



GLOBAL
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IDAHO MEDICAL DOCTOR (MD) LICENSING GUIDE

UPDATED FEBRUARY 2017
GLOBAL TALENT IDAHO

Overview of Steps for International Medical Graduates (IMG) to License in Idaho

Note: As an IMG you will be competing for licensure with U.S. medical school students. To stay competitive while you are going thru the USMLE process, it is important that you work in the U.S. Healthcare systems in a role that will exposes you to U.S. doctors and utilizes your medical knowledge – see the Global Talent Idaho Career Pathways Guide for ideas on healthcare related roles.

Acronym Guide:		EMSWP-	ECFMG Medical School Web Portal
MD-	Medical Doctor	EICS-	ECFMG International Credentials Services
ECFMG-	Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates	EPIC-	Electronic Portfolio of International Credentials
IMG-	International Medical Graduates	IWA-	Interactive Web Application
FMG-	Foreign Medical Graduate	CIS-	Communication and Interpersonal Skills
IBOM-	Idaho Board of Medicine	SEP-	Spoken English Proficiency
USMLE-	United States Medical Licensure Examination	ICE-	Integrated Clinical Encounter
USMLE Step 2 CK-	United States Medical Licensure Examination Step 2 Clinical Knowledge	FCVS-	Federation Credentials Verification Service
USMLE Step 2 CS-	United States Medical Licensure Examination Step 2 Clinical Skill	FSMB-	Federation of State Medical Boards
ACGME-	Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education	GME-	Graduate Medical Education
AOA-	American Osteopathic Association	ERAS-	Electronic Residency Application Service
		NRMP-	National Resident Matching Program
		SOAP-	Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program

Step: 1

Verify the medical school you graduated from is included in the [World Directory of Medical Schools Listing](#).

Step: 2

Complete ECFMG online Authentication Process following the ECFMG Certification Instructions

Step: 3

Receive USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number

Step: 4

Provide [the medical education credentials](#) directly to ECFMG from your issuing medical school

Step: 5

Gather all required documentation to apply for USMLE Exam

- Exams can be taken in any order
- competitive score range for IMGs is 240-245
- Can retake the same exam up to 3 times in a 12 month period and a max of 6 retakes total

Step: 6

Take and pass [USMLE Step 1](#): Medical Science Examination

Step: 7

Pass [USMLE Step 2\(CK\)](#) Clinical Knowledge examination.

Step: 8

Pass [USMLE Step 2\(CS\)](#) Clinical Skills examination for fundamental clinical skills

Step: 9

Upon successful completion of USMLE Step 1, 2 (CK) and 2 (CS) you will be issued [an ECFMG certification](#) to move forward.

Step: 10

Apply with The [\(FCVS\) Federation Credentials Verification Service](#) and provide the documents required as they are ready.

Step: 11

Apply for an [Idaho Residency Certification](#), search for post Graduate Medical Training Program (residency), and prepare for match interview process

Step: 12

Once match with residency program, attend a US residency for 3 -7 years dependent on specialty

Step: 12

Upon successful completion a US residency [apply to take USMLE Step 3](#) through the [Federation of State Medical Boards \(FSMB\)](#).

Step: 13

After you pass the USMLE step 3, apply for the physician's license with [the Idaho State Board of Medicine](#)

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1. BEFORE STARTING THE PROCESS

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This guideline is intended to help International Medical Graduates (IMG) who are authorized to work in the United States receive a license as a doctor. IMG who are in the United States through permanent residency, refugee or asylee status are eligible for a physician's license through the following processes.

Important Note:

As an IMG you will be competing for licensure with U.S. medical school students. In order to stay competitive there are some things that you will need to consider:

1. Since a major consideration in finding a residency program is the time you spent between receiving your medical degree and taking the USMLE in the U.S., it is imperative that you look for employment or experience in the U.S. healthcare system while in the process for licensure. This includes jobs as [Medical Scribe](#), Research, and Externships.

2. TIME AND COSTS

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Many factors will determine how long and costly your own process will be. Just some of these include:

- The completeness of your credentials and the speed of their collection and assessment.
- Your performance on all steps of the USMLE.
- How flexible you are about Residency types and locations.
- Your efficiency and effectiveness in the Residency search process.
- Your free time and how much money you have to spend.

