



The Medical College of Georgia Office of Academic Affairs

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USMLE Testing Policy

Achieving a passing score on both USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 is a graduation requirement. Failure of either one of these exams is considered an academic deficiency and is handled according to the [Red Book/MCG Student Policies and Promotions Handbook](#). Requirements for each of the exams is as follows.

USMLE Step 1

- Step 1 scheduling:
 - Students are strongly encouraged to take Step 1 during dedicated study time at the end of the Preclerkship Phase but should not do so during any required activity.
 - Students may take the test during a lotteried *elective period* in the Clerkship Phase. Except in the cases noted below, no clerkship can be rescheduled for Step 1.
 - Students may take the test *after* the completion of the USMLE Prep course (retake course).
- Students may *not* begin Advanced Clerkship or Enrichment Phase courses (excluding the USMLE Prep Course and the Clerkship CPA) prior to sitting for Step 1.
 - This includes the Emergency Medicine Clerkship, Ambulatory, Critical Care, and Sub-I selectives, Enrichment PCL, as well as any elective listed as Enrichment only.
 - After sitting for the Step 1 exam, students are allowed to begin these courses while awaiting a score, but must achieve a passing score to continue with any further courses.
- Students **must achieve** a passing Step 1 score by September 1st of the year before they plan to graduate in order to have an MSPE and enter the Match.
- Students who have failed two or more Preclerkship Modules or are repeating the Preclerkship Phase must achieve a passing Step 1 score prior to beginning any Clerkship Phase courses. This may require rescheduling of some or all Clerkship Phase courses.
- Students who fail Step 1 before or during the Clerkship Phase, may be allowed to reschedule Clerkship Phase courses in order to retake the exam. This is decided on a case by case basis taking into account the best interest of the student and clerkship capacity.

USMLE Step 2

- Step 2 Scheduling
 - Students are encouraged to take Step 2 as close to the completion of the USMLE Prep course (retake course) as possible.
 - Students may not take Step 2 until they have completed any shelf retakes they are planning to take



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- Students who have postponed taking Step 1 may choose to take Step 2 before Step 1
 - They must first meet with regional campus leadership (regional campus students) or academic advisor/curriculum leadership (Augusta-based students).
 - Students choosing to do this must still meet the above requirements for Step 1.
- Students **must achieve** a passing Step 2 CK score by the time they certify their rank list in the spring of the year they plan to graduate in order to have their match participation certified by the school and to be allowed to continue to participate in the match.