

## USMLE® Security

On Screen: [Want to have a positive USMLE experience? Avoid these behaviors.]

On Screen: [Lewis First, MD, MS, Immediate Past Chair, NBME appears on screen. He is sitting in a chair in front of a bookcase.]

*Dr. First* - Hello, I'm Lewis First, immediate Past Chair of the National Board of Medical Examiners and a pediatrician from Vermont. As you prepare to take the United States Medical Licensing Exam, or USMLE, I think you'll find it valuable to take the next few minutes to learn about what could be a life-changing topic.

On Screen: [A testing center appears on screen and numerous examinees are shown interacting with patients during the Step 2 CS portion of their exam.]

*Dr. First* - The USMLE program is committed to providing a high-quality examination system to state medical boards for their use in assessing a physician's ability to practice safe and effective patient care. It is, therefore, imperative that everyone be tested using the same standards. Examinees who behave in ways which may compromise these standards, could find themselves without a future career in medicine. And this video will explain how that can happen.

On Screen: [The camera returns to Dr. First.]

*Dr. First* - Let's start by reviewing some scenarios regarding eligibility to take the USMLE. And then we'll clarify the behaviors you need to avoid before, during, and after taking your Step exams.

On Screen: [An examinee appears on screen and is standing in an outdoor setting.]

*Examinee* - I'm on a leave of absence from my medical school. I plan on returning to school. So, it's okay for me to sit for the USMLE, right?

On Screen: [The camera returns to Dr. First.]

*Dr. First* - Not necessarily. Some medical schools consider a student on a leave of absence to be withdrawn from medical school. If according to your medical school you are not formally enrolled, you cannot take the examination. If you are on a leave of absence, check with your medical school about your status. You must be eligible at the time you apply for USMLE and on the day you take your exam.

On Screen: [Another examinee appears on screen sitting in a chair.]

*Examinee* - I can talk about my exam, right? I mean, you either know the answers or you don't.

On Screen: [The camera returns to Dr. First.]

*Dr. First* - No, you can't talk about exam content. In order to maintain the testing standard, you cannot share test content through verbal or written communication.

On Screen: [An examinee appears on screen sitting at a table.]

*Examinee* - Okay, so obviously I can't have my phone or notes in the exam room. What else should I avoid?

On Screen: [The camera returns to Dr. First.]

*Dr. First* - Let's take a look at some of the things you can, and cannot do before, during, and after your exam.

On Screen: [A slide appears outlining what you are not allowed to do before the exam. This includes soliciting USMLE content from examinees who have already tested; participating in study groups, test prep, or review courses you have reason to believe are using USMLE content; and engaging someone to take a USMLE Step exam for you or take the exam for someone else.]

On Screen: [A new slide appears outlining what you are not allowed to do during the exam. This includes disregarding instructions given by test center staff or the automated announcements; possessing unauthorized materials, such as notes, cell phones, or other electronic devices that are forbidden once you enter the secure area of a test center; giving or receive unauthorized assistance; and writing on your hand, a tissue, or anything other than the laminated board or other writing surface provided to you by the test center staff.]

On Screen: [A new slide appears outlining what you are not allowed to do after the exam. This includes discussing exam content with anyone; reproducing examination content through any means, including memorization; disseminating exam content by any means, including the Internet; and altering or misrepresenting examination score reports or transcripts.]

On Screen: [An examinee appears on screen sitting at a table.]

*Examinee* - So, what happens if someone breaks one of the rules and gets caught?

On Screen: [The camera returns to Dr. First.]

*Dr. First* - The USMLE program defines conduct that compromises the validity, integrity, or security of the USMLE process to be what we call irregular behavior. We would hope that all examinees recognize that such behavior is unprofessional and wrong. If we find that you have engaged in irregular behavior, the consequences are significant and may include the following.

On Screen: [A new slide appears that lists the consequences of Irregular Behavior. These include withholding or canceling your registration or exam scores; annotating your USMLE transcripts and score reports permanently; sending notice of irregular behavior to interested parties, including medical schools, residency programs, and state licensing boards; and being barred from taking future USMLE examinations.]

On Screen: [Another examinee appears sitting in an exam room.]

*Examinee* - What should I do if I suspect someone is engaging in irregular behavior?

On Screen: [The camera returns to Dr. First.]

*Dr. First* - The USMLE program encourages you to report any activity that may threaten the security of the exam process. Report your concerns to the web address you see on your screen now.

On Screen: [[www.USMLE.org/security](http://www.USMLE.org/security)]

*Dr. First* - We hope you found this information helpful and that you'll share this information with other students and graduates. Remember to read the USMLE Bulletin of Information before your exam, which reviews all the points in this video.

On Screen: [[www.usmle.org/bulletin](http://www.usmle.org/bulletin)]

*Dr. First* - We thank you for helping enable USMLE to maintain its reputation as being a secure examination that exemplifies validity and integrity. We wish you all the best in your future medical endeavors and look forward to your making important contributions to quality medical care for all.

On Screen: [The USMLE logo appears.]