

MSU COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE (COM) INTERVIEW PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED QUESTIONS

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 – 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. Which statement best represents one of the core tenets of osteopathic medicine?**
 - A. The body is a unit; structure and function are interrelated.
 - B. Disease is best treated with pharmacologic therapy alone.
 - C. Oxygen therapy is essential in all cases.
 - D. The physician's role is to prescribe immediately.
- 2. Which of the following prompts would best elicit a discussion of resilience in a medical school interview?**
 - A. Describe a time you volunteered abroad.
 - B. Describe a time you learned a new hobby.
 - C. Describe a time you faced adversity and how you overcame it.
 - D. Describe a time you won a competition.
- 3. What aspect of MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine would you highlight as aligning with your goals?**
 - A. MSU has a strong emphasis on pharmacology over manual therapy.
 - B. MSU offers limited opportunities for DO philosophy exploration.
 - C. MSU focuses on basic science with little community engagement.
 - D. Emphasis on DO philosophy, OMM, community health rotation, and service commitment.
- 4. Which barrier is commonly discussed in providing care in healthcare systems?**
 - A. Unlimited resources
 - B. Insurance coverage gaps, and practices intended to reduce legal risk
 - C. No regulatory constraints
 - D. Free universal care
- 5. When appropriate, how should you involve a patient's family in decision-making?**
 - A. Always involve family
 - B. Never involve family
 - C. Involve family if appropriate
 - D. Exclude family

- 6. Which option best reflects the candidate's plan for addressing a setback in the admissions process?**
- A. Apply to another school
 - B. Wait a year before reapplying
 - C. My plan B is to adjust my application in whatever way necessary and apply again
 - D. Take a break from applying altogether
- 7. If you had a chance to interview a public figure about science communication, which person would you choose?**
- A. Neil deGrasse Tyson
 - B. Bill Bryson
 - C. Stephen Hawking
 - D. Jane Goodall
- 8. What is a key practice to protect confidentiality when sharing clinical information in professional discussions?**
- A. Never share login credentials under any circumstance.
 - B. Post patient information in team chat.
 - C. Limit access to EHRs to authorized personnel and use role-based permissions.
 - D. Share login credentials to expedite work.
- 9. What is an appropriate first step when a patient expresses a desire for abortion?**
- A. Tell them abortion is never acceptable in your practice.
 - B. Acknowledge right off the bat that you are here to help them pursue whatever options that they want and what they feel is right for them.
 - C. Immediately refer them to a clinic without discussion.
 - D. Discuss the doctor's personal beliefs about abortion.
- 10. Which topic is suggested for discussing the future of healthcare during interviews?**
- A. What is your favorite food?
 - B. Where do you see the future of healthcare?
 - C. Do you prefer online or in-person interviews?
 - D. What is your GPA?

Answers

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1. A
2. C
3. D
4. B
5. C
6. C
7. B
8. C
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. Which statement best represents one of the core tenets of osteopathic medicine?

- A. The body is a unit; structure and function are interrelated.**
- B. Disease is best treated with pharmacologic therapy alone.
- C. Oxygen therapy is essential in all cases.
- D. The physician's role is to prescribe immediately.

The main idea is that the body is a unit and that structure and function are interrelated. In osteopathic medicine, health arises from the integrated functioning of all body parts, so a change in one area can affect another. This is why palpation and manipulation of the musculoskeletal system are used to improve mobility, circulation, and neural function, supporting the body's self-healing mechanisms. The other statements describe approaches that don't reflect this holistic, interdependent view—relying on drugs alone, assuming oxygen therapy is always needed, or prioritizing immediate prescribing over a broader assessment and hands-on care.

2. Which of the following prompts would best elicit a discussion of resilience in a medical school interview?

- A. Describe a time you volunteered abroad.
- B. Describe a time you learned a new hobby.
- C. Describe a time you faced adversity and how you overcame it.**
- D. Describe a time you won a competition.

