

I. POLICY

USMLE Procedures

II. PURPOSE

This policy establishes the requirements for student completion of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1 and Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) to progress through and graduate from the Doctor of Medicine (MD) program.

III. RESPONSIBLE PARTY AND REVIEW CYCLE

The Associate Deans for Academic Affairs, Clinical Education, and Student Affairs will review this document annually. The Medical Education Committee shall review the document as recommended by the Associate Deans for Academic Affairs, Clinical Education, and Student Affairs, with input from the Preclerkship Curriculum Committee and/or and the Clerkship Education Committee.

IV. ACCREDITATION REFERENCES

LCME 9.6	Setting Standards of Achievement
LCME 9.9	Student Advancement and Appeal Process
LCME 11.1	Academic Advising
LCME 11.2	Career Advising
SACSCOC 12.3	Student Rights
SACSCOC 12.3	Student Complaints

V. DESCRIPTION

All students in the MD program are required to pass USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK as requirements for graduation. In particular, students are required to observe the following deadlines:

- Sit for USMLE Step 1 before the first day of the M3 orientation.
- Sit for USMLE Step 2 CK before October 31 of the M4 academic year.

If a student is dismissed or withdraws from medical school, they are not eligible to sit for USMLE Step 1 or Step 2 CK, even if an appeal of the dismissal is pending or the student is otherwise contesting their status.

Step 1 Preparation

The Comprehensive Basic Sciences Exam (CBSE) is offered in the M2 year to provide a benchmark for readiness for USMLE Step 1. All students are required to pass the CBSE as a pre-requisite for taking USMLE Step 1.

- Three CBSE testing dates are predetermined in the M2 academic calendar for all students; no alternative dates will be offered for individual students.

- Students who consistently perform below expectations on the CBSE are required to work with Academic Development to implement a study plan, and might meet with the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs and/or the Associate Dean for Clinical Education to plan a course of action.
- Students must post a passing score on a CBSE before taking USMLE Step 1.

Step 2 CK Preparation

The Comprehensive Clinical Sciences Exam (CCSE) is offered in the M3 and M4 years to provide a benchmark for readiness for USMLE Step 2 CK.

- Two CCSE testing dates are predetermined in the academic calendar for all students; no alternative dates will be offered for individual students.
- For the MD Classes of 2021 and 2022, students for whom one or more of the following conditions are true will be required to take and pass a CCSE prior to taking USMLE Step 2 CK:
 1. Failure of one or more preclinical modules
 2. Failure of one or more clerkships
 3. Failure of one or more clerkship subject exams
 4. Performance on three or more clerkship subject exams at or below a score of 64. (A score of 60 is the passing score on the subject exams.)
 5. Performance on USMLE Step 1 at or below a score of 220
- For the MD Class of 2023 and all subsequent cohorts, all students are required to pass the CCSE as a pre-requisite for taking Step 2 CK.
- Students who consistently perform below expectations on the CCSE are required to work with Academic Development to implement a study plan, and might meet with the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs and/or the Associate Dean for Clinical Education to plan a course of action.

NOTE: Effective January 26, 2021, the National Board of Medical Examiners formally discontinued administration of USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS). Subsequently, Step 2 CS is no longer a graduation requirement for the MD Class of 2021 and all subsequent cohorts.

Delays in Sitting for USMLE

Students must obtain approval from the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs or the Associate Dean for Clinical Education for an extension of a USMLE deadline. An extension, if granted, will be accompanied by an academic plan that takes into consideration the academic calendar, changes in enrollment status, financial aid regulations, and EVMS policies regarding leave. Students with approved extensions for USMLE Step 1 are required take the exam before starting any M3 activities. Students should note that extended changes to their M3 or M4 schedules could result in delayed graduation from EVMS. Students who fail to adhere to the

academic plan will be subject to dismissal. Permission for late examinations will not be granted to accommodate vacation plans, planned personal events, or the like.

Assistance Available for Students Preparing for USMLE

In support of students' preparation for USMLE, most M1, M2, and M3 written examinations are comprised of multiple-choice questions written by the National Board of Medical Examiners.

Academic Development provides cohort and individualized services for students preparing for USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK, including individualized student assessment and coaching; peer tutoring; resources on effective learning strategies, study skills, test-taking skills, time management, stress management, etc.; workshops; information and referrals to other support resources; and USMLE Step prep programs. Academic Development oversees the CBSE and CCSE examination procedures.

Students in the Clerkship and M4 Elective Phases are afforded personal leave for USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK. Two additional days are provided for students to attend these examinations.

Failure of USMLE

Students who fail USMLE Step 1 and/or Step 2 CK must meet with the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs or designee to complete an academic plan. Students failing either Step 1 or Step 2 CK for a second time or both Step 1 and Step 2 CK on the first administration are subject to dismissal by the Student Progress Committee.

VI. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Clerkship Phase Assessment and Grading Policy
Pre-clerkship Phase Assessment and Grading Policy
M4 Elective Phase Assessment and Grading Policy
Standards for Advancement and Graduation Policy
Student Progress Committee Structure and Function Policy

VII. HISTORY OF APPROVALS AND UPDATES

The following list documents policy approvals and updates by oversight authority, date, and summary of changes. This policy is housed on the MD Student Handbook webpage.

- On July 8, 2020, the Medical Education Committee approved the update to separate the policy from the MD Student Handbook and to include changes to advancement requirements made due to COVID-19.
- On February 10, 2021, the Medical Education Committee approved updates to require all students to pass a CCSE prior to sitting for USMLE Step 2 CK, starting with the MD

Class of 2023, and to eliminate USMLE Step 2 CS as a graduation requirement in response to its discontinuation by the National Board of Medical Examiners.