

Policy on USMLE Examinations and Clinical Competency Assessment

I. POLICY

All students must pass USMLE Step 1, Step 2-CK, and Step 2-CS, and achieve a passing score on the UPSOM Clinical Competency Assessment as graduation requirements for the MD degree.

USMLE Examinations:

USMLE Step 1 should not be attempted prior to successful completion of the second year curriculum. USMLE Step 2-CK and Step 2-CS should not be attempted prior to successful completion of the first year of the clinical curriculum (typically, the third year). The Associate Dean for Medical Education must approve any exceptions in advance.

USMLE Step 1:

All students must take USMLE Step 1 prior to the start of the Preclerkship Course (and therefore, before beginning any clerkship, clinical elective, or research elective).

If a student fails the Step 1 examination, the student will be permitted to complete their current clerkship, and then will be removed from course work until Step 1 is retaken. The student will be permitted to conditionally return to clerkships, pending the Step 1 results. If the student fails Step 1 on the second attempt, the student will be immediately placed on academic leave of absence for a maximum of one calendar year. The student will not be permitted to participate in any clerkships, or clinical or research electives until a passing score on Step 1 is received and recorded. Any partially completed clerkships during that time must be retaken in their entirety.

Any student who does not receive a passing score on Step 1 by the end of the calendar year intended for board study will be reviewed by the Committee on Student Promotions. The committee will review the entire academic record and any information the student provides. The Committee would typically recommend dismissal of the student unless compelling circumstances are presented that would warrant consideration of a one-time extension of the leave of absence in order to attain a passing score. This extension would be no longer than one year.

Under certain circumstances, students will be guided to defer their first attempt at Step 1 until later than the Preclerkship Course. In all cases, students may not begin clerkships or year 3 electives until they have attempted Step 1.

USMLE Step 2:

The USMLE Step 2-CK examination must be taken after successful completion of the third year curriculum and no later than November 30 of the final year of the curriculum.

The USMLE Step 2-CS examination must be taken after successful completion of the third year curriculum and no later than December 31 of the final year of the curriculum.

For students on an off-cycle schedule, the deadline for taking Step 2-CK and Step 2-CS is two months after completing the third year curriculum in its entirety (clerkships and other courses), if this is later than the routine deadlines listed above. The Associate Dean for Student Affairs must approve any exceptions to this requirement in advance.

Failure to register passing scores on the Step 2-CK and Step 2-CS exams prior to certification for the NRMP match may require the School of Medicine to remove the names of such candidates. Exceptions to this policy will be made by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.

A student must pass Sep 2-CK and Step 2-CS within one year of completing all other curriculum requirements, in order to be eligible to be granted the MD degree.

Clinical Competency Assessment (CCA):

During the first months of fourth year, all students are required to take a comprehensive clinical competency examination utilizing standardized patients. A passing score on the CCA is required for graduation. The CCA is administered early in the fourth year to permit students with unsatisfactory performance time to remediate deficiencies prior to taking the USMLE Step 2-CS examination.

A CCA Subcommittee, led by the Chair of the Performance-Based Assessment Subcommittee, will review all student performances on the CCA and define individualized remediation programs for students. Students who are referred for CCA remediation are required to satisfactorily complete the specified remediation program. If a student fails the remediation program, the student will be referred to the Committee on Student Promotions.

II. PURPOSE

To define requirements for USMLE and Clinical Competency Assessment completion.

III. SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- Medical students

IV. POLICY AUTHOR(S)

- Office of Medical Education

V. RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Policy on Academic Requirements for Advancement and Graduation
- Policy on Academic Dismissal and Appeals
- Policy on Requirements for Granting of the MD Degree
- Policy on Standards for Performance and Academic Progress
- Policy on Time Limitations for Completing Portions of the MD Degree Program

VI. REFERENCES

- LCME Standard 9.9: Single Standard for Promotion, Graduation and Appeal Process: A medical school ensures that the medical education program has a single standard for the promotion and graduation of medical students across all locations and a fair and formal process for taking any action that may affect the status of a medical student, including timely notice of the impending action, disclosure of the evidence on which the action would be based, an opportunity for the medical student to respond, and an opportunity to appeal any adverse decision related to promotion, graduation, or dismissal.

- LCME Standard 10.3: Policies Regarding Student Selection/Progress and Their Dissemination: The faculty of a medical school establish criteria for student selection and develop and implement effective policies and procedures regarding, and make decisions about, medical student application, selection, admission, assessment, promotion, graduation, and any disciplinary action. The medical school makes available to all interested parties its criteria, standards, policies, and procedures regarding these matters.

VII. APPROVALS

Education Policy Council

Dean, School of Medicine, December 30, 2018