Policy Title
United States Medical Licensing Examination

Identifier
UofSCSOMG – ACAF – 3.05

LCME Standards
10.3- Policies Regarding Student Selection/Progress and Their Dissemination

Scope
University of South Carolina (UofSC) School of Medicine Greenville students

Policy Statement
Students in the UofSC School of Medicine Greenville are required to pass the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Steps 1 and 2 prior to graduation. Students are required to pass Step 1 in order to officially be promoted to the third year, although they may begin clerkships while awaiting a score. Students are permitted a maximum of three attempts at Step 1 and at Step 2. Failure on the third attempt at Step 1 or Step 2 will render students subject to dismissal from the UofSC School of Medicine Greenville.

Reason for Policy
UofSC School of Medicine Greenville students must adhere to established USMLE application procedures and timelines in order to allow sufficient time for score reporting prior to promotion deadlines. LCME requires that the faculty of a medical school establish criteria for student selection and develop and implement effective policies and procedures regarding, and make decisions about, medical student application, selection, admission, assessment, promotion, graduation, and any disciplinary action. The medical school makes available to all interested parties its criteria, standards, policies, and procedures regarding these matters.

Procedures
USMLE Step 1: Rising M3 students are required to complete applications for Step 1 in sufficient time to ensure a test date prior to the start of M3 Orientation (typically the first week of May, refer to the UofSC School of Medicine Greenville Academic Calendar). All students are required to complete the Comprehensive Basic Science Exam (CBSE) once during their M2 Year and once after the conclusion of M2 Year to determine readiness prior to sitting for Step 1. Students must take Step 1 prior to beginning third-year clinical clerkships.
Students will not be officially promoted to the M3 Year until they achieve a passing score on Step 1.

A student who is unsuccessful on a first attempt at Step 1 will be required to meet with the Associate Dean for Curriculum and be placed on administrative leave of absence. If the student has completed at least half of the clerkship, the student may be given the option to complete that clerkship before being placed on administrative leave of absence. Under this circumstance, the student will receive an Incomplete for the Clerkship which will convert to a grade once the student achieves a passing Step 1 score. A student will be allowed to re-enter clerkships while awaiting results of their second attempt on Step 1.

A student who is unsuccessful on a second Step 1 attempt will immediately be placed on an administrative leave of absence. He/she will re-enter the M3 year of medical education once a passing Step 1 score is verified. A student who is unsuccessful on a third and final attempt at Step 1 will be recommended for dismissal.

USMLE Step 2: Rising M4 students are expected to complete applications for USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) and Clinical Skills (CS) in sufficient time to ensure test dates by October 1. Students must complete all M3 coursework and successfully pass the Clinical Performance Exam (CPX) prior to taking Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) and Clinical Skills (CS). Any fourth-year student who is unsuccessful on a first or second attempt at Step 2 CK and/or CS is expected to complete an application for reexamination in sufficient time to ensure a test date that will allow sufficient time for the score to be reported prior to Match List preparation in February so the student can be certified for the Match. Students must have a passing score on both Step 2 CK and CS in order to graduate.

**Sanctions**
Failure to adhere to USMLE application procedures and timelines will result in referral to the Student Evaluation and Promotions Committee (SEPC).

**Additional Contacts**
Office for Student Affairs
Office for Academic Affairs

**Related Information**
UofSC School of Medicine Greenville Student Handbook
UofSCSOMG – ACAF – 4.00 Student Evaluation, Remediation, Requirements for Promotion and Appeal
UofSCSOMG – ACAF – 4.02 Leave of Absence and Withdrawal

**History**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Change</th>
<th>Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2019</td>
<td>Clarified that students must complete M3 coursework prior to taking Step 2, editorial changes made due to branding updates and titles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 2018</td>
<td>Policy formalized into standardized template, LCME CQI</td>
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