



The Medical College of Georgia Office of Academic Affairs

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Category: NBME Policies
Context:

USMLE Testing Policy

Achieving a passing score on both USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 is a graduation requirement. Failure of either one of these exams is considered an academic deficiency and is handled according to the [Red Book/MCG Student Policies and Promotions Handbook](#). Requirements for each of the exams is as follows.

USMLE Step 1

- Step 1 scheduling:
 - Students are strongly encouraged to take Step 1 during the Capstone course/dedicated study time at the end of the Preclerkship Phase.
 - Students may take the test during a lotteried *elective period* in the Clerkship Phase. No clerkship can be rescheduled for Step 1.
 - Students may take the test after the completion of the USMLE Prep course (retake course).
- Students may *not* begin Advanced Clerkship or Enrichment Phase courses (excluding the USMLE Prep Course and the Clerkship CPA) prior to sitting for Step 1.
 - This includes the Emergency Medicine Clerkship, Ambulatory, Critical Care, and Sub-I selectives as well as any elective listed as Enrichment only.
 - After sitting for the Step 1, students are allowed to begin these courses while awaiting a score, but must achieve a passing score to continue.
- Students must sit for the Step 1 within six months of completing the clerkship year for on track students or within six months of completing the clinical portion of the clerkships for off track students. If they do not, they will be required to take a Leave of Absence until they have taken the exam.
- Students must pass Step 1 by September 1st of the year before they plan to graduate in order to have an MSPE and enter the Match.

USMLE Step 2

- Step 2 Scheduling
 - Students are encouraged to take Step 2 as close to the completion of the USMLE Prep course (retake course) as possible.
 - Students are strongly encouraged to take Step 2 by January 1 of the year they plan to graduate
- Students who have postponed taking Step 1 may choose to take Step 2 before Step 1
 - They must first meet with regional campus leadership (regional campus students) or academic advisor/curriculum leadership (Augusta-based students).
 - Students choosing to do this must still meet the above requirements for Step 1.
- Students **must** pass Step 2 by to be certified for the Match.

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