

Step 1 Policy Statement

MS-II students MUST sit for the USMLE Step 1 exam no later than the Sit By Date designated on the Academic Calendar for the year they complete their 2nd year requirements in order to be eligible to begin their 3rd year clerkships. Students MUST complete all 2nd year requirements, including any assigned remediation prior to sitting for the exam.

Students who delay taking the exam until after the Sit By Date without permission, will not be enrolled for 3rd year clerkships and therefore, not eligible for financial aid. It is the student's responsibility to register to take the exam and to make any necessary transportation and housing arrangements. The earlier a student registers for Step 1, the more choices a student will have in terms of testing location and dates.

Only those students who can demonstrate compelling reasons (such as personal or family illness, tragedy) for not sitting for the exam by the Sit By Date will be allowed to register for financial aid purposes. Students requesting a delay must submit a written statement to the Office of Academic Affairs explaining the reason(s) along with any requested documentation no later than June 1 to be considered. Emergent compelling conditions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Unacceptable compelling reasons include lack of exam preparation, testing anxiety or difficulty in scheduling a preferred testing site or date.

Students who sit for the exam by the deadline date but who are unsuccessful will be permitted to enroll in an independent study course. Those students may be eligible for financial aid.

Students who delay taking the exam after the Sit By Date, whether compelling reasons were granted or not, will not be guaranteed eligibility for graduation in May of their designated class year. Students will not be permitted to start their clerkships after the beginning of the third rotation. Students who delay taking their exam will be assigned clerkships on a space available basis.

Students have three attempts to pass Step 1. Failure to successfully complete Step 1 on the third attempt will result in automatic dismissal from the School of Medicine. Additional attempts to take the exam may be given at the discretion of the Dean.

Approved by Curriculum Committee: August 13, 2009

Approved by President's Designee Nerhood: September 1, 2009