Focusing on describing a time you faced adversity and how you overcame it directly invites you to discuss resilience in action—how you handle stress, adapt under pressure, persevere through obstacles, and learn from the experience. A responder who outlines a real setback, the specific steps taken to address it, the challenges encountered along the way, and the tangible outcomes demonstrates not just that hardship occurred, but how you think and respond under pressure. This kind of narrative reveals problem-solving under difficult conditions, emotional regulation, persistence, and the capacity to recover and grow—traits highly relevant to medical training and patient care where setbacks and high-stress situations are common. A strong answer would ground the adversity in concrete details: what happened, why it was challenging, the concrete actions you took (seeking help, adjusting plans, managing time or resources, communicating with teammates or mentors), any obstacles you faced, and what you learned that you'd apply in the future. It also helps to connect the experience to your future role in medicine—how you'd use those resilience skills with patients, in teamwork, or under time pressure. Other prompts can reveal resilience indirectly but aren't as reliable for eliciting a full resilience story. Describing volunteering abroad can highlight service and cultural insight; learning a new hobby shows adaptability; winning a competition reflects success, not struggle. They may still touch on resilience, but they don't prompt the same in-depth discussion of overcoming adversity.

3. What aspect of MSU College of Osteopathic Medicine would you highlight as aligning with your goals?

- A. MSU has a strong emphasis on pharmacology over manual therapy.
- B. MSU offers limited opportunities for DO philosophy exploration.
- C. MSU focuses on basic science with little community engagement.
- D. Emphasis on DO philosophy, OMM, community health rotation, and service commitment.**

Your goals align with the osteopathic approach that blends philosophy, hands-on care, and service to the community. Emphasizing DO philosophy, OMM, a community health rotation, and a commitment to service demonstrates a program focused on treating the whole person, using manual techniques when appropriate, and actively engaging with the community to improve health. That holistic, patient-centered, community-minded orientation is what DO training is built on, making this emphasis the best fit for your aims. The other scenarios describe paths that drift away from osteopathic principles—prioritizing pharmacology over manual treatment, limiting exploration of DO philosophy, or concentrating mainly on basic science with little community involvement—none of which align as closely with a DO-centered, service-oriented career.

4. Which barrier is commonly discussed in providing care in healthcare systems?

- A. Unlimited resources
- B. Insurance coverage gaps, and practices intended to reduce legal risk**
- C. No regulatory constraints
- D. Free universal care

Access to care in healthcare systems is often limited by who can pay for services and how care is paid for. Gaps in insurance mean people may skip or delay care because of out-of-pocket costs or fear of medical debt, which leads to worse health outcomes and can strain the system with later, more expensive interventions. On the provider side, fear of malpractice can drive defensive practices—ordering extra tests or procedures or avoiding high-risk patients—to reduce legal risk. These financial and risk-management realities are a common barrier to delivering timely, appropriate care. The other options describe situations that would reduce or remove barriers (having ample resources, no regulatory constraints, or universal free care), which is why they aren't the barriers discussed.

5. When appropriate, how should you involve a patient's family in decision-making?

- A. Always involve family
- B. Never involve family
- C. Involve family if appropriate**
- D. Exclude family

Involve family when appropriate is about tailoring support to the patient's wishes and situation. The core idea is to respect patient autonomy while recognizing that family can aid understanding, provide emotional support, and help with logistics and complex decisions. Begin by asking the patient how they want their family involved and who they want present. If the patient has decision-making capacity and wants family included, involve them to whatever extent the patient prefers. If the patient lacks capacity, or in pediatric cases where guardians are involved, family participation is often essential to ensure decisions align with the patient's best interests and values. Remember to protect confidentiality and be mindful of any cultural or personal preferences that influence the patient's desires. There are times when the patient prefers to decide alone or keep information private, so the approach should be flexible rather than universal.

6. Which option best reflects the candidate's plan for addressing a setback in the admissions process?

- A. Apply to another school
- B. Wait a year before reapplying
- C. My plan B is to adjust my application in whatever way necessary and apply again**
- D. Take a break from applying altogether

The idea being tested is how you respond to a setback with a concrete, proactive plan to improve and try again. The best choice shows you would assess what went wrong, make targeted improvements to your application, and reapply, demonstrating resilience and a growth mindset. By outlining specific steps—such as refining the personal statement, strengthening letters of recommendation, gaining relevant experiences, or retaking tests if needed—you signal that you're serious about your goal and committed to addressing weaknesses rather than waiting passively. Other approaches are less effective because they either shift focus away from fixing the current application, delay action, or imply giving up rather than persisting through the process. This plan conveys both initiative and thoughtful preparation, which admissions committees value in applicants.

