

Policy Name:	USMLE Step 1 Eligibility Policy
Original Approval Date:	
Approving Officer/Committee:	Medical Curriculum Committee
Revision Dates and Notes:	08-27-21
Related LCME Element(s) (if any):	

- A. Policy - In order to support the success of medical students on the USMLE Step 1 examination, all second year medical students will take a National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) Customized Exam in January and the NBME Comprehensive Basic Science Exam in May.
- B. Purpose – The intent of these examinations is to familiarize the students with the USMLE Step 1 Examination process by practicing a timed, proctored abbreviated version of the USMLE Step 1. The questions will be similar in type, length, and timing of questions. The scores will not be used as a formal grade, but will allow students to assess their current study plans and test taking skills.
- C. Scope – This policy applies to all School of Medicine students.
- D. Procedure/Process –

Phase I – NBME Customized Exam

In January, all MSII students will take a NBME Customized Exam. The exam will be scheduled for the first day of the MSII Spring Semester. It will consist of a 3.5 hour, 140-question exam covering the courses taken during the fall semester. The breakdown of the exam is as follows:

- Microbiology-40 questions
- Cardiovascular System-40 questions
- Heme/Lymph System-20 questions
- Renal and Urinary System-20 questions
- Respiratory System-20 questions

Students scoring 1 standard deviation below the class average will have mandatory academic counseling session with a learning specialist to develop a structured learning plan.

Phase I – Approved by MCC – October 16, 2020

Phase II - Basic Science Review Course

At the end of the MS II year, students will be enrolled in a Basic Science Review Course to prepare for USMLE Step 1. The Office of Academic Affairs will establish a specific deadline date and publicized to all MSII students.

- All students in the **Class of 2024 must take USMLE Step I no later than June 11, 2022.**
- **Any MSII student that does not take USMLE Step 1 by the deadline date will not be registered for the Fall term.**

Phase III – NBME Comprehensive Basic Science Exam (CBSE)

On May 2, 2022, all MSII students will take the NBME Comprehensive Basic Science Exam.

First Attempt of CBSE

Students who score ≥ 186 (1 SD below the Mean) on their first attempt taking the CBSE will be supported by the LSUHSC-Shreveport School of Medicine for USMLE Step 1 enrollment.

Students who score ≤ 185 on their first CBSE attempt will be required to:

- Meet with the learning specialist and develop a structured learning plan.
- Have their Step I study timeline reviewed and approved by the Academic Success Council.
- Retake the CBSE after 3 additional weeks of intentional Step I preparation.

Second Attempt of CBSE

Students who score ≥ 200 on their second CBSE attempt will be supported by the LSUHSC-Shreveport School of Medicine for USMLE Step I enrollment.

- A student who has shown readiness to sit for Step I cannot postpone any required clerkships.

Students who score ≤ 199 on their second CBSE attempt will be required to:

- Meet with the Promotions Committee for discussion and approval of a revised Step I study timeline.
- Based on a student's performance on the second CBSE and his/her completion of the structured learning plan requirements, the Promotions Committee may make one of the following recommendations:
 - Recommend that the student take USMLE Step I and establish a new deadline for taking the exam.
 - Recommend that the student attend academic counseling sessions with a Learning Specialist to review his/her study plans and readiness for USMLE Step I and establish a new deadline for taking the exam.
 - Recommend that the student be placed on an official leave of absence by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs to allow additional time for the student to prepare for USMLE Step I.

MSIII Promotion Requirement

Students satisfactorily completing all course requirements for the MS II year may begin the MS III year upon completion of Introduction to Clinical Medicine Course (MSIII Orientation).

Failure on First Attempt of USMLE Step I

Students who receive a failing score on Step I on the first attempt must immediately stop their current clerkship and meet with the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Students must select one of the following options:

- 1) Be enrolled in a Special Topics course for 6 credit hours and prepare to retake USMLE Step I. The student will still be officially enrolled in coursework and will therefore be responsible for paying all required tuition and fees as a part-time student. Students should contact the Financial Aid Office to verify current and future aid eligibility.
- 2) Request a Leave of Absence and prepare to retake USMLE Step I. The student will not be officially enrolled for the semester and may be eligible for a refund or partial refund of the required tuition and fees. The Leave of Absence will be reported on the student's Medical Student Performance Evaluation (Dean's Letter).

Students must re-take Step 1 of the USMLE prior to November 21, 2022 or May 1, 2023 to ensure that the result will be received prior to the start of the next semester/academic year. A passing score on the repeated attempt must be received before a student can return to the MS III year and begin clinical work.

LSUHSC-S must receive a passing score on the USMLE Step I within one calendar year (12 months) of the date of the student's first attempt. Students who do not have a passing score reported to LSUHSC-S within one calendar year of the first attempt will be subject to dismissal.

Students who receive a passing score on USMLE Step I on their second attempt will qualify for promotion and may resume their MS III year at the beginning of the next semester.

Failure on Second Attempt of USMLE Step I

Students will be placed on an administrative leave of absence after a second failure on USMLE Step I. They will remain on an administrative leave of absence until readiness for a third attempt at Step I has been verified by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (or designee) and the Learning Specialist.

Failure After Third Attempt of USMLE Step I

A student who fails the third attempt at Step I will meet the criteria for dismissal from the program. The student will be placed on leave of absence pending decision by the Academic Success Council for dismissal.