OHSU GME USMLE/COMLEX POLICY

I. USMLE/COMLEX Steps 1 and 2

All incoming residents/fellows are expected to have passed USMLE/COMLEX Steps 1, 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) and Clinical Skills (CS) Assessment exams prior to the start of their training program. Exceptions to this will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

II. USMLE/COMLEX Step 3

As many ABMS Boards are now requiring an Unlimited License in order for trainees to take their certifying board exams, and as most licensing authorities require that USMLE/COMLEX Steps 1, 2 and 3 be taken and passed within a seven-year period in order to be eligible for an unlimited license, OHSU’s Graduate Medical Education Committee has established a policy for all residents/fellows with regard to taking and passing USMLE/COMLEX Step 3.

- All residents must be registered for USMLE/COMLEX Step 3 by the 12th month of their training, regardless of whether their training started at OHSU or not. They also must take and pass the exam within the first 18 months of their training. (Exceptions may be granted to individual programs which have difficulty with scheduling.)
- Interns are strongly encouraged to register and take USMLE/COMLEX Step 3 by the end of their intern year.
- Residents not passing USMLE/COMLEX within the first 18 months of training, may be subject to academic probation and/or dismissal.
- Transfer residents who are beyond their first 24 months of training and who have not passed USMLE/COMLEX Step 3 will have 12 months from the time of starting their training program at OHSU to pass USMLE/COMLEX Step 3.
- All incoming fellows must have passed USMLE/COMLEX Step 3, unless they are on a J-1 Clinical Visa with the intent of returning to their home country after training.

APPROVED BY GMEC: 1/23/2014
SCHEDULING USMLE STEP 3

You must complete USMLE Step 3 in the first 12 months of residency.

You apply online, at www.FSMB.org, print out an identification form, have it notarized and sent in. We can give you a photo to use. GME can notarize your form and we can send the form in for you.

You will then receive a 60-day “Window of Eligibility” in which you can book your 2-day exam at a local testing center. If you don’t book within 60 days, you must pay an additional fee to extend your eligibility.

We don’t know usually when you are applying to take the exam. PLEASE CHECK WITH US BEFORE YOU APPLY TO GET FEEDBACK ON WHEN YOU COULD TAKE THE EXAM. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE ON SOME ROTATIONS TO GET 2 DAYS OFF TO TAKE IT. AND, NO BOOKING FOR EXAMS IN JUNE. WE CAN TELL YOU WHEN TO APPLY TO BE ABLE TO GET TIME OFF.

So, don’t wait until the last few months of internship to apply….there may not be a rotation that you’re on that will allow you to take it then.

You report the days you take the exam as duty hours and not days off.