

USMLE/LICENSE POLICY

The WVU Department of Surgery will comply with the School of Medicine's Bylaws and Policies regarding the completion of the USMLE exams and application of a West Virginia State Medical License. In doing so the following department policy will be in effect. Also review Medical License Policy in the table of contents.

Overview:

CBL'S:

Failure to complete required CBL's by the assigned deadline, will result in Administrative leave.

1. All PGY 1 residents will have completed AND passed Step 2 CS AND CK prior to starting their intern year.
2. All PGY 1 residents have to complete first attempt of USMLE step 3 prior to the end of PGY1 year. Failure to complete, will result in immediate Level 1 intervention at the beginning of PGY2 year..
3. If the resident has not passed USMLE III, by December 31st of PGY2 year, the resident will be placed on immediate Academic Probation (level II intervention) and will remain on probation until they reapply, complete and pass the exam.

Time Limit and Number of Attempts Allowed to Complete All Steps

Although there is no limit on the total number of times you can retake a Step or Step Component you have not passed, the USMLE program recommends to medical licensing authorities that they:

- require the dates of passing the Step 1, Step 2, and Step 3 examinations to occur within a seven-year period; and
- allow no more than six attempts to pass each Step or Step Component without demonstration of additional educational experience acceptable to the medical licensing authority.

For purposes of medical licensure in the United States, any time limit to complete the USMLE is established by the state medical boards. Most, but not all, use the recommended seven years as the time limit for completion of the full USMLE sequence. While medical schools may require students to pass one or more Steps for advancement and/or graduation, you should understand the implications for licensure. For states that establish a time limit for completion of all three Steps, the "clock" starts running on the date the first Step or Step Component is passed or, in some cases, on the date of the first attempt at any Step. For definitive information, you should contact directly the licensing authority in West Virginia. The addresses and phone numbers are listed below in order to give you state-specific requirements.

Information can be obtained regarding licensure from the following:

Doctors of Medicine:
West Virginia Board of
101 Dee Drive
Charleston, WV 25311

Doctors of
State of West
Board of
334 Penco Road

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