

Approved by the COC December 13, 2016
Reviewed by COC on January 24, 2017
For presentation to COC on July 11, 2017
Approved by the COC July 11, 2017
Approved by the COC on March 20, 2018



Medical College of Georgia Academic Affairs

Requirement for Taking USMLE Step 1: Timing, Prep Electives, and LOA

It is the expectation that second year medical students should take USMLE Step 1 prior to the onset of year 3 orientation, typically by the Friday before the week of year 3 orientation. Unless *special exception* is granted, students must take the exam by this date.

MCG students should recognize that delays in passing USMLE Step 1 timing may impact the graduation date. Given the 6-year rule for graduation, significant delays may preclude success in completing medical school.

First-Time Taker Special Exception

MCG has systems to determine if a student is at high risk of failing USMLE Step 1. If a student is at high risk, or suspects that s/he is at high risk, or has other extraordinary situations (e.g. Leave of Absence (LOA) for health issue), the student may petition no later than 4 weeks prior to the start of orientation to delay the date for first taking USMLE Step 1 until the end of the fourth week of the year 3 curriculum.

The curriculum dean, student affairs dean, and evaluation, accreditation and CQI dean (and additional individuals as designated by campus) will consider the petition.

If the petition is approved and it is felt that 4 weeks will adequately manage the deficiency, the student will be enrolled in the USMLE Prep Elective for 4 weeks. The student must then take the USMLE Step 1 Exam by the end of the 4th week of the year 3 curricular program. The student will then enter the curriculum. If the student does not take the exam by the designated date, s/he will be placed on a LOA.

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If the petition is approved and the situation dictates that a 4-week study period will be inadequate to manage the situation, an 8-week study period will be permitted. The student will either be immediately placed on a LOA or will be allowed to enroll in the prep elective followed by the LOA. The options for re-entry into the curriculum are described below.

Initial failure on Step 1 when taken prior to the beginning of the third year

If a student took Step 1 by the designated June date, entered the curriculum in July, and fails USMLE Step 1 on the first attempt, s/he has the following options:

- 1) Enroll in the August iteration of the USMLE preparation elective for 4 weeks (preferred), or be placed on LOA. (For students who elect to go on an LOA, please see Options for re-entry in the curriculum below).
- 2) If a student enrolls in the August prep elective, the exam must be retaken by the final date of the 4-week elective, which is the final day of the 8th week of the year 3 curriculum. If a student does not take Step 1 by this date, regardless of the reason, s/he will be dropped from Fall semester rotations and be placed on LOA.
- 3) Having taken the exam by the end of week 8 of the year, it is the expectation that the score will be available approximately 3 weeks later. A passing score is required to enter the beginning of the October rotation, beginning of week 13 of the third year.
- 4) If a student does not pass on this attempt, or does not take the exam by the designated time, s/he will be placed on LOA, and will be eligible to re-enter the curriculum as described under Options for re-entry into the curriculum below.
- 5) If a student's failing score returns prior to the start of the clerkships, the student may enroll in the July prep elective, followed by an LOA, or simply take an LOA. The exam must be retaken by the final day of the 4th week of the year 3 curriculum. If a student does not take Step 1 by this date, regardless of the reason, s/he will be dropped from Fall semester rotations and be placed on LOA.

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Second USMLE Step 1 Failure

If a student fails USMLE Step 1 on the second attempt, s/he will be

- 1) Placed on LOA
- 2) Dropped from the remainder of the rotations for the year
- 3) The student must have registered a pass score by the dates designated below to re-enter the year.
- 4) The student must have a passing score on Step 1 by May 1 of the same academic year in which the leave was taken to enter the curriculum in the following Fall semester

Options for Re-entry into the curriculum

A student who has failed USMLE Step 1 must register a passing score to enter the curriculum. If the date of the exam is after the 8th week of the third year, the student must register a passing score to enter the curriculum.

Students may only enter the curriculum on the dates indicated below unless approval is obtained from the senior associate dean for undergraduate medical education for extraordinary circumstances. All re-entry is dependent on clerkship site availability.

Student Status	First time testing? (No prior failures)	Prep Elective (Required or Possible)	LOA Required	Latest Test Date	Expected Score Date	Eligible to Start Yr3		
						Week	Approx Date	Delay
On Schedule	Yes	Not applicable	Not applicable	Friday before Yr3 orientation week	Mid-July	1	1-Jul	None
At-Risk	Yes	Required (July)	No	End of July	Late August	5	August	~1 mo
At-Risk/Additional Delay	Yes	Required (July or August)	Yes (Month not in elective)	End of August	Late September	9	September	~2 mo
July Failure	No	Required (August)	Yes (September)	End of August	Late September	13	October	~3 mo
Previous Failure and/or LOA	Yes or No	Not applicable	Yes	End of October	Late November	25	1-Jan	6 mo
Previous Failure and/or LOA	Yes or No	Not applicable	Yes	End of March	Late April	49/1	1-Jul	12 mo