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Long School of Medicine
The University of Texas at San Antonio®

Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) Policy

Title: Student Requirements for USMLE Step 1 Exam			
Origination Date: 10/18/2012	*Revision History: 10/15/2026; 6/15/2023; 5/16/2019; 1/16/2015*	*Last amended/reaffirmed: 10/15/2026*	*Review frequency: 4 years*
Purpose:	It is essential that medical students meet required benchmarks that lead to medical licensure. Although designed for the purpose of licensing physicians, results on the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) licensure exams are used by graduate medical education programs in decisions to interview and rank medical students for residency positions. It is therefore incumbent upon LSOM to establish policies pertaining to the timing and passage of USMLE exams in order to optimize career outcomes for our students and to ensure that our graduates meet at least minimal licensing requirements.		
Definitions:	**USMLE** is jointly sponsored by the National Board of Medical Examiners and the Federation of State Medical Boards. A passing score on the USMLE is accepted by medical boards in every state as evidence of core competency to practice medicine. The current required exams are Step 1, Step 2 CK (clinical knowledge), and Step 3. The Step 3 exam is taken after medical school graduation.		
Policy:	• Passage of USMLE Step 1 is a requirement to graduate from the MD Degree program. • Students must take USMLE Step 1 by December 31 of the fourth year of the medical curriculum. • If a passing score is not achieved on the first attempt, the student will not be permitted to begin additional coursework until a second attempt at Step 1 is completed. • A second failure on USMLE Step 1 will result in the student being placed on a leave of absence (LOA) until they complete and receive a passing score on a third attempt on USMLE Step 1. • A student who fails to achieve a passing score on USMLE Step 1 after three attempts meets criteria for dismissal from LSOM and will be reviewed in accordance with the Adverse Action policy. • Failure to achieve a passing score on the USMLE Step 1 by one year after the original expected graduation date OR within six years of matriculation in medical school (whichever comes first) meets criteria for dismissal from LSOM.		
Process:	• Any student who does not meet the deadline date for Step 1 will be referred to the Student Progression and Promotion Committee (SPPC). Graduation may be delayed if this deadline is not met. • If the student is enrolled in a course when a first failing score is received, the student will be permitted to complete that course but will not be permitted to begin any additional coursework until a second attempt at USMLE Step 1 is completed. Course work may resume while awaiting the score from a second attempt on USMLE Step 1. Graduation may be delayed. • If the student is enrolled in a course when a second failing score is received, the student will be permitted to complete that course before the LOA begins. Upon achieving a passing score on USMLE Step 1 on a third attempt, course work may resume. Graduation may be delayed. • If a student has not passed USMLE Step 1 by the April SPPC meeting at which students are reviewed and certified for graduation, the student will not be awarded the MD degree and will remain a fourth-year student. After achieving a passing score, the student must be subsequently reviewed and certified for graduation by the SPPC before the MD degree may be awarded. • For students in dual degree programs, only time spent in the medical curriculum counts towards the applicable time limit imposed for the Step 1 requirements.		

Approval Body: Long School of Medicine Curriculum Committee

CERTIFIED BY:

Elizabeth Hanson

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Date: 2026.10.19 15:25:45 -05'00'

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Curriculum Committee Chair ***Date***

Name: Elizabeth Hanson, MD
Title: Professor, Pediatrics

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ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO:

Deborah Conway

Digitally signed by Deborah Conway
Date: 2026.10.20 14:31:47 -05'00'

Responsible Officer ***Date***

Name: Deborah Conway MD
Title: Vice Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education

Signed by:
Francisco Cigarroa
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10/26/2026

Responsible Executive ***Date***

Name: Francisco Cigarroa, MD
Title: Interim Dean, Long School of Medicine

Related policies, regulations and/or accreditation standards:

- LCME Element 10.3 Policies Regarding Student Selection/Progress and their Dissemination
- Graduation Requirements for the Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) Degree
- SPPC Authority and Oversight Policy
- Adverse Action policy.