



**Policy Title:**  
NBME Examinations in the M3 Year

**Policy Identifier:**  
USCSOMC – UME – 1.11

<b>Prepared by:</b> M3/M4 subcommittee	
<b>Reviewed by:</b> Associate Dean for UME	Creation Date: Prior to 2017
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<b>Category:</b> Undergraduate Medical Education	

**LCME Standards**

- 9.4 - Assessment System
- 9.6 - Setting Standards of Achievement
- 9.9 - Student Advancement and Appeal Process
- 10.3 - Policies Regarding Student Selection/Progress and Their Dissemination
- 10.5 - Technical Standards

**Scope**

University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Columbia MD students.

**Reason for Policy**

To clarify requirements and procedures for NBME examinations in the M3 year.

**Procedures**

1. An NBME examination will be administered on the final day of the clerkship for each of the six core M3 rotations. As Neurology is currently incorporated into the Internal Medicine rotation, there is not a separate NBME examination for Neurology.
2. The NBME testing schedule will be determined by the Office of the Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum and Assessment and published in the Student Handbook for Clinical rotations. In general, examinations given in Columbia will occur in the afternoon. Typically, testing in Florence will occur in the morning. Exceptions may be made depending on the availability of testing space. Students should plan to take the examination at the clinical campus where they conduct their M3 rotations. Any exceptions must be cleared through the Office of the Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum and Assessment.
  - a. In Columbia, clerkships will assist with proctoring the NBME exams on the School of Medicine campus in consultation with the Office of the Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum and Assessment
3. Should a student need to postpone their NBME exam (illness, excused absence, etc.), this must be



cleared through the Office of the Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum and Assessment in coordination with the rotation’s clerkship director. Make-up NBME examinations can only occur on dates when there are other NBME examinations scheduled to be taken on the School of Medicine campus.

4. Students must achieve a minimum score of the 5<sup>th</sup> percentile to pass a given NBME exam. The 5<sup>th</sup> percentile is determined by the most up to date “Academic Year” percentile rank as determined by the NBME. If a student fails their initial attempt at an NBME exam, their upcoming grade will be reported as “Incomplete” until this can be remediated. The re-take for NBME examinations will occur on the afternoon of the first Friday of the subsequent semester. The grade will be resubmitted by the clerkship director once this re-take has been successfully completed. If a failed NBME is successfully remediated, the NBME portion of the grade will be determined by the result on the initial attempt, not the re-take.
  - a. In the event that a student fails an NBME exam, a letter stating such will be sent to the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Services from the Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum and Assessment. Failure of clinical NBME exams are noted in the MSPE.
  - b. Students who have an initial failure of an NBME exam during a semester will be allowed to continue as scheduled with M3 rotations.
  - c. If the student is unsuccessful on the re-take attempt, a failing grade will be submitted for the clerkship and the student will be required to appear before the Academic Review Committee (ARC).
    - i. In this instance, if all other elements of the given clerkship have been successfully completed, the ARC may recommend that the student complete an abbreviated version of the clerkship (minimum of 4 weeks) concluding with a re-take of the NBME examination. Any subsequent failure of the NBME exam would require the student to appear before the ARC.
  - d. If a student is unsuccessful on a subsequent NBME exam during the same semester, the student will be pulled from the next rotation to have sufficient time to make up both NBME exams.
  
5. Individual clerkships determine the percentage of the overall grade that the NBME examination accounts for.
  
6. Students requesting accommodations for NBME exams must coordinate this through the Student Disability Resource Center on the USC main campus and the Office of the Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum and Assessment.

**Contacts**

Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum and Assessment

**History**

Date of Change	Change
7-9-24	Added LCME standards and reformatted in updated policy template