

## **USMLE Step 1 General Requirements**

1. Students must be enrolled in School of Medicine coursework in order to sit for USMLE examinations. Students are not permitted to take an examination while on leave of absence.
2. Students must sit for USMLE Step 1 prior to participating in any required clerkship other than Continuing Care Clinic, Year 4 Docent Rotation, and Family Medicine. Students who do not sit for the Step 1 exam by the end of the first week of any required clerkship (except Continuing Care Clinic, Year 4 Docent Rotation, and Family Medicine) will be automatically withdrawn from the clerkship and placed on administrative leave of absence until completion of the exam.
3. Students are not permitted to take USMLE Step 1 until they have successfully demonstrated readiness to sit for the exam by earning a qualifying score on the required Comprehensive Basic Science Exam (CBSE).
4. A student who has shown readiness to sit for Step 1 cannot postpone any required clerkships.
5. Students who do not sit for Step 1 within 6 weeks of demonstrating readiness will be required to re-demonstrate readiness to sit for the exam. The student will meet with the USMLE counselor, who will establish new readiness criteria. The student will be responsible for the cost of any additional testing.
6. Students are not permitted to withhold USMLE score results from the School of Medicine.
7. Students must pass the USMLE Step 1 examination within three attempts, time permitting. Graduation and deadline criteria are not suspended in order to permit three attempts on an examination.
8. Failure to pass USMLE examinations on the first or second attempt may result in a revised or extended curriculum. Additionally, students earning a second-attempt failing score on the USMLE Step 1 examination will be placed on administrative leave of absence.
9. Students earning a third-attempt failing score on any USMLE examination meet criteria for separation (dismissal) from the program and will be placed on immediate administrative leave of absence.

## **Minimum Criteria for the First-Attempt USMLE Step 1 Examination**

1. BA/MD and MD students must officially promote to Year 4 and successfully complete (achieve a passing grade) in the Year 4 courses listed below:
  1. MED 9472: Behavioral Science
  2. MED 9408: Pharmacology
2. BA/MD and MD students must demonstrate readiness for the USMLE Step 1 examination by successfully completing the Comprehensive Basic Science Examination (CBSE).

## General CBSE Requirements

1. The CBSE is administered only at the School of Medicine. Students are responsible for ensuring that they are signed up for the correct test date.
2. An unexcused absence from a scheduled CBSE examination will be treated as a failed attempt and the student will be required to meet with the USMLE Step 1 Counselor, who will establish criteria to demonstrate readiness for a subsequent attempt.
3. To sit for the CBSE, a student must meet all criteria for promotion to Year 4 and have a cumulative science GPA of 2.80 or better.
4. Minimum CBSE performance to sit for USMLE Step 1:
  - A student scoring an Equated Percent Correct (EPC) score of 66 or above on a CBSE is automatically cleared to sit for USMLE Step 1.

### *Students whose initial Year 4 schedule contains two consecutive study blocks:*

- Students whose initial Year 4 schedule contains two consecutive study blocks must sit for a CBSE during the first week of their first study block.
  - Students who pass the first CBSE with a score of  $\geq 66$  are automatically cleared for Step 1 and do not need to take a second CBSE.
- Students whose initial Year 4 schedule contains two consecutive study blocks and earn an EPC score of 50-65 on their first CBSE will be required to take a proctored Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessment (CBSSA) exam before the end of their first study block. If they score 60 or above on the CBSSA exam, they will be enrolled in a second CBSE to be taken during their second study block. Students who score  $\leq 59$  on the CBSSA will be dropped from the two blocks following their second elective study block and be enrolled in two blocks of MEDICINE 9714 – Academic General Elective. They will meet with the USMLE counselor, who will establish readiness criteria for clearance for subsequent exams.
- Students whose initial Year 4 schedule contains two consecutive study blocks and earn an EPC score of  $< 50$  on their first CBSE will be dropped from the two blocks following their second elective study block and be enrolled in two blocks of MEDICINE 9714 – Academic General Elective. They will meet with the USMLE counselor, who will establish readiness criteria for clearance for subsequent exams.

### *Students whose initial Year 4 schedule does not have two consecutive study blocks and includes a campus semester:*

- Students whose initial Year 4 schedule does not have two consecutive study blocks and includes a fall or spring campus semester must sit for a CBSE during the first week of their campus semester.

- Students who pass the first CBSE with a score of  $\geq 66$  are automatically cleared for Step 1 and do not need to take a second CBSE.
- Students whose initial Year 4 schedule does not have two consecutive study blocks and includes a campus semester who earn an EPC score of 50-65 on their first CBSE will be required to take a proctored Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessment (CBSSA) exam before the end of September for fall campus or February for spring campus. If they score 60 or above on the CBSSA exam, they will be enrolled in a second CBSE to be taken in October for fall campus or March for spring campus. Students who score  $\leq 59$  on the CBSSA will meet with the USMLE counselor, who will establish readiness criteria for clearance for subsequent exams.
- Students whose initial Year 4 schedule does not have two consecutive study blocks and includes a campus semester who earn an EPC score of  $< 50$  will meet with the USMLE counselor, who will establish readiness criteria for clearance for subsequent exams.

### **Deadline for Taking USMLE Step 1 Examination**

1. The deadline for a first attempt at Step 1 is two blocks following the end of a second consecutive elective study block for students who do not have a campus semester. The deadline is the end of Block 8 for students enrolled in a fall campus semester and Block 13 for those enrolled in a spring campus. The deadline for off-track students is determined by the Senior Associate Dean for Curriculum. Students who do not meet this deadline will be placed on administrative leave of absence until they sit for Step 1.

### **General USMLE Step 1 Failure Policies**

1. Students failing the first or second attempt USMLE Step 1 examination must meet with the USMLE counselor and his/her ETC to design an appropriate Step 1 preparation program as soon as possible. The criteria for second or third-attempt readiness will be determined by the USMLE Counselor.
2. The Senior Associate Dean for Curriculum will determine when a student has successfully completed the readiness criteria for a second or third attempt.
3. The Senior Associate Dean for Curriculum will determine necessary curriculum and/or schedule changes for students failing the first or second attempt USMLE Step 1 examination.

### **Curriculum Policies for Students Failing USMLE Step 1**

#### **Failure on First Attempt of USMLE Step 1**

1. One block clerkship: Students receiving “notification of failure” while enrolled in a one block clerkship are permitted to complete the clerkship.
2. Two block clerkship:

- Students receiving “notification of failure” in the first block of a two-block clerkship are permitted to complete only the first block and must withdraw from the second block of the two-block clerkship. An “Incomplete” grade will be issued for the entire rotation until the second block is satisfactorily completed. The second block must be completed within one year, or the grade will lapse to “No Credit/Fail.”
  - Students receiving “notification of failure” in the second block of a two-block clerkship are permitted to complete the clerkship.
3. Enrollment in two block rotations will not be permitted until successful completion of USMLE Step 1.

### **Failure on Second Attempt of USMLE Step 1**

1. Students will be placed on an administrative leave of absence after a second failure on USMLE Step 1. They will remain on an administrative leave of absence until readiness for a third attempt at Step 1 has been verified by the Senior Associate Dean for Curriculum.
2. While awaiting results on a third attempt at Step 1, students may not enroll in required rotations.

### **Failure After Third Attempt**

1. A student who fails the third attempt at Step 1 meets criteria for separation (dismissal) from the program.
2. Students will automatically be placed on administrative leave of absence after a third failure on USMLE Step 1 and will remain on administrative leave of absence until the student’s status in the program has been determined.