

Testing and Educational Methods Accommodation Policy

An individual seeking the M.D. degree at the West Virginia University School of Medicine must be capable of acquiring and demonstrating all program objectives across the six core competencies, which include medical knowledge, patient care, interpersonal and communication skills, practice-based learning and improvement, professionalism, and system-based practice. If a student desires special accommodations for examination testing and/or educational methods within the M.D. degree curriculum, the student must submit a request for accommodations to the Office of Student Accommodations. The OSA will consider the request and identify appropriate accommodations. Technological compensation and reasonable accommodations may be required by otherwise-qualified individual candidates to meet the functional technical standards, but a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner.

The student must clearly state the reasons such accommodations should be made, what accommodations are being requested, and provide documentation from a health care professional supporting this request. Individuals enrolled in the medical school M.D. program must submit requests in a timely manner, as defined as 7 working days prior to implementing an accommodation.

The OSA and the Associate Dean will review the information and decide if such a request is reasonable and can be reasonably accommodated given the rigors of the M.D. degree curriculum. Reasonable accommodations will be provided, which do not cause a fundamental alteration of the medical education program, and are consistent with the standards of the medical profession. The student must notify the OSA by using the directions on SOLE.

If the accommodation is approved, it is the student's responsibility to alert the course director(s) in a timely manner (as defined by 7 working days prior to implementing the accommodation) about the requested accommodation(s). Students may request accommodations for some but not necessarily all courses. The Associate Dean will then convey the approved accommodations to the course director(s) for implementation.

Students should be aware that School of Medicine special approval testing and educational methods accommodations do not guarantee that the same or similar accommodations will be provided by nationally standardized examinations, such as those administered by the United States Licensing Examination (USMLE). Also, if students plan on requesting **USMLE Step 1/Step 2 accommodations**, then please know this is a different process. Students should submit requests directly to the USMLE, which sets their own requirements for requests for accommodations.

The United States Medical Licensing Examination® (USMLE®) has a test accommodation request process for all Step exams using USMLE co-sponsor NBME's MyUSMLESM Portal. The integration of the test accommodations request process into the [MyUSMLE Portal](#) will provide more transparency into the request process by allowing examinees to track the submission, status and history of their requests through the portal.

We advise students that the process to compile information (e.g., personal statement requesting the accommodations, letters and documentation from healthcare providers detailing a disability evaluation, etc..) may take several months to complete. Students are therefore advised to begin the USMLE accommodation request process in a timely way prior to taking the USMLE Step 1, Step 2CK exams.

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LCME Element 8.7 Comparability of Education/Assessment

A medical school ensures that the medical curriculum includes comparable educational experiences and equivalent methods of assessment across all locations within a given course and clerkship to ensure that all medical students achieve the same medical education program objectives.