

YALE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

USMLE REQUIREMENTS & GUIDELINES

Background

The United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) is a three-step examination for medical licensure in the United States. It is sponsored by the Federation of State Medical Boards and the National Board of Medical Examiners. Passing Step 1 and Step 2 CK are required for graduation from Yale School of Medicine.

- USMLE STEP 1 assesses a student's ability to apply basic sciences to the practice of medicine. The eight-hour test consists of 350 multiple-choice questions.
- USMLE STEP 2 CK is the exam which tests clinical knowledge
- USMLE STEP 3, also a two-day exam, assesses whether a medical school graduate can apply medical knowledge and understanding of biomedical and clinical science for the unsupervised practice of medicine. This exam is taken only after obtaining an M.D. degree.

Policy

1. Yale School of Medicine students are required to take USMLE Step 1 and USMLE Step 2 CK December 31st of the year before graduation.
2. For students completing a joint degree (other than an MD/PhD), Step 1 and Step 2 must be taken and passed before starting the second degree program.
3. MD/PhD students are required to take USMLE Step 1 by December 31st of the year in which they complete their first 6 months of clerkships.
4. Any failure of Step 1 or Step 2 CK will be brought to the attention of the Progress Committee and the student's academic advisor. In general, a student in good standing will be allowed three attempts to take and pass each of these examinations.
5. If a student fails an exam three times, the Progress Committee will review the student's overall academic progress. Under extraordinary circumstances the Progress Committee may permit a fourth attempt, but barring that permission, the student will be dismissed from the medical school.
6. If a student who fails one of these exams is also experiencing other academic difficulties, including issues related to unprofessional behavior or failure to progress through the clinical clerkships, or is already on academic probation, the Progress Committee will review the student's overall academic progress. The Progress Committee will then determine how many times and under what circumstances that individual may be permitted to repeat these exams, which may be fewer than three times.

Guidelines

1. It is strongly suggested that students complete USMLE Step 1 and USMLE Step 2 CK by June 30 in the first year of the Advanced Training Period (ATP).
2. Students may schedule up to 8 weeks of study for USMLE Step 1 and up to 4 weeks of study for USMLE Step 2 CK. Any study time over these limits must be approved by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.
3. It is strongly suggested that MD/PhD students take USMLE Step 1 by August 31st of the year in which they complete their 6 months of clerkships in order to fully engage with their PhD work.