

Policy 3.1.12
UAMS COM Undergraduate Medical Education
Section
Student Progression, Promotion, and Graduation
Title
USMLE STEP 2 POLICY
LCME Element(s)
8.4 Evaluation of Educational Program Outcomes
Approved By
COM Curriculum Committee
Version History
March 2001; Reviewed October 28, 2024

Students are required to obtain a passing score on the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 2 examination as a requirement for graduation. The passing composite score shall be the score set as the national passing composite score by the USMLE program on both sections. It is highly recommended that the step 2CK examination be taken for the first time shortly after the end of the student's junior year in order for scores to be available in time for residency applications. Students who fail to pass the USMLE Step 2 examination are strongly urged to meet with their advisor and the Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or Associate Dean for Student Affairs to discuss their situation and potentially modify the remainder of their senior elective program in such a way as to eliminate their deficiencies and optimize their ability to pass the examination when they take it again. (Approved by General Faculty, June 1989. Revised by the College of Medicine Executive Committee on November 21, 1991, November 19, 1992, August 19, 1993, and September 17, 1998. Revised General Faculty, December 1998. Revised by the College of Medicine Executive Committee on April 7, 2003) Revised by the College of Medicine Executive Committee on October 8, 2008.

POLICY FOR SENIORS NOT PASSING STEP 2 BY GRADUATION

1. Students in the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Medicine (the College) are required by faculty policy to pass the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 2CK examination as an academic requirement for graduation.
2. A senior student who has completed all requirements for the degree "Doctor of Medicine", by his/her class graduation date, but who has not passed the USMLE Step 2 examination will be allowed to remain in student status in the College until such time as he/she has passed the examination, or until he/she has exhausted the six years of student eligibility, as defined in the College's faculty policy entitled, "Limit on Years in Medical School." To maintain student status during this period of time, the student must register each year during senior registration, pay full student fees as required by the campus or the College each year, and must keep the Office of Student and Academic Affairs apprised of their activities and whereabouts. As long as the student complies with all provisions of this policy and remains in student status,

the College will continue to certify to the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) that the individual is a student in good standing up to the six-year limit as noted above.

3. Because of the likelihood of a student passing the examination in a reasonable number of tries, the College will consider that the student is making satisfactory progress toward their degree for one additional year following their normal class graduation date, as long as the student maintains “student status”. During this period of time, he/she may utilize all resources of the College to study, take advantage of help in the Student Success Center, and audit any classes of the College he/she feels would be helpful in preparing for the examination. The student must pay any additional fees required for preparation courses or for any expendable resources used at UAMS. Specifically, the budget will not be increased to cover non-UAMS board preparation courses. In these cases, students are strongly encouraged to meet with staff in the student financial assistance office in order to understand how such step study time might affect their specific financial aid package.

4. Because the likelihood of a student passing the USMLE Step 2 examination decreases if he/she is not able to pass within the above referenced one additional year, the College will continue to consider him/her a student until the six-year eligibility period has expired, as defined in paragraph 1 above, but will not extend certification of satisfactory academic progress more than one year past his/her normally scheduled class graduation date. The student will be required, as noted above, to continue to register each fall at senior registration (and pay fees as above).

5. If a student has not passed the USMLE Step 2 examination by their normal graduation date or has not completed any other requirements for the MD degree by the date of their graduation, the UAMS College of Medicine will attempt to notify the residency program into which the student matched and inform the program that the student has not yet fulfilled all requirements for the M.D. degree.

6. A student who passes the USMLE Step 2 examination following their normal graduation date will receive their degree in compliance with University of Arkansas policies. The graduation date on the student’s diploma will reflect their “normal” graduation date if the student has completed all requirements for their degree other than the Step 2 requirement prior to graduation, AND the student has taken the Step 2 examination before graduation, even if the passing score is not known for several weeks. If the student has completed all requirements for their degree except the Step 2 requirement prior to their normal graduation but takes the Step 2 examination (and passes it) after their normal graduation date, the date on the student’s diploma (the date of graduation) will reflect the date on which the President of the University certifies their degree, in compliance with University of Arkansas policies.

POLICY FOR SENIORS NOT PASSING STEP 2 BY GRADUATION TAKING PART IN GRADUATION CEREMONIES

Students who have completed all requirements for the degree, Doctor of Medicine, prior to their normal class graduation date, except for passing the USMLE Step 2 examination, may take part in their class's graduation ceremonies if they desire. This does not in any way constitute a certification or granting of their degree. Before the College of Medicine certifies to the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees that an MD degree has been earned by a student, each student must complete all individual requirements of the College of Medicine for the degree.

Approved by the Dean of the College March 20, 2001
Reviewed COM Curriculum Committee October 28, 2024



Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

October 28, 2024

Date