7. If you had a chance to interview a public figure about science communication, which person would you choose?

- A. Neil deGrasse Tyson
- B. Bill Bryson**
- C. Stephen Hawking
- D. Jane Goodall

The ability to make science engaging and understandable for a broad audience is the heart of good science communication. Bill Bryson stands out here because his popular science writing translates complex topics into clear, entertaining narratives, using humor, everyday analogies, and historical context to show how ideas developed and why they matter. This approach helps people unfamiliar with the details see the big picture, stay curious, and feel empowered to explore further. An interview with him would naturally reveal practical storytelling techniques, ways to balance accuracy with readability, and how to connect scientific concepts to daily life, which are exactly what makes science communication effective for the general public. The other figures are strong communicators in their own right—one brings dynamic, broad discussions of science on stage and in media, another conveys cosmology in accessible terms, and another inspires with conservation and primate behavior—but Bryson's breadth, light, engaging voice, and talent for weaving science into compelling narratives make him the best fit for this focus.

8. What is a key practice to protect confidentiality when sharing clinical information in professional discussions?

- A. Never share login credentials under any circumstance.
- B. Post patient information in team chat.
- C. Limit access to EHRs to authorized personnel and use role-based permissions.**
- D. Share login credentials to expedite work.

Protecting confidentiality in professional discussions hinges on restricting access to patient information to those who truly need it for their role. Limiting access to electronic health records to authorized personnel and using role-based permissions ensures that each team member can see only the data necessary for their duties. This aligns with the minimum-necessary principle, promotes accountability through audit trails, and helps safeguard patient privacy. Sharing login credentials or posting patient details in team chats breaks that protection. Sharing credentials defeats authentication and makes it hard to track who viewed information, while posting PHI in chat exposes it to people who don't need to know. Keeping credentials private and relying on proper access controls is the correct approach.

9. What is an appropriate first step when a patient expresses a desire for abortion?

- A. Tell them abortion is never acceptable in your practice.
- B. Acknowledge right off the bat that you are here to help them pursue whatever options that they want and what they feel is right for them.**
- C. Immediately refer them to a clinic without discussion.
- D. Discuss the doctor's personal beliefs about abortion.

Respecting patient autonomy with nonjudgmental, supportive counseling is the appropriate first step when a patient expresses a desire for abortion. Start by acknowledging you're there to help them explore all options and support whatever choice they feel is right for them. This sets a collaborative tone, invites open discussion of their values and circumstances, and avoids imposing beliefs or prematurely narrowing possibilities. From there, you can gather information needed for informed decisions (gestational age, health considerations, safety), screen for coercion, provide accurate information about options and timelines, and discuss next steps or referrals based on the patient's goals. Maintaining confidentiality and a respectful, patient-centered approach is essential. Paternalistic or dismissive responses—such as denying the patient's choice, deferring discussion or care, or imposing the clinician's personal beliefs—undermine autonomy and can create barriers to care.

10. Which topic is suggested for discussing the future of healthcare during interviews?

- A. What is your favorite food?
- B. Where do you see the future of healthcare?**
- C. Do you prefer online or in-person interviews?
- D. What is your GPA?

Discussing the future of healthcare is the best choice because it lets you show how you will think about and respond to evolving trends that affect patient care—from technology and value-based models to access and social determinants of health. It demonstrates you're thinking ahead about how you would practice medicine, adapt to new tools, and contribute to improvements in the system, which aligns with osteopathic emphasis on patient-centered, preventive care and interprofessional teamwork. When you answer, you can reference areas like telemedicine, AI and data use, workforce sustainability, and policies that expand access, then connect those ideas to how you would uphold ethical care, collaboration, and the whole-person approach. The other topics don't reveal how you picture your professional growth or your understanding of the field, focusing instead on personal preferences or metrics rather than how you'd impact future patient care.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://msucominterview.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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