



Policy Title:
Curriculum Accommodations

Policy Identifier:
USCSOMC – UME – 1.21

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Category: Undergraduate Medical Education	

LCME Standards

10.5 – Technical Standards

Scope

University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Columbia students in the undergraduate medical program, faculty, and staff involved in that program.

Policy Statement

It is the policy of USC School of Medicine Columbia to provide reasonable accommodations or academic adjustments as necessary for students with disabilities. Approved accommodations will be made in a timely manner and on an individualized and flexible basis consistent with written documentation establishing that the individual is an individual with a qualified disability.

Reason for Policy

USC School of Medicine Columbia has an ethical and legal responsibility to provide equal opportunities for medical students with disabilities. This policy exists to provide medical students who have a documented disability with equal opportunity to participate in all aspects of each module/clerkship.

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) require colleges and universities to provide reasonable accommodations to meet the needs of students who have disabilities. Revisions to these laws by the ADA Amendments Act of 2008 that took effect on January 1, 2009, are bringing renewed attention to this issue and may result in more students qualifying as students who have disabilities and therefore requesting accommodations. It is important that faculty and staff understand their roles in the accommodation process and treat any disability related information as confidential.

Procedures

The School of Medicine will provide reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students wishing to request accommodations at any point during their academic training should make an application to the [Student Disability Resource Center \(SDRC\)](#). Once accommodations are



approved by the SDRC, the student as well as the appropriate course/block/clerkship directors will be notified by the SDRC as to the nature and the extent of the accommodations to be provided. If a student wishes to appeal the decision of the accommodations provided, they should initiate the process by contacting the Director of the SDRC who will arrange a review of the appeal by individuals with expertise in accommodations but not involved in the original decision concerning accommodations.

The application to SDRC must be made at least three weeks prior to any coursework for which the accommodation is requested. Students receiving accommodations will continue to be required to meet the technical standards for admission, retention, and graduation.

The Assistant Dean for Pre-Clerkship Curriculum or the Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum and Assessment, upon student request, will provide assistance to students in applying to the United States Medical Licensing Examinations (USMLE) for permission to take USMLE required examinations under accommodated conditions.

A student receiving testing accommodations from USMLE/NBME will be allowed to take the Comprehensive Basic Science Exam (CBSE) with the similar accommodations that have been granted for Step 1. Applications should be filed with the NBME no later than recommended by NBME and preferably as soon as a student knows they are planning on requesting accommodations in order for the decision to be made prior to the 1st CBSE attempt. A student who receives testing accommodations from the SDRC, but does not file an application with the USMLE/NBME, will take the CBSE under standard testing conditions. A student who appeals a denial of accommodations with the NBME will wait until the appeal is heard before sitting for the first CBSE. The same limit of 5 attempts to pass the CBSE will apply whether or not accommodations are granted.

Contacts

Office of Student Affairs
Office of Undergraduate Medical Education

History

Date of Change	Change
3-20-24	Drafted policy in new template