

Baylor College of Medicine
MD Committee on Student Promotions and Academic Achievement (MDPC)
USMLE Licensure Exam (Step 1, Step 2CK) Guidelines

Successful completion of all National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) United States Medical Licensure Examinations (USMLE) is required to obtain a license to practice medicine. Successful completion of the USMLE examinations is one of the components of Academic Progress considered by the School of Medicine (SOM) MD Committee on Student Promotions and Academic Achievement (MDPC).

Successfully passing USMLE Step 1 and Step2 CK is a graduation requirement of Baylor College of Medicine, regardless of date of matriculation.

Deadlines for taking USMLE examinations¹

All USMLE examinations must be taken in a timely fashion in order to document academic progress. The following are the deadlines to sign up for and take these exams.

	DEADLINE TO SIGN UP FOR THE EXAM	DEADLINE TO TAKE THE EXAM
Step 1	December 31 of the third year of medical school	March 31 of the third year of medical school
Step 2CK	June 30 of the third year of medical school	September 30 of the fourth year of medical school ²

¹ Deadlines do NOT apply to students in dual degree programs. Please see below.

² Students who have taken USMLE Step 1 on a P/F basis are strongly encouraged to complete USMLE Step 2 CK in order to have a score available by September 15th of the MS4 year.

Students pursuing a dual degree that commences at the conclusion of the MS3 year must complete both Step 1 and Step 2 CK prior to their leave from the School of Medicine.

All other students pursuing dual degrees and those in the Medical Research Pathway (MRP) must meet with a Dean of Student Affairs to determine an individualized plan and deadlines for the Step 2CK examination.

Failure to apply for or take any examination by the deadlines above or, in the case of dual degree/MRP students, by the deadlines set by a Dean of Student Affairs, will be reported to the MDPC by the Dean of Student Affairs. A Dean of Student Affairs will meet with any student who has not met these deadlines to discuss the professionalism ramifications of non-compliance, up to and including Probation.

Students may submit, in writing, a petition to consider delays in these deadlines due to family emergencies, illness, or other factors not in the control of the student. This petition must be submitted to the MDPC via an email to a Dean of Student Affairs prior to the date of the deadline to enroll for the examination(s), when possible.

Failures of USMLE Step 1 and/or Step 2CK

All students who fail a USMLE examination are required to meet with a Dean of Student Affairs to develop a remediation plan and establish a deadline to retake the examination. This plan will be presented to the MDPC by the Dean of Student Affairs and may be approved, modified, or rejected by the MDPC

Students must successfully pass any failed examination no later than six months following receipt of the initial failing grade. Students who fail to enroll or take the examination(s) within the six-month period after receipt of the failing grade may be subject to Probation or Dismissal.

Students who fail any USMLE examination twice will be placed on academic leave of absence until the exam is successfully passed.

Students who are unable to pass any USMLE examination on the third attempt will be dismissed from Baylor College of Medicine.

USMLE and Transcripts

USMLE scores are not a component of the official transcript and are not released by the Office of the Registrar to any outside person or organization. Students should retain documentation of USMLE scores. Official copies must be requested from the National Board of Medical Examiners.