



Changes to USMLE® 2015 – 2016

As medicine and medical education have changed over the years, so have USMLE examinations evolved since they were first administered in 1992. This is a brief summary of planned changes for the next few years.

USMLE STEP 3	
What HAS changed?	What WILL NOT change?
<p>As of November 3, 2014, examinees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can take the exam on two consecutive or non-consecutive days; • Do NOT need to apply for Step 3 under the eligibility requirements of a specific medical licensing authority; • Are seeing increased numbers of items that assess an expanded range of competency-based content, including foundational science essential for effective healthcare; biostatistics, epidemiology, and population health; literature interpretation; medical ethics; and patient safety. <p>The two exam days are named Step 3 Foundations of Independent Practice (FIP) and Step 3 Advanced Clinical Medicine (ACM).</p>	<p>The Step 3 exam will continue to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on knowledge and application of the biomedical and clinical sciences necessary for independent patient care; • Include multiple-choice questions and computer-based case simulations; • Be administered over two days, for a total time comparable to current testing time; • Result in a single score (with graphical performance profile information) and a single pass/fail outcome after completion of both examination days. • Be administered at Prometric test centers throughout the United States.

USMLE STEP 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK)	
What WILL change?	What WILL NOT change?
<p>In 2015, examinees will see an increased focus on quality improvement principles; safety science; epidemiology, biostatistics, and population health; professionalism; and interpersonal and communications skills. These may be tested using item formats currently under development. If new item types are introduced into the examination, sample materials will be available on the USMLE website for examinees to review well in advance.</p>	<p>Step 2 CK will continue to focus on patient care and diagnosis. The format will continue to be a computer-administered examination, using multiple-choice questions.</p>

USMLE STEP 2 Clinical Skills (CS)	
What WILL change?	What WILL NOT change?
<p>Further enhancements to the assessment of communications skills are being piloted. If the pilots are successful, these enhancements to Step 2 CS will be introduced into the exam no earlier than 2016, and will be announced well in advance.</p>	<p>Step 2 CS will continue to focus on examinees' ability to gather information from patients, perform physical examinations, and communicate their findings to patients and colleagues. The examination will continue to use standardized patients to simulate patient encounters.</p>

USMLE STEP 1	
What WILL change?	What WILL NOT change?
<p>In 2015, examinees will see an increased focus on quality improvement principles and safety science.</p>	<p>Step 1 will continue to focus on traditional content areas in the basic sciences within a clinical context. The format will continue to be a computer-administered examination, using multiple-choice questions.</p>

Important Note: This fact sheet will be updated as new information becomes available. Please check the USMLE website (www.usmle.org) frequently.

More Information: To receive updates as they become available, subscribe to the USMLE Announcements RSS feed at <http://www.usmle.org/announcements/>.

Questions: Contact the USMLE Program at <http://www.usmle.org/contact/>.