

## Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) Policy

<b>Title: Student Progress Based on NBME Comprehensive Basic Science Exam Performance</b>			
<i>Origination Date:</i> 10/19/2015	<i>Revision History:</i> 12/10/2025; 5/08/2019	<i>Last amended/reaffirmed:</i> 12/10/2025	<i>Review frequency:</i> 4 years
<b>Purpose:</b>	In alignment with Long School of Medicine's (LSOM) responsibility to develop competent clinicians, the school must prepare students to meet the requirements for medical licensure. This policy outlines the requirement that students meet benchmarks for the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) Comprehensive Basic Science Examination (CBSE), delineates these benchmarks are communicated to students, and the process by which a student progresses beyond this milestone.		
<b>Definitions:</b>	<b>National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) Comprehensive Basic Science Exam (CBSE)</b> - general, integrated achievement test covering material typically learned during basic science education. Performance on a CBSE is predictive of performance on USMLE Step 1.		
<b>Policy:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Benchmark Requirement for Progression:</b> Students must meet CBSE score benchmarks established by the Office of Undergraduate Medical Education (OUME) in order to progress to the clinical and elective phase of the curriculum, including entry into clerkships.</li> <li>• <b>CBSE Administration:</b> All students are required to take the CBSE at dates, times, and locations established by OUME. Multiple opportunities are provided to accommodate student needs. Inability to test on available scheduled dates may delay academic progression, planned coursework, and/or participation in co-curricular activities. <b>Communication of Benchmarks:</b> Prior to administration of the CBSE, the established score benchmarks are communicated to the students during fall of the second year of medical school.</li> <li>• <b>Subsequent CBSE Requirements:</b> Students who miss a scheduled CBSE administration or who do not meet established score benchmarks are required to take subsequent CBSEs until the benchmark is met.</li> <li>• <b>Individualized Progression Pathway:</b> If a student does not meet the established CBSE benchmark after all CBSE offerings have been completed, the school will develop an individualized progression pathway to support the student's continued academic planning. This will be reported to the Student Progression and Promotions Committee in the context of failure to reach a progression milestone.</li> <li>• <b>Compliance with the USMLE Step 1 Readiness Pathway:</b> A student who sits for USMLE Step 1 before achieving the established benchmark will be reported to the Student Progression and Promotions Committee (SPPC).</li> </ul>		
<b>Process:</b>	<p><b>Initial CBSE administration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who meet or exceed the CBSE score benchmark may progress to clerkships and electives, sit for USMLE Step 1 and participate in co-curricular activities.</li> <li>• Students who score below the benchmarks may not progress to clerkships or electives, may not sit for the USMLE Step 1, and may not participate in co-curricular activities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Subsequent CBSE administrations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students who meet or exceed the CBSE score benchmarks may progress to clerkships and electives, sit for USMLE Step 1 and participate in co-curricular activities.</li> <li>• Students who do not meet the benchmark after all scheduled CBSE opportunities have been exhausted must develop an individualized preparation plan. This plan must be reviewed and approved by the associate dean for student affairs prior to taking USMLE Step 1. Until the student sits for USMLE Step 1, they may not progress to clerkships or electives and may not participate in co-curricular activities. This may result in a leave of absence until such time that the student meets established readiness expectations. As this represents a failure to meet a progression milestone, students receiving an individualized progression plan will be reported to SPPC.</li> </ul>		

All students remain subject to the timelines for taking and passing USMLE Step 1 examination as outlined in the [Student Requirements for USMLE Step 1 Exam](#) policy.

Approval Body: Long School of Medicine Student Progression and Promotions Committee

**CERTIFIED BY:**

Brian Parker MD MS Digitally signed by Brian Parker MD MS  
Date: 2025.12.18 16:29:39 -06'00'

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**Student Progression and Promotions Committee Chair**

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**Date**

Name: Brian Parker, MD

Title: Associate Professor, Emergency Medicine

**ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO:**

Deborah Conway Digitally signed by Deborah Conway  
Date: 2025.12.19 11:45:29 -06'00'

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**Responsible Officer**

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**Date**

Name: Deborah Conway, MD

Title: Vice Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education



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1-7-26

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**Responsible Executive**

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**Date**

Name: Robert Hromas, MD, FACP

Title: Dean, Long School of Medicine

**Related policies, regulations, and accreditation elements:**

- LCME Element 10.3 Policies Regarding Student Selection/Progress and their Dissemination
- [Student Requirements for USMLE Step 1 Exam Policy](#)
- [SPPC Authority & Oversight Policy](#)
- [For-Credit Elective Policy](#)