

QUICK FACTS: Eligibility for the USMLE Steps

STEP	REQUIREMENTS	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
STEP 1 and STEP 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK)	<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 (COCA 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 meet 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 COCA-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 and Step 2 CK, AND Possess ECFMG Certification if you are a graduate of a medical school outside the US and Canada 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must meet eligibility requirements at time of application AND on test day

If you meet the eligibility requirements, you may take Step 1 and Step 2 CK in any sequence.
Please see pages 17-19 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 attempt 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 it, except to comply with certain requirements as approved by the USMLE governance committee (see page 19).

Attempts and Time Limits

If you have attempted a Step four or more times, including incomplete attempts, and have not passed, you are ineligible to apply for **any** Step in the USMLE exam sequence. Attempts at the formerly administered Step 2 CS count toward the limit.

Many state medical boards require that all Steps of the USMLE be successfully completed within a certain time frame.

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



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 the organization that would register you for your examination before submitting your application; if you have already registered, check before testing. Failure to notify the organization that registered you for your examination of your changed status may result in a determination of irregular behavior and a permanent annotation on your USMLE score reports and transcripts.