For those who are interested in pursuing a physician’s license in the U.S., you must make your decisions early and follow all deadlines set forth. Failure to follow deadlines could dramatically increase the financial costs involved in the process, as well as hinder your ability of becoming a doctor at all. In order to successfully license as a doctor you must be trained through an accredited program.

The following section is an overview of the process with time and cost factored in. Please note, this is a lengthy process that will need you to prioritize your time. Having to retake examinations can cost you more time and money. This table will show you two alternative scenarios, one is more efficient use of time and money and the other is less efficient.

Physician Licensing Process Overview		
Step	Standard Scenario of Time and Cost	Alternative Scenario with Exam Retakes
1. Pursue ECFMG Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECFMG Credential Evaluation-\$65 • Tests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study Courses • USMLE Step 1-\$880 • USMLE Step 2 CK-\$880 • USMLE Step 2 CS-\$1,535 • <i>Approx total \$3,500* and 2.5 years</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECFMG Credential Evaluation-\$65 • Tests (with retake) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study Courses • USMLE Step 1-\$1,417 • USMLE Step 2 CK-\$1,417 • USMLE Step 2 CS-\$2,755 • <i>Approx total \$5,654* and 4.5 years</i>
2. Apply for Residency*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCVS Registration-\$350 • Research Programs • ERAS-\$105 • NRMP-\$65 • Travel and accommodations for Residency interviews • Find Residency/GMT • <i>Approx total \$520+ and 1 year</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCVS Registration-\$350 • Research Programs • Match Process • ERAS-\$105 • NRMP-\$65 • Travel and accommodations for Residency interviews • Find Residency/GMT • <i>Approx total \$520+ and 1 year</i>
3. Attend Residency Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 years of Residency • Residency License-\$10 • <i>Approx total 3 years: Residency programs pay for Residents to work.</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 years of Residency • Residency License-\$10 • <i>Approx total 3 years: Residency programs pay for Residents to work.</i>
4. Take Last Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USMLE Step 3 exam-\$815 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USMLE Step 3 exam

Required for Licensure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Idaho Board of Medicine License Application</u>-\$500 • <u>Unrestricted permanent license renewal</u>-\$250 • <i>Approx total \$1,565 and 1 year</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (retake)-\$1,630 • <u>Idaho Board of Medicine License Application</u>-\$500 • Unrestricted permanent license renewal-\$250 • <i>Approx total \$2,380 and 1 year</i>
Total	More Efficient Total About \$5,595** and 7.5 years of preparation	Less Efficient Total About \$8,564** and 9.5 years of preparation
Earnings Potential in First Year Licensed	\$150,000	\$150,000

Notes:

***Purse ECFMG Certification total cost does not include study material**

+Apply to Residency total cost does not include travel and accommodation expenses when interviewing at different residency programs. The more programs you apply for will cost more money for traveling costs.

****Total cost will be higher based on your ability to test well, schedule exams, and organize your time accordingly.**

Acronym Map

The following acronyms will be used periodically through this licensing guide:

MD- Medical Doctor

ECFMG- Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates

IMG- International Medical Graduates

FMG- Foreign Medical Graduate

IBOM- Idaho Board of Medicine

USMLE- United States Medical Licensure Examination

USMLE Step 2 CK- United States Medical Licensure Examination Step 2 Clinical Knowledge

USMLE Step 2 CS- United States Medical Licensure Examination Step 2 Clinical Skill

