

Hospital-wide Policy	Title: Graduate Certifying Examination Completion Requirements
Issuing Department: Educational Office	Effective Date: September, 2019
<p>IMPORTANT NOTICE: The official version of this policy is contained in the Policy and Procedure Manager (PPM) and may have been revised since the document was printed.</p>	

PURPOSE

The United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) assesses a physician's ability to apply knowledge, concepts, and principles. In addition, this examination helps to determine fundamental patient-centered skills that are important in health and disease and that constitute the basis of safe and effective patient care. Each of the three Steps of the USMLE complements the others, and no one examination can stand alone in the assessment of readiness for medical licensure.

In the United States and its territories, the individual medical licensing authorities ("state medical boards") of the various jurisdictions grant a license to practice medicine. Each medical licensing authority sets its own rules and regulations and requires passing an examination that demonstrates qualification for licensure. Results of the USMLE are reported to these authorities (with written authorization) for use in granting a medical license to practice medicine. The USMLE provides the medical licensing authority with a common evaluation system for applicants for initial medical licensure.

The Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX) serves as the equivalent examination for residents who completed osteopathic training in the United States, and the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE) serves as the equivalent examination for residents who completed medical training in Canada.

ELIGIBILITY

To meet appropriate educational standards and national quality standards in preparation for licensure and certification by the American Board of Medical Specialties, trainees at Tufts Medical Center must successfully pass the examinations listed in Appendix A.

POLICY

Residents and fellows are responsible for registering for the appropriate examination, payment of all exam fees, and for reviewing the examination timelines to ensure their results of USMLE Step I, Step II CS and Step II CK will be available by the appropriate deadline in order to be eligible for medical license approval prior to initial contract start date. In addition a passing score on USMLE Step III or the equivalent COMLEX/MCQUE exam is required by the end of the second year of ACGME accredited training.

Programs are responsible for making reasonable accommodation (e.g., during approved rotations) for trainees to schedule time away from the program to take the exams, and for providing appropriate clinical coverage during such absences.

PROCEDURE

- Documentation of successful completion of USMLE Step II must be submitted for initial appointment as a Resident or Clinical Fellow (or for reappointment, if not previously provided).
- Documentation of successful completion of USMLE Step III is required for appointment (or reappointment) at the PGY 3 level or higher. *
- Proof of USMLE Step III passing examination scores must be provided by trainees to their training program and Graduate Medical Education Office prior to advancement to PGY3.
- Documentation of successful completion of USMLE Step III is required for graduation from all Tufts Medical Center residency and fellowship programs.
- Program Directors/Chiefs, in consultation with the Associate Director of GME or Director of GME, may grant individual exceptions to the USMLE Step III provisions for one year at a time.
- Canadian physicians and Doctors of Osteopathy who are eligible for licensure may substitute documentation of successful completion of LMCC/MCCQE and COMLEX examinations, respectively, in lieu of USMLE examinations.
- A program's more stringent USMLE policy/requirements may supersede this policy. Programs must distribute USMLE or similar license requirements at or prior to interviews.

*Transitional Year Residents must take USMLE Step III or COMLEX-USA Level III prior to completion of the transitional year program

APPENDICES

- Appendix A

REFERENCES

- National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) – Services for Medical Students and Graduates (fees, test planning)
- USMLE Examinations: Step I and Step II
- USMLE Step III:
- FSMB General Information (application and fees)
- State-specific Requirements for Step 3 Eligibility

APPENDIX A

The Board of Registration in Medicine will require the following for licensing:

United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) and/or Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX) Levels I, II and III:

- USMLE Steps I and II (CK and CS) prior to 6 months of commencement of training in a Tufts Medical Center residency or fellowship program, regardless of training level, or the equivalent COMLEX Levels I and II &
- USMLE Step III, or the equivalent COMLEX Level III prior to 6 months of starting their PGY-3 year. Trainees entering a Tufts Medical Center program after their PGY-3 year must pass USMLE Step III or the equivalent COMLEX Level III prior to commencement of training. USMLE Step III or COMLEX Level III is required for full license applicants.

NOTE: USMLE limits on Step 3 for licensing boards:

- USMLE program – Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine requires the dates of passing the Step I, Step II CS and Step II CK, and Step 3 examinations to occur within a seven-year period; and allow no more than three attempts to pass each Step or Step Component without demonstration of additional educational experience acceptable to the medical licensing authority.

Federal Licensure Examination (FLEX):

- FLEX Components 1 and 2 are required for full medical license. FLEX is not accepted for limited license applicants.

National Board of Examiners (NBME):

- NBME Parts I, II and III are required for full medical license. NBME is not accepted for limited license applicants.

Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE):

- All parts of the MCQE (LMCC) are required for limited or full medical license.