

OHSU Emergency Exception to GME Policy 33, USMLE/COMLEX Policy

Start Date: April 15, 2021

Purpose: In recognition of the impact of the public health emergency cause by COVID-19 on incoming and current residents, the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) is making temporary exceptions to its GME Policy 33, reflected below. This temporary exception to OHSU GME Policy 33 will remain in effect until GMEC and the Designated Institutional Official determine that USMLE/COMLEX examinations are sufficiently available and this Emergency Exception is no longer warranted.

Exception to Policy Statement I:

All requirements of GME Policy 33 remain in force with the following modifications:

- All residents must have passed USMLE/COMLEX Step 1 examination. **No Exceptions.**
- If the incoming resident's medical school has not conferred the MD/DO degree to the resident for any reason (including the USMLE /COMLEX examination disruption) by June 30 of the incoming year, those residents cannot start training at OHSU. **No Exceptions.**
- In the event of an incoming resident not having an MD/DO degree by June 30, of the incoming year, programs can decide whether to hold the position for the resident for up to 6 months or ask for a waiver of the NRMP commitment based upon NRMP policies at the time of entry.
- Incoming residents with an MD/DO degree but without completion of the USMLE/COMLEX Step 2 exam due to the COVID-19 disruption can begin training. Residents will have 3 months from the date that this Emergency Exception is ended to sign up for and 6 months to pass the USMLE/COMLEX Step 2 exam. Residents who have not signed up for step 2 exams by 3 months and passed the Step 2 exam within 6 months after this Emergency Exception is ended will be withdrawn from training and their contracts will be terminated.

Exception to Policy Statement II:

All requirements of GME Policy 33 remain in force with the following modifications:

- Residents who were delayed in passing the USMLE/COMLEX Step 2 exam must be registered for USMLE/COMLEX Step 3 within 12 months of the date they were notified of passing the second of the two Step 2 exam and must pass the Step 3 exam within 18 months of that date.
- For current OHSU residents who are not able to sign up for USMLE/COMLEX Step 3 due to the COVID-19 emergency, they will be given an additional 6 month extension to the Policy Statement II timeline.
- When this Emergency Exception is ended, all incoming fellows will have 3 months to sign up for and 6 months to pass the USMLE/COMLEX Step 3 unless this impacts their ability to perform clinical duties and/or exceeds the maximum time allowed (7-year window) to complete all step exams for full licensing purposes in Oregon.

Original Start Date: March 31, 2020

- Updated 7/6/2020 to clarify that the Emergency Exception to USMLE Step 2 only includes USMLE Step 2 CK, given that on May 26, 2020, the NBME suspended USMLE Step 2 CS for the next 12 – 18 months.
- Updated 4/16/2021 to account for the discontinuation of USMLE Step 2 CS by NBME (<https://covid.usmle.org/announcements/work-relaunch-usmle-step-2-cs-discontinued>) and to align with changes to policy GME 33.