ACGME- Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education

AOA- American Osteopathic Association

EMSWP- ECFMG Medical School Web Portal

EICS- ECFMG International Credentials Services

EPIC- Electronic Portfolio of International Credentials

IWA- Interactive Web Application

CIS- Communication and Interpersonal Skills

SEP- Spoken English Proficiency

ICE- Integrated Clinical Encounter

FCVS- Federation Credentials Verification Service

FSMB- Federation of State Medical Boards

GME- Graduate Medical Education

ERAS- Electronic Residency Application Service

NRMP- National Resident Matching Program

SOAP- Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program

3. HOW THE PROFESSION IS ORGANIZED IN IDAHO

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Regulation of MDs in Idaho

The Idaho Board of Medicine (IBOM) regulates the licensing and practice of physicians in the state. The medical profession, however, has a complex system of training and exams at the national level that you need to go through before you can apply for a license at the state level. In addition to the IBOM requirements, an International Medical Graduate (often referred to as an "IMG"), will have to first become certified by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), which includes passing Steps 1 and 2 of the United States Medical Licensure Examination (USMLE). **It is important to note that the ECFMG will not accept documentation sent to or transferred from any other credential verification service, such World Education Service.**

Step 1 of the USMLE exam, includes knowledge of all theories and 13 subjects. Part 2 of the USMLE exam, includes two-part clinical exams; Clinical Knowledge (CK) theory, which takes roughly 9 hours to complete, and the Clinical Skill (CS) medical knowledge, communication, and ethics. This is a practical exam with a pass/fail grading system. The last part, Step 3, General Medical Knowledge, can be taken before residency or during residency. This is a two day exam that can be taken over two consecutive days or spread out.

Before you can obtain your license you will need to return to training, completing three (3) years of Residency at one (1) training program accredited for internship, residency, or fellowship training by the ACGME, AOA or the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. Currently, there are a few accredited residency programs in Idaho:

- **Idaho State University**
Department of Family Medicine
Residency Program
465 Memorial Drive
Pocatello, ID 83201-4008
E-mail: fammed@fmed.isu.edu
Residency Program: (208) 282-4713
- **Family Medicine Residency of Idaho**
Holly Taniguchi
Residency Program Coordinator
777 N. Raymond St.
Boise, ID 83704-9251
Email: holly.taniguchi@fmrIdaho.org
Residency Program: (208) 954-8740
- **Boise Internal Medicine**
Boise Veteran's Affairs Medical Center

**500 W. Fort St. #111R
Boise, Idaho 83702
Email: boiimresidency@va.gov
Phone: (208) 422-1314**

- **Family Medicine Residency of Spokane
104 W. 5th Avenue
Spokane, WA 99204
Phone: (509) 459-0675
Fax: (509) 459-0686
Email: diane.borgwardt@providence.org**

Often, competing successfully means that you may choose to relocate to a new state and adopt a specialization different than what you practiced before immigrating.

Idaho Physician License

You are eligible to obtain an Idaho Physician License after completing three years of your Residency in any state, and passing the USMLE tests (Step 1, Step 2 CK, Step 2 CS and Step 3 exams.) You will apply for the Physician License with the State of Idaho Board of Medicine (IBOM).

Employment as an MD in Idaho

According to the American Medical Association, there are 243,457 International Medical Graduate (IMG) physicians in the United States (26% of all physicians in the U.S.), representing over 127 different countries.

Physicians in the United States have some of the highest professional salaries. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, physicians in family practice in Idaho can earn an annual salary anywhere between [\\$120,000 to \\$200,000](#). Specialists, such as anesthesiologists, can

earn twice as much annually.

In the United States, Primary Care specialists such as general internal medicine, pediatrics, or family medicine have a higher public demand. These specialties offer more residency opportunities for IMGs. Reconsidering your specialty can help your chances in accessing residency programs.

The overall demand for doctors in the U.S. is increasing due to an aging U.S. population and certain healthcare reforms that increase the insured population.

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4. ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSING: PROCESS AND TIMELINE

This section explains 4 major steps that you need to complete before becoming licensed to practice medicine in Idaho.



Each of these steps is complicated and involves a large investment of your time, money, and effort. They include foreign degree evaluation, multiple tests, and tough competition among doctors for placements. This topic will look at each one separately.

I. ECFMG CERTIFICATION PROCESS

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Prerequisites to ECFMG Application

To be eligible to apply for the ECFMG, IMGs must complete the following steps.

