

United States Medical Licensing Exams (USMLE) Policy

To become fully licensed to practice medicine in the United States, individuals must pass all four USMLE Step exams. This policy describes the required components of the USMLE during medical school and the implications for the residency match and graduation.

All students must take the USMLE Step 1 exam before beginning clinical clerkships and must receive a passing score to remain enrolled. Students must take and pass the USMLE Step 2 CK (Clinical Knowledge) and USMLE Step 2 CS (Clinical Skills) exams prior to graduation. Students are expected to take and pass each examination by the deadlines for that examination set forth in the policy below.

USMLE Step 1 Examination

Scheduling of Step 1

Students in the class of 2024 are required to take the USMLE Step 1 examination no later than the day prior to the first day of the Year 3 curriculum. Students who delay taking Step 1 until after this date may not be able to begin clerkship rotations with their peers.

Failure and Retaking of Step 1

Students who fail USMLE Step 1 on their initial attempt may not be able to begin the clinical clerkships with their peers and will be presented to the SPAC. The committee will examine each student's situation individually and may allow a student to take an administrative break in enrollment for the purpose of preparing for and retaking Step 1 by a date determined by the committee. In this circumstance, should the student successfully pass Step 1, the student will be able to reengage with the curriculum on a time line determined by the committee. A student who fails Step 1 in the student's second attempt will be presented again to the SPAC.

USMLE Step 2 Examinations

Scheduling of Step 2 and Failure/Retaking Step 2

Students must pass both the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) and Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) examinations in order to graduate. Students must take both Step 2 examinations by **November 1st**, to facilitate receipt of these scores by residency programs before final ranking decisions are made. Passing scores must be documented no later than **April 15** of the year in which the student expects to graduate. Failure to document a passing score for either Step 2 exam by April 15 will result in a delay in graduation.

Failure to pass, after the third attempt, either Step 1, Step 2 CK, or Step 2 CS will result in automatic dismissal from NSU MD.

Students must be enrolled in NSU MD in order to register for and take the USMLE Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 2 CS examinations. (Students on an approved leave of absence are considered "enrolled". Students are required to apply for the USMLE examinations with sufficient time to request test date(s) on or before NSU MD deadlines. Students with circumstances that prevent

them from taking or retaking the USMLE Step 1, Step 2 CK, or Step 2 CS according to the dates in this policy must, as soon as possible, petition in writing to the assistant dean for admissions and student affairs (ADASA), who will forward the matter to SPAC for review and make the final determination.