

Graduate Medical Education University of Mississippi Medical Center

Policy: USMLE Step 3 / COMLEX Level 3 Pass Required

Origin Date: June 2016

Reviewed by PAAC: November 2016

1. PURPOSE:

Residents must take and pass either the USMLE Step 3 or COMLEX Level 3 to be allowed to progress in their residency program beyond the PGY-2 year. Residents must be notified of the policy. The policy takes effect with the entering intern class of July 1, 2016.

2. SCOPE:

This policy applies to all residents in categorical ACGME accredited post-graduate training programs sponsored by the University of Mississippi Medical Center. This policy does not apply to M.D. or D.O. residents in Preliminary Surgery or Preliminary Medicine positions. All trainees entering sub-specialty fellowship level programs at the University of Mississippi Medical Center should have successfully completed USMLE Step 3 prior to initiating UMMC training (as applicable). Individual UMMC Graduate Medical Education (GME) residency programs may have policies requiring PGY 1 completion of USMLE-3. The more stringent program policies will supersede this institutional policy.

3. DEFINITIONS:

USMLE Step 3 (United States Medical Licensing Examination) is the final step in the examination process used by the National Board of Medical Examiners to assess a physician's ability to apply knowledge, concepts, and principles that constitute the basis of safe and effective patient care. State licensing boards may utilize the results of the USMLE examinations in the decision to grant a license to practice medicine independently.

COMLEX Level 3 (Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensure Examination) is the final step in the examination process used by the National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners to assess an osteopathic physician's ability to apply knowledge, concepts, and principles that constitute the basis of safe and effective patient care. State licensing boards may utilize the results of the COMLEX examinations in the decision to grant a license to practice medicine independently.

PGY (Post Graduate Year) refers to training year in programs accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

4. PROCEDURE:

A. MD / MBBS residents in ACGME-accredited GME programs:

1. MUST take the USMLE Step 3 exam in the PGY-1 or PGY-2 year, and
2. MUST successfully pass USMLE Step 3 no later than March 1st of the PGY-2 year of training.
3. Failure to successfully pass USMLE Step 3 will result in non-renewal of contract and/or failure to advance to a PGY-3 position at UMMC.

B. D.O. residents in singly- or dually-accredited (ACGME and AOA) GME programs:

1. MUST take either the USMLE Step 3 or the COMLEX Level 3 exam in the PGY-1 or PGY-2 year, and
2. MUST successfully pass either the USMLE Step 3 or the COMLEX Level 3 no later than March 1 of the PGY-2 year of training.
3. Failure to successfully pass either of the examinations will result in non-renewal of contract and/or failure to advance to a PGY-3 position at UMMC.

C. One time exemption:

1. Program directors may petition the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) for a one time exemption for residents who have failed to successfully pass the required exam by March 1st of the PGY-2 year.
2. A simple majority vote by the GMEC will approve the exemption.
3. The one time exemption will allow the resident to receive a three-six month extension of their contract through the end of PGY-2 year of training. Failure to successfully pass the examination by the end of the extension will result in non-renewal of contract and immediate dismissal from the training program.

D. Examination Fees:

1. The resident is responsible to pay all costs associated with taking the examination.