1. **Verify Eligibility Through World Directory of Medical Schools Listing:**

Make sure that your school is listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools as an accepted school for U.S. standards. <http://search.wdoms.org/>

Note: When searching for your school, make sure to click on the Sponsor Notes tab of your medical school's World Directory listing. For schools that are accepted by the ECFMG, there will be a note addressing specific criteria for ECFMG applicants. If there is **not** an ECFMG note on your medical school's Sponsors Notes tab, you are ineligible to apply for the ECFMG program. For further information in whether your school is or is not accepted by World Directory, please review the ECFMG pdf: <http://www.ecfm.org/2015ib/2015ib.pdf>

2. **Receive USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number:**

Complete the [ECFMG On-line Authentication Process](#) and receive a USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number. This number will allow you fill out the ECFMG application.

3. **Review [Application for ECFMG Certification Instruction](#) while filling out ECFMG form.** You will use these instructions to help guide you through the ECFMG Certification Application. You should also use the Interactive Web Application (IWA) [IWA Frequently Asked Questions](#) to guide you through the process as well.

If you have any questions that are not answered in the Application for ECFMG Certification Overview, Instructions, or FAQs, you may contact ECFMG Applicant Information Services between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time in the United States, Monday through Friday, at (215) 386-5900.

Step 1: Applying for the ECFMG Certification

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Once you have your ECFMG/USMLE Certification Number, you are ready to apply for the [ECFMG Certification](#). The application fee for the ECFMG Certification using the Interactive Web Application (IWA) is \$65. Follow the [ECFMG Certification Instructions](#) while applying to ECFMG.

Primary-Source Verification is a service that ECFMG requires to assess the credibility and eligibility of a IMGs education and enrollment into the ECFMG Certification. ECFMG requires that a IMG provides their medical education credentials, which are:

- the final medical diploma
- final medical school transcript
- and, if required, transfer credit transcript(s).

ECFMG requires that these medical education credentials be sent to ECFMG directly from the issuing school(s) using Primary Source Verification.

Completing the Certification Process: Once the applicant meets the eligibility requirements for examination, they may begin the certification process and apply for the required exams. However, the time it takes to receive eligibility for examination directly depends on the time it takes for the applicant’s medical school to verify the medical education credentials.

Step 2: Applying for USMLE Examinations

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* Before applying for USMLE, IMGs are required to:

- Download and print the [USMLE Exam Application Instructions](#) to help you through the application process.
- Review the [Overview: Application for USMLE Step1, Step 2 CK, and Step 2 CS](#)
- Read the applicable editions of the [ECFMG Information Booklet](#) and the [USMLE Bulletin of Information](#).

Documents that are required for USMLE Examinations are:

1. The [on-line part](#) of the application

2. The **Certification of Identification Form 186** (See USMLE Exam Application Instructions)
3. Notarized copy of your **final medical diploma** (See [Appendix A](#) for further details)
4. Notarized copy of your **final medical school transcript** (See [Appendix B](#) for further details)
5. And, if required, transfer credit transcript(s).

ECFMG must receive **both** the on-line part and the Certification of Identification Form (Form 186), and all other documentation listed above:

ECFMG
3624 Market Street, 4th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2685 USA

II. USMLE EXAMINATIONS

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* Once ECFMG has received all of your required documents, you will be issued a registration permit and options for scheduling an exam.

The Examination Requirements for an IMG are:

1. **Satisfy the medical science examination requirement:** USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) are the exams currently administered that satisfy this requirement.
2. **Satisfy the clinical skills requirement:** USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) is the exam currently administered that satisfies this requirement.

Below are the 2015 current fee(s) for the different USMLE Steps:

Examinations	Fee(s)	How To Apply
Step 1	\$865 - Examination Fee	on-line using IWA
Step 2 CK	\$865 - Examination Fee	on-line using IWA
Step 2 CS	\$1,505 - Examination Fee (This does not include the price of travel and accommodations to and from the testing centers)	on-line using IWA
Extension of Eligibility Period (Step 1/Step 2 CK only)	\$70 per exam	on-line using IWA
Step 1/Step 2 CK Testing Region Change	\$65 per region change	Form 312
Step 1/Step 2 CK Rescheduling Fee	\$0 – \$552 (depending on exam, testing region, and date of cancellation)	Contact Prometric
Step 2 CS Rescheduling Fee	\$0 – \$1,250 (depending on date of cancellation)	on-line using Step 2 CS Calendar and Scheduling

