POLICY NAME: Failure of USMLE Step 1 Examination

Responsible Party: Office of Medical Education

Applies to: □ Faculty  ■ Students  □ Residents  □ Staff  □ Administration

Approval Date: 08/17/2016, Curriculum Committee

■ Policy  □ Procedure

POLICY:

Students must take the USMLE Step 1 examination prior to the start of Year 3. Students who subsequently receive a non-passing score will have the option to enroll in the “Directed Independent Study in Medicine” elective, during which they will prepare for and complete the first retake the USMLE Step 1 examination. The duration of this elective is 4-8 weeks. Students who wish to defer the rewriting of the examination beyond 8 weeks will follow the procedure defined in the College of Medicine policy “Student Deferment of USMLE Step 1.”

PROCEDURES:

1. Upon notification of the Office of Medical Education of a Step 1 failure by the NBME, the student will be notified of the examination result by the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs or designee.

2. If a student is notified that they have been unsuccessful on the USMLE Step 1 examination, students in the hospital-based clerkships have the option to withdraw from or complete the 4-week clinical rotation in which they are actively enrolled. Students in the Comprehensive Community Clerkship (CCC) may also choose to complete or temporarily withdraw from the 24 week CCC.

3. After a Step 1 failure, students may request enrollment in MED997E Directed Independent Study in Medicine, to allow time for additional preparation and retake. This application is housed in the Office of Student Affairs. All requests are subject to approval by the following individuals:
   • Senior Associate Dean, Academic Affairs
   • Assistant Dean of Student Affairs
   • Associate Dean, Clinical Education
A report of the decision regarding the request for enrollment shall be provided in a timely manner to the student requesting enrollment, with a copy provided to Chair of the Student performance and conduct committee (SPCC).

4. All students approved for enrollment in MED997E will meet with the Director of Academic Success to formulate an Individualized Study Plan (ISP). Students will also meet with the Associate Dean, Clinical Education to discuss impact of elective on Years 3-4 schedule, Match implications, and potential delays in promotion/graduation.

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN 4 WEEK HOSPITAL BASED CLERKSHIPS HAVE THE FOLLOWING CURRICULAR OPTIONS TO ALLOW FOR RETAKE OF STEP 1:

1. IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL- Some students may wish to withdraw immediately from their current clerkship to begin preparation for Step 1 retake. In this case, the student will not receive credit for the active clerkship and will be assigned a grade of “In Progress.” The student may then, with aforementioned approval, enroll in “MED997E - Directed Independent Study in Medicine” elective for a period of 1-2 additional blocks, during which time the student will prepare for and retake Step 1. At the completion of this elective, they will restart clerkships at the next block start date. If a student desires additional preparation time exceeding 2 blocks, they will follow procedure defined in “Student Deferment of USMLE Step 1.” Students will be required to complete the entirety of the clerkship from which they withdrew, and meet all clerkship requirements. Credit will not be awarded for time during which the student is enrolled in independent study elective.

2. DELAYED WITHDRAWAL—Most students will elect to complete their current clerkship, and then, with aforementioned approval, enroll in the MED997E elective for a period of 1-2 blocks, during which time the student will prepare for and retake Step 1. The student will receive credit for the successfully completed clerkship. At the conclusion of this elective, the student will restart clerkships at the next block start date. If a student desires additional preparation time exceeding 2 blocks, they will follow the procedure defined in “Student Deferment of USMLE Step 1.”

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN CCC HAVE THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS FOR FIRST RETAKE OF USMLE STEP 1:

1. CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN CCC: Given the increased flexibility for independent study during the CCC, students may elect to continue the clerkship
while preparing for a retake of Step 1. In this case, a **PASSING SCORE** must be recorded **PRIOR** to starting the hospital based clerkships.

2. **SUSPENSION OF CCC:** Students may, with aforementioned approval, enroll in MED997E Directed Independent Study in Medicine elective for a period of 4-8 weeks (1-2 blocks). Students must retake Step 1 prior to the completion of this elective. At the completion of the elective, students will be resume their CCC experience. Students will be required to successfully complete all remaining clerkship requirements for the CCC, including 22 weeks of clinical activity. Credit will not be awarded for time during which the student is enrolled in independent study elective.

3. If a student desires additional preparation time exceeding 2 blocks, they will follow procedure defined in “Student Deferment of USMLE Step 1.”

**STEP 1 RETAKE RESULT**

1. Students passing their USMLE Step 1 initial retake are allowed to continue uninterrupted in the program barring any other academic or professionalism issues.

2. Students who fail a retake of the USMLE Step 1 examination will be removed from their current clerkship. The student will be referred to the Student Performance and Conduct Committee (SPCC) who will decide the appropriate course of action. Students with two USMLE Step 1 failures will not be allowed to return to clerkships until a passing grade score is recorded.

3. A maximum of three attempts on the USMLE Step 1 examination will be allowed. Failure to pass after three attempts will result in the student being withdrawn from the MD program.

**Revision history**

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/16/2014</td>
<td>Previously “Timing of USMLE Step 1”; Approved, Curriculum Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/17/2016</td>
<td>Revised, Curriculum Committee</td>
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