

# Creighton University School of Medicine

## Medical Education Program Policies

POLICY: USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK Policy

GOVERNING BODY: Educational Program Committee

APPROVAL DATE: 7/9/2019

REVISED DATE: 11/10/2020; 12/14/2021; 4/26/2022; 1/24/2023; 3/26/2024

LCME ACCREDITATION STANDARD REFERENCE: Element 9.9 Student Advancement and Appeal Process

### PURPOSE

The policy defines the utility of the United States Medical Licensing Examinations (USMLE) within the medical education program.

### POLICY

#### 1. USMLE Step 1

- A. All students are required to take the USMLE Step 1 examination immediately following the completion of Component I and II course work and within the designated dates set by the Office of Medical Education and Office of Student Affairs. The only exceptions are:
1. Students remediating a Component II course
  2. Students receiving special permission from the Advancement Committee.

A student must take USMLE Step 1 before beginning the student's first Component III clerkship. A student who delays taking USMLE Step 1 beyond the first day of the Component III year must request a temporary withdrawal and may only enter a Component III clerkship at the start of a clerkship subject to availability. Students are not allowed to split clerkships into subsections (e.g., 2- or 3- or 6-week blocks).

A student must receive a passing score on USMLE Step 1 before officially advancing to the Component III year. However, students who have taken the USMLE Step 1 may begin Component III clerkships in May unless notification regarding their failure of USMLE Step 1 is received by the School of Medicine prior to the start date. If the School is notified of a student's failure of USMLE Step 1 prior to the Component III start date, the student will not be allowed to begin the Component III clerkships and may not be eligible for financial aid.

- B. A student who receives notice of failure of USMLE Step 1 on the first attempt after the start of the Component III year will be removed from the student's current clerkship at the completion of the clerkship block in which the student receives the exam result or earlier based on consultation with the Associate Dean for Student Affairs or Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. The student will receive credit for any clerkship or elective completed in its entirety in a satisfactory manner; however, the student may not take the clerkship NBME shelf exam until a passing score on Step 1 has been received.

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- 1) A student receiving a failing score on USMLE Step 1 prior to the start of the first clerkship of the M3 year will attend the M3 Orientation but will not start the first clerkship. Instead, the student will be placed on a Temporary Withdrawal for this first clerkship (6 or 8 weeks depending on their group). After retaking the Step 1, the student will return at the start of their next clerkship. Student must begin a clerkship to be eligible for financial aid.
  
- 2) A student who is notified of failure of Step 1 during the first clerkship will finish the clerkship, not take the subject exam, and take the next clerkship period off to prepare for and retake the Step 1 exam. After retaking the Step 1 they will return at the start of the next clerkship block. If advised by the Academic Success Consultant, the student may take the first clerkship subject exam after retaking Step 1 prior to beginning the next clerkship. Otherwise, the student will take the first clerkship subject exam in the first week of January. Exceptions must be approved by Student Affairs based on clerkship schedule.
  - a) **Exception: students on the first Neurology/Electives 8-week block.**
    - Students who complete the Neurology subject exam before receiving their Step 1 result will continue with their electives within this 8-week clerkship. They then take the next 8-week clerkship off to prepare for and retake the Step 1 exam and return at the start of the third 8-week clerkship block.
    - Students who have completed one or both electives will continue and complete the Neurology clerkship, however, based on SOM policy, will not take the subject exam. They will take the next 8-week clerkship off to prepare for and retake the Step 1 exam and return at the start of the third 8-week clerkship block. If advised by an Academic Success Consultant, the student may take the Neurology clerkship subject exam after retaking Step 1 prior to beginning their next clerkship. Otherwise, the student will take the Neurology clerkship subject exam prior to holiday break or in the first week of January.
  
- C. The student must meet with an Academic Success Consultant and discuss a study plan and proposed date for their next Step 1 exam attempt. The student must re-take the USMLE Step 1 at a date chosen in consultation with the Associate Dean for Student Affairs or Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. Students are encouraged to take their

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second attempt at USMLE Step 1 within four weeks of being removed from their clerkship schedule, however, students are allowed up to eight weeks to retake their USMLE Step 1 if special permission is granted from the Office of Student Affairs for an extension. In any case, students must take their second attempt no later than six months after the date designated in 1.A. Following the second examination attempt, the student may resume the Component III curriculum at the beginning of the next clerkship block.

A student who fails USMLE Step 1 a second time is removed immediately from the current clerkship and must meet with an Academic Success Consultant and the Associate Dean for Student Affairs or Assistant Dean for Student Affairs regarding a course of study and scheduling of the third USMLE Step 1 attempt. Students must complete their third attempt at Step 1 within nine months of the last day of the designated Step 1 exam period set by the School of Medicine (i.e., a student is not allowed any Step 1 attempt beyond the nine-month deadline). Students are limited to three attempts of Step 1 and are subject to dismissal if they do not pass Step 1 by the nine-month deadline.

Once the student is notified of a passing grade on the third attempt, the student enters the Component III curriculum at the beginning of the next available clerkship period. The student is assigned to a clerkship based on available space. Additionally, the student must participate in the next scheduled Component III Orientation. On reentering the Component III curriculum, the student must complete all of the required Component III clerkships and electives in their entirety.

Students are only allowed three attempts to pass the USMLE Step 1. Therefore, a third failure will result in referral to the Advancement Committee for dismissal from the School of Medicine.

## 2. USMLE STEP 2 CK

- A. A student may take the USMLE Step 2 CK examination only after passing all Component III courses.
- B. All students will be required to take the USMLE Step 2 CK examination by July 1 of the year Component III coursework is completed. Students who are off cycle are required to take the USMLE Step 2 CK within two months of completion of all Component III

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coursework. Students may request an extension to the USMLE Step 2 CK deadline through the Advancement Committee.

Passing the USMLE Step 2 CK examination is not required for graduation. However, residency programs or the military may require passing this examination by a specified date. In addition, this examination is a prerequisite for USMLE Step 3 eligibility and subsequent licensure.

### **SCOPE**

All students enrolled in the Medical Education Program.

### **ADMINISTRATION AND INTERPRETATION**

The Educational Program Committee is responsible for the administration of this policy. Please forward questions to the Chair of the Educational Program Committee.

### **AMENDMENT**

This policy may be amended by majority vote of the School of Medicine Medical Education Program Educational Program Committee.