For more information about fees, please visit: <http://www.ecfm.org/fees/>

USMLE Step 1 Outline:

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* You are required to review the entire USMLE Step 1 Content Description and General Information PDF on the USMLE website: http://www.usmle.org/pdfs/step-1/2015content_step1.pdf

Step 1: Overview

The USMLE Step 1 exam emphasizes the basic science components used in medicine. Step 1 assesses your knowledge of scientific concepts around medicine and whether you can appropriately apply these concepts into the practice of medicine. Special emphasis is placed on the mechanisms and principles underlying disease, health, and therapies. Step 1 also looks heavily on the scientific principles required for maintenance of competence through lifelong learning. Step 1 is constructed according to system and process.

Fees: The Step 1 exam costs \$865

Competitive scores: The median USMLE Score for U.S. born medical school students is 220-225; IMG needs 240-245 to stay competitive.

For more information about the USMLE Step 1, go to [Appendix D](#), in this guide..

USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) Outline:

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* You are required to review the entire USMLE Step 2 CK Content Description and General Information PDF on the USMLE website: http://www.usmle.org/pdfs/step-2-ck/2015_Step2CK_Content.pdf

Step 2 CK: Overview

Step 2 assesses your ability to apply medical knowledge and skills with an understanding of clinical science essentials for the provision of patient care under supervision. This includes an emphasis on disease prevention and health promotion.

The USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge exam is 346 multiple-choice questions test given by computer. It takes 9-hours to complete.

Fees: The Step 2 CK exam costs \$865

Competitive scores: The median USMLE Score for U.S. born medical school students is 220-225; IMG needs 240-245 to stay competitive.

For more information about the USMLE Step 2 CK, go to [Appendix E](#), in this guide.

USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) Outline:

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* You are required to review the entire USMLE Step 2 CS Content Description and General Information PDF on the USMLE website: <http://www.usmle.org/pdfs/step-2-cs/cs-info-manual.pdf>

Step 2 CS: Overview

Step 2 CS assesses your ability to demonstrate fundamental clinical skills, which is essential for safe and effective patient care under supervision. There are three subcomponents of Step 2 CS Integrated Clinical Encounter (ICE), Communication and Interpersonal Skills (CIS), and Spoken English Proficiency (SEP).

Step 2 CS uses standardized patients, people who are trained to portray real patients. You are required to demonstrate the role of a first-year postgraduate resident physician. You should treat each patient you see as you would a real patient. Do not defer decision making to others.

Fees: The Step 2 CS exam costs \$1,505

Competitive scores: The median USMLE Score for U.S. born medical school students is 220-225; IMG needs 240-245 to stay competitive.

For more information about the USMLE Step 2 CK, go to [Appendix F](#), in this guide.

PROOF OF CERTIFICATION

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Once you have successfully completed your ECFMG application, USMLE Step 1, 2 (CK), and 2 (CS), and submitted all of your required documents and received approval you will be issued an ECFMG certification which allows you to move on to your next steps:

1. Register with Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS)
2. Apply for Residency
3. Pass USMLE Step 3

4. Register with the State of Idaho Board of Medicine.

ECFMG has a Certification Verification Service that you will use to send proof of your Certification to both medical licensing authorities and hospitals where you apply for Residency. Fee: \$35

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III. FEDERATION CREDENTIALS VERIFICATION SERVICE (FCVS)

The following information has been provided by the Federation State Medical Boards (FSMB). For more comprehensive information on the FCVS, please visit FCVS's website at <http://www.fsmb.org/licensure/fcvs/>.

Though the Idaho Board of Medicine does not require IMGs to register with the Federation Credentials Verification Service, it is highly recommended as most states require this process. The FCVS was created by the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) to provide a centralized and uniform process for all state medical boards in the United States to obtain verified, primary source records of physicians' core medical credentials obtained in the U.S. or abroad. The FSMB is a trusted source and guarantees your information will remain secure and confidential.

