



The Medical College of Georgia Office of Academic Affairs

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Category: NBME Policies
Context:

USMLE Testing Policy

Achieving a passing score on both USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 is a graduation requirement. Failure of either one of these exams is considered an academic deficiency and is handled according to the [Red Book/MCG Student Policies and Promotions Handbook](#). Requirements for each of the exams is as follows.

USMLE Step 1

- Step 1 scheduling:
 - Students are strongly encouraged to take Step 1 during the Capstone course/dedicated study time at the end of the Preclerkship Phase.
 - Students may take the test during a lotteried *elective period* in the Clerkship Phase. No clerkship can be rescheduled for Step 1.
 - Students may take the test after the completion of the USMLE Prep course (retake course).
- Students may *not* begin Advanced Clerkship or Enrichment Phase courses (excluding the USMLE Prep Course and the Clerkship CPA) prior to sitting for Step 1.
 - This includes the Emergency Medicine Clerkship, Ambulatory, Critical Care, and Sub-I selectives as well as any elective listed as Enrichment only.
 - After sitting for the Step 1, students are allowed to begin these courses while awaiting a score, but must achieve a passing score to continue.
- Students must sit for the Step 1 exam within six months of completing the clinical portion of the Clerkship Phase. If they do not, they will be required to take a Leave of Absence until they have taken the exam.
- Additionally, students must **pass** Step 1 by September 1st of the year before they plan to graduate in order to have an MSPE and enter the Match.

USMLE Step 2

- Step 2 Scheduling
 - Students are encouraged to take Step 2 as close to the completion of the USMLE Prep course (retake course) as possible.
 - Students are strongly encouraged to take Step 2 by January 1 of the year they plan to graduate
- Students who have postponed taking Step 1 may choose to take Step 2 before Step 1
 - They must first meet with regional campus leadership (regional campus students) or academic advisor/curriculum leadership (Augusta-based students).
 - Students choosing to do this must still meet the above requirements for Step 1.
- Students **must** have a passing Step 2 CK score to be certified for the Match in the spring