



The Medical College of Georgia Office of Academic Affairs

Approved on: October 6, 2020
Effective on: immediately
Last Approval/Revision: June 4, 2024
Expires: on revision

Applicable to: all students
Approved by: COC
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

Students are strongly encouraged to take USMLE Step 1 during the Capstone course/dedicated study time at the end of the Preclerkship Phase. They may, however, elect to test during an elective period in the Clerkship Phase or after the completion of the USMLE Prep course (retake course) at the end of the Clerkship Phase. Students must sit for the USMLE Step 1 exam before beginning the Enrichment phase. They must also sit for the exam within six months following the completion of the clinical portion of the clerkships or they will be required to take a Leave of Absence until they have taken the exam. After sitting for the exam, students are allowed to begin the Enrichment Phase courses while awaiting a score, but must achieve a passing score to continue in the Enrichment Curriculum. Additionally, students must and Pass Step 1 by September 1st of the year before they plan to graduate.

USMLE Step 2

Students are strongly encouraged to take USMLE Step 2 as close to the completion of the USMLE Prep course (retake course) as possible. Students who have postponed taking Step 1 may choose to take Step 2 before Step 1 after meeting with regional campus leadership (regional campus students) or academic advisor/curriculum leadership (Augusta-based students). If a student chooses to take Step 2 before Step 1, they must still meet the requirement noted above and take Step 1 within six months or take a Leave of Absence. Additionally, students must and Pass Step 2 by December 1st of the year before they plan to graduate.