You have the option to fill out the application form online or send it in by mail. On the application you will need to provide the FCVS with:

- 1. detailed information and photocopies of your personal information**
- 2. medical education**
- 3. clinical clerkships,**
- 4. postgraduate training**
- 5. examination history**
- 6. ECFMG Certification**

***You do not need to provide all of this information at once... This is a living document that allows you to update information as you progress in your relicensing process.**

The FCVS will then contact the sources where you obtained your records and by such means verify your credentials. It is important that you do not try to obtain transcripts from third parties yourself. These will not be accepted by the FCVS. The FCVS will obtain the documentations regarding your credentials directly from the third parties.

The advantage of using FCVS is that once your credentials have been verified you will have a permanent lifetime record of all your core credentials, which on your request can be forwarded to any beneficiary. When you apply for your Idaho Physician License you will make such a request to be sent to the Idaho Board of Medicine.

The application process for FCVS can be found online at www.fsmb.org.

FCVS Fees

Physicians:

An initial application fee entitles the applicant to have a personalized portfolio created and sent to one recipient. The base fee is \$350 for physicians. Additional surcharges may apply to cover costs incurred to collect examination transcripts, ECFMG certification (if applicable), return of identity document and other miscellaneous verification fees.

For additional fees, please, see the FCVS website: <http://www.fsmb.org/licensure/fcvs/cost-fees>

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IV. FIND AND COMPLETE POST GRADUATE MEDICAL TRAINING/RESIDENCY

After you have received your ECFMG Certification and started your FCVS profile, you will begin searching for a Post Graduate Medical Training Program (commonly referred to as Residency). If you are seeking a Residency program in Idaho, you must apply for an Idaho Residency Certification (\$10), which allows you to work under supervision in Post Graduate Medical Training/Residency.

Finding a Residency program, also known as a Graduate Medical Education (GME) program, is one of the biggest obstacles for IMGs in becoming a licensed physician in the U.S. These programs are accredited by the Accrediting Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) and vary in length from 3 to 7 years depending on the specialty. On rare occasions, some hospitals have been known to accept IMGs as second-year residents. This is very rare and you should be prepared to start at the beginning of your Residency program. Most Residencies are based at hospitals and affiliated with a medical school – but not necessarily located together.

*** If you are not matched with a program, you must be prepared to participate in the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program (SOAP). Refer to Appendix A for more information on SOAP.**

Residency Strategy, Competition and Presentation

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In order to be successful in finding a residency program you will need to thoroughly organize and plan the way you research different residency programs. This process will require you to develop a job search and networking style that will help you compete at the same level as U.S. medical school graduates. U.S. graduates have more established networks and credentials.

The following are a few areas that you will need to concentrate on:

- **Attend meetings and find volunteer opportunities that will help you build networking skills and expand your professional network.**
- **Establish professional relationships with currently practicing physicians to mentor you**
- **Create American-style resumes or online profiles, emphasizing your special skills and achievements**
- **Practice your presentation skills**
- **Research target programs and practice interviewing skills.**

Being flexible about residential specialties and residency locations will increase your chances of being accepted into a program. Programs that are more likely to accept you are:

- In medically underserved areas (rural and/or economically-depressed areas),
- In lower-earning specialties, and
- In specialties with more demanding work hours

V. THE RESIDENCY PROCESS:

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For detailed information about how the Residency matching process works, including: The Residency Search Process Part I, Pre-Match, The Residency Search Process Part II: Match, and what Year One of Residency entails, visit:

<http://www.aafp.org/medical-school-residency/residency/match.html>

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VI. USMLE STEP 3 AND APPLYING FOR IDAHO PHYSICIAN LICENSE

In Idaho, you may apply for the USMLE Step 3 without any post-graduate training. Note, even though Idaho has no post-graduate training requirement for taking the USMLE Step 3, there are post graduate training requirements that must be met for licensure purposes. Examination candidates who wish to take USMLE Step 3 in Idaho shall apply directly to the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB).

Requirements for ECFMG Candidates for USMLE Step 3:

- Have completed their medical education from an institution located outside the United States and have such studies confirmed by the ECFMG;
- Have passed USMLE Step 1, 2 (CK) and Step 2 (CS)

Requirements for the Idaho State Physician License:

- IBOM requires applicants to contact their office for specific requirements.

