

QUICK FACTS: *Eligibility for the USMLE Examinations*

STEP COMPONENT	REQUIREMENTS	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
STEPS 1, 2 CK, AND 2 CS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officially enrolled in, or a graduate of, a US or Canadian medical school leading to the MD degree (LCME accredited), OR Officially enrolled in, or a graduate of, a US medical school leading to the DO degree (AOA accredited), OR Officially enrolled in, or a graduate of, a medical school outside the US and Canada listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools as meeting ECFMG eligibility requirements; and meets other ECFMG criteria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must meet eligibility requirements at time of application AND on test day If you are dismissed or withdraw(n) from medical school, you are not eligible for the USMLE, even if you are appealing the school's decision or are otherwise contesting your status
STEP 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possess the MD degree (or its equivalent) or the DO degree from an LCME- or AOA-accredited US or Canadian medical school, or from a medical school outside the US and Canada listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools as meeting ECFMG eligibility requirements, AND Pass Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 2 CS, AND If you are a graduate of a medical school outside the US and Canada, possess the ECFMG certification. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must meet eligibility requirements prior to submitting your application

If you meet the eligibility requirements, you may take Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 2 CS in any sequence.
Please see pages 11-13 for more information regarding eligibility requirements.

RETAKES

You may take the same examination no more than three times within a 12-month period. Your fourth and subsequent attempts must be at least 12 months after your first attempt at that examination and at least six months after your most recent attempt at that examination.

If you have passed an examination, you are not permitted to retake a Step or Step Component, except to comply with certain requirements as approved by the USMLE governance.

MULTIPLE ATTEMPTS AND TIME LIMITS

You are ineligible to take a Step or Step Component if you have made **six or more prior attempts** to pass that Step or Step Component, including incomplete attempts, regardless of when the examinations were taken.

Time limits to complete the USMLE, for purposes of licensure, are established by state medical boards; many require completion of all Steps or Step Components within seven years.

Information regarding specific state requirements can be obtained on the [FSMB website](#).

NOTE: If you are dismissed or withdraw(n) from medical school, you are not eligible for the USMLE, even if you are appealing the school's decision to dismiss you or are otherwise contesting your status. If you are on a leave of absence, please check with your registration entity before submitting your application; or if you have already registered, check before testing. Failure to notify your registration entity that you may no longer be eligible to take an examination may result in a determination of irregular behavior and a permanent annotation on your score reports and transcripts.