those from international and new or lesser known schools	Taking focus off scores may create more diversity within various specialty programs
If no USMLE numeric score exists, and the demand for a national assessment remains, what fills the gap?	Opportunity cost due to students' heavy focus on maximizing USMLE scores (e.g., less time for research, volunteerism)

[Deliverables »](#)