It is important to time your Licensure application well in accordance with the USMLE Step 3 examination schedule provided by the Federation of State Medical Board (FSMB). The FSMB oversees the USMLE Step 3 exam and you will have to register with them at www.fsmb.org to partake in this examination. You will need to file the physician's license application form with the Idaho State Board of Medicine after you pass the USMLE Step 3.

Be sure to check any registration deadlines that may apply on the FSMB website. When you have registered with the FSMB you receive your Scheduling Permit for USMLE Step 3 that you will then use to schedule an appointment with Prometric. To get more information, please follow the link: <https://www.prometric.com/en-us/clients/usmle/Pages/landing.aspx>

Summary of how to apply for the USMLE Step 3 examination:

1. Register for the USMLE Step 3 exam with the FSMB.
2. Schedule an appointment to sit the exam with Prometric.

Similar to the Step 1 and 2 exams, you will need biometric information to identify yourself during the Step 3 exam. This is part of the Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) program (BIMS). All the USMLE exams use biometrics as part of the test procedures. During the exam it is common that you will be asked to provide your fingerprint during check-in, breaks and check-out for identification purposes. For more information: <http://www.usmle.org/frequently-asked-questions/#becs>

Once your application is approved, you will have a 105-day eligibility period to take the examination. 90-day extensions are commonly granted if an eligibility extension request form is filed with the FSMB no later than 25 days after the 105-day eligibility period expires. The extension fee is \$70. For further details, consult the USMLE section of the Federation website.

How to apply for your Idaho State Physician's License Application:

- Go to the Idaho Board of Medicine website: <http://bom.idaho.gov/BOMPortal/BoardAdditional.aspx?Board=BOM&BureauLinkID=100>
- The Idaho application fee is \$500.

- It is also strongly recommended that you register through FCVS.

If you wish to have a paper application, you must submit a request to the IBOM in writing.

Notify the FCVS and Office of the Professions once you have completed your Residency and have passed the Step 3 examination to finalize your application and obtain the physician's license. To do so, fill out the Examination and Board Action History Report Form on the FSMB website, and the FSMB will then forward a certification of your exam results directly to the IBOM.

VII. USMLE STEP 3

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* Even though this is a detailed overview of the USMLE Step 3, you are required to review the entire Content Description and General Information PDF on the USMLE website: http://www.usmle.org/pdfs/step-3/2014content_Step3.pdf

Overview

The USMLE Step 3 is the final exam you will need to take before being eligible for your Physician License. In some states, you cannot take Step 3 until you have completed one year of your Residency; this is not the law in Idaho, although many people still wait to take Step 3 after their first year. You cannot take Step 3 until you have passed Step 1 and Step 2 CK and CS.

Step 3 consists of multiple-choice items and computer-based case simulations, distributed according to the content specifications. The examination material is prepared by examination committees broadly representing the medical profession. The committees comprise recognized experts in their fields, including both academic and non-academic practitioners, as well as members of state medical licensing boards.

Fees: The Step 3 exam costs \$815

For more information about the USMLE Step 3, go to [Appendix G](#), in this guide.

5. CONSIDER OTHER HEALTH CAREERS

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Alternative Careers for Doctors Pursuing Licensure

***FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HEALTHCARE CERTIFICATIONS, PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#). Please, visit [Global Talent Idaho's](#) website for more information.**

Contacting [Welcome Back Center](#), a non-profit organization that works with foreign medical graduates, offers orientation, counseling, and support. They help develop career pathways that help individuals build on their education, experience, and skills. They also assist in exploring relevant educational programs, jobs, and volunteer opportunities

Becoming licensed as an MD in the United States is a long and expensive process. You will need to study hard, network well, and market yourself professionally. For these reasons, it might be a good option to take a lower-level job in the healthcare industry as a short-term goal that can help you meet your long-term goal of licensing. The advantages that this option can provide for you are:

- You will form relationships with U.S. doctors that can help when looking for references and recommendations.
- You will have an opportunity to network and work under U.S. healthcare professionals, which will help for gathering Letters of Recommendation for your application.
- You can focus more energy on studying.
- You will receive clinical work experience in the U.S. that will help your competitiveness when applying for residency.
- Your employer may pay for some costs associated with licensing.

