

InCUS



Home > InCUS - Invitational Conference on USMLE Scoring

Info **Appreciating a Complex Issue** USMLE Numeric Scores – Pros and Cons Deliverables Timeline Additional Key Literature Updates

USMLE Numeric Scores – Pros and Cons

PROS

USMLE offers highly reliable, objective assessment of relevant competencies. A national standard.

Mitigates the reliability challenges of some medical school assessments

May stimulate student preparation more than a Pass/Fail outcome

Incremental numeric USMLE performance correlates with other valued measures
e.g., specialty board certification, state board disciplinary actions, improved practice

Offers a "level playing field" for all examinees, including those from international and new or lesser known schools

If no USMLE numeric score exists, and the demand for a national assessment remains, what fills the gap?

CONS

A passing score on USMLE demonstrates minimum competency. Pass/Fail reporting suffices for this.

Licensure requires only a Pass/Fail outcome

Focus on numeric scores negatively impacts student well-being

Standardized test scores best predict other standardized test scores (vs. clinical performance)

Taking focus off scores may create more diversity within various specialty programs

Opportunity cost due to students' heavy focus on maximizing USMLE scores (e.g., less time for research, volunteerism)

[Deliverables »](#)