

SUBJECT: Medical Licensure – USMLE or COMLEX Examination Policy

INTENT: In order to successfully practice medicine in the United States and become Board Certified, a resident must pass all three parts of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) or the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX). Graduate Medical Education Programs must assure that their graduates are eligible to practice medicine.

POLICY STATEMENT: For purposes of this policy, COMLEX Step 3 may be substituted for USMLE Step 3 in every instance. Residents in all core residency training programs sponsored by the University of Florida College of Medicine Gainesville must pass the USMLE Step 3 examination by the completion of the PGY-2 year. Failure to pass USMLE Step 3 by the conclusion of the PGY-2 year may result in suspension from training without pay until USMLE Step 3 is successfully passed. No resident may receive a salary increase to the PGY-3 level without prior passage of USMLE Step 3, but may, at the discretion of the program director, be promoted to the PGY-3 level clinically. Alternatively, programs may elect to non-renew residency training contracts for residents who have not successfully completed USMLE Step 3 by March 1 prior to the PGY-3 year. International Medical Graduates who first enter US GME training at the fellowship level (i.e. have not completed core residency training) are exempt from this policy. Other individual exceptions to this policy may be granted only by appeal to the Designated Institutional Official.

DESCRIPTION:

1. This policy is a minimum standard applicable to all training programs sponsored by the University of Florida. Individual programs may implement more stringent policies as desired.
2. Residents in all core residency programs must register for and take USMLE Step 3 for the first time no later than September of their PGY-2 year.
3. Residents who fail USMLE Step 3 on the first try must successfully pass this examination by the conclusion of the PGY-2 year. At the discretion of the individual program director, residents who have not passed USMLE Step 3 by March 1 prior to the PGY-3 year are at risk for non-renewal of their residency training contracts.
4. No resident may receive the step increase in salary for the PGY-3 year without passing USMLE Step 3.
5. International Medical Graduates beginning fellowship training without prior completion of a core residency program are exempt from this policy.
6. Residents transferring into core programs from other institutions who have not already passed USMLE Step 3 will have one calendar year from the time of arrival to successfully pass USMLE Step 3.
7. American Medical Graduate applicants to any Fellowship program sponsored by the University of Florida College of Medicine MUST have passed USMLE Step 3 prior to beginning training or receive approval from the DIO for an exemption.
8. International Medical Graduates who have completed a core residency program in the United States applying to any Fellowship program sponsored by the University of Florida College of Medicine MUST have passed USMLE Step 3 prior to beginning training or receive approval from the DIO for an exemption.
9. In order to graduate and receive a certificate of residency training, all housestaff MUST have documentation of successfully passing USMLE Step 3.
10. Adverse academic actions associated with this policy may be appealed according to the GME Grievance and Appeals policy.

11. Exceptions to this policy may only be granted by the Designated Institutional Official.

Last Reviewed and Approved: Graduate Medical Education Committee
December 12, 2013