



## **Policy Title**

Length of Exam

**Identifier**  
USCSOMG – ACAF – 7.02

<b>Prepared by:</b> Office for Academic Affairs	
<b>Reviewed by:</b> Curriculum Committee	<b>Review Date:</b> 07/10/2025
<b>Approved by:</b> USCSOMG Policy Committee	<b>Approval Date:</b> 07/10/2025
	<b>Effective Date:</b> 07/11/2025

## **LCME Standards**

NA

## **Scope**

University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Greenville biomedical science faculty, staff, and students

## **Policy Statement**

The Department of Biomedical Sciences in conjunction with the Office for Academic Affairs standardizes exam policies and procedures for the pre-clerkship phase. The *Length of Exam* policy provides an outline for the length of written exams for the biomedical science modules within the pre-clerkship phase.

## **Reason for Policy**

This policy provides faculty and students with consistent expectations for pre-clerkship biomedical science module computer-based written exams, excluding Anatomy I and II laboratory practicals, EMT and Multiorgan Systems modules, and any quizzes (e.g., ASK, iRat/tRat, prelab anatomy quizzes).

## **Procedures**

For the M1 year, students are allotted two minutes per question for module exams held prior to winter break. For module exams held after winter break, M1 students are allotted one minute and forty-five seconds per question. For module exams in the M2 year, M2 students are allotted one minute and thirty seconds per question.

Faculty use the following best practices for summative and formative exams: All synchronous/asynchronous sessions should have equal representation (i.e. equal number of questions asked per hour of content delivered) on both exam types. The minimum number of questions per session is one per session with a maximum of four per hour.

The maximum length of time for a summative exam is four hours, excluding accommodations.

## **Sanctions**

NA

## Additional Contacts

Office for Medical Education  
Biomedical Science Department

## Related Information

USMLE Step 1

## History

Date of Change	Change
July 2025	Removed process descriptions that were not relevant to exam length.
July 2024	Policy revised to reflect curricular changes from the refresh. Updates to branding and titles
July 2019	Editorial changes made due to branding updates and titles; formal approval not required.
Aug 2018	Policy created to align with NBME expectations