Special Notes for 2022

Policy Changes

This Bulletin reflects information and requirements available at the time of publication (August 11, 2021). As announced on February 12, 2020, the USMLE program will be implementing policy changes that may impact your eligibility for USMLE and the information contained in this Bulletin. It is your responsibility to monitor the Announcements page on the USMLE website for the most up-to-date information regarding the implementation of these policy changes, as it may impact your eligibility for USMLE.

The changes include:

- Changing Step 1 score reporting from a three-digit numeric score to reporting only pass/fail; and
- Reducing the allowable number of exam attempts on each Step from six to four

These new policies will continue to enable the USMLE program to provide high-quality assessments for state medical boards, the primary user of exam results, while also addressing other considerations, such as exam security and unintended consequences of secondary score uses. The secondary uses of Step 1 scores for residency screening have been the focus of extensive discussion at the FSMB and NBME, within the USMLE program, and with multiple stakeholders within the broader medical education and regulatory communities.

COVID-19 Information

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the USMLE program expanded testing capacity through the introduction of alternate test delivery options (regional and event testing) during 2020. Should the need for alternate test delivery options continue into 2021–2022, updates will be provided on the USMLE website. It is your responsibility to review the Announcements page for the most up-to-date information regarding exam status. You can also check the Frequently Asked Questions page for quick answers to your questions.

Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS)

On January 26, 2021, the FSMB and NBME, co-sponsors of the USMLE, announced the discontinuation of work to relaunch a modified Step 2 Clinical Skills examination (Step 2 CS). For more information about the rationale behind this decision and updates to policies and eligibility requirements, please review the Announcements page.

Please continue to monitor the USMLE Announcements page for the most up-to-date information on USMLE.

You can also follow USMLE social media (Facebook and Twitter) for updates.