Physician Assistant, as an alternative to MD

Consider becoming a Physician's Assistant as an alternative to pursuing the ECFMG and relicensing. You may be able to complete a PA degree and certification within 3-1/2 years and be in practice soon after with a very reasonable salary, as opposed to the 9-1/2 to 12-1/2 years it takes (including the 3 years of Residency) to become a U.S. MD. The likelihood of successfully completing all required components from being a IMG to becoming licensed in the U.S. is lower for people who are from another country, and lower still for those who have been out of school for several years. It is important to know up front that becoming a Physician's Assistant is an excellent alternative for many IMGs who weigh the opportunity costs and low probability of success. Becoming a PA does require completion of a new degree in the U.S. and may initially appear more expensive, but it is able to be completed sooner, with the possibility of getting back to work with a reasonably high salary much more quickly than going through the U.S. physician's licensing process.

6. BEYOND LICENSING

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Complete Your Residency

The State of Idaho allows you to receive a license after you have completed a minimum of three years of Graduate Medical Training/Residency. At that time you are able to practice general medicine without supervision. However, general medicine is not a specialty. You must complete a Residency (at least 3 years) to be Board Eligible in any given specialty.

Join a Professional Medical Association

State and national associations for physicians provide opportunities for professional development and networking. They also help set acceptable working conditions for the profession and give information and opinions on policy in Idaho and across the U.S. Their websites may offer useful orientation to medical candidates about the licensing and examination process, including test preparation. They often provide Continuing Education to members as well.

State:

The Idaho Medical Association: <http://www.idmed.org/>

National:

American Medical Association: <http://www.ama-assn.org/>

There are also professional associations for physicians based on specialty, type of workplace, race and ethnicity, gender, or religion.

Licensing Mobility

The State of Idaho grants licensing to MDs by examination (the process described in this topic). A physician must independently meet all Idaho requirements for licensing. The national exams and the mobility of the resident experience do help make licensing in other states a relatively easy process. If you become licensed in Idaho and want to practice medicine in another state, you will need to research the legal requirements for that state.

Maintaining Your Idaho License

Your Idaho Physician License must be renewed every year through the Idaho Board of Medicine. To renew your license you must also have 20 hours of Continuing Education credits per year (as defined by the IBOM). You should apply on or before June 30th every year. Cost for license renewal is \$250. You can submit your renewal online.

Why you may wish to consider becoming Board Certified

Medical specialty certification in the United States is a voluntary process. While medical licensure sets the minimum competency requirements to diagnose and treat patients, it is not specialty specific. Board certification demonstrates a physician's exceptional expertise in a particular specialty and/or subspecialty of medical practice.

7. IMPORTANT LINKS

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Idaho Licensing

The Idaho State Board of Medicine

The IBOM website has general licensing information on several regulated professions in the State of Idaho. <http://bom.idaho.gov/BOMPortal/BoardPage.aspx?Board=BOM>

For general inquiries contact the Idaho State Board of Medicine:

**Idaho Board of Medicine
1755 N Westgate Drive
Suite 140
Boise, Idaho 83704**

More ways to reach the IBOM can be found at:

<http://bom.idaho.gov/BOMPortal/AgencyAdditional.aspx?Agency=425&AgencyLinkID=90>

The laws, rules and regulations section provides additional information on the law that regulates Physician and Surgeon licensing for foreign-educated medical graduates. Most information can be read

at <http://bom.idaho.gov/BOMPortal/BoardAdditional.aspx?Board=BOM&BureauLinkID=20>

Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS)

The Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS) is an electronic portfolio of your education and Residency credentials. It is a way to maintain proof of your most important credentials over time without having to return for original documentation.

<http://www.fsmb.org/>

FCVS Help number: 888-ASK-FCVS (this number can be reached only when calling from within the US), or send an email to: fcvs@fsmb.org

World Directory of Medical Schools

The World Directory of Medical Schools is searchable online. It lists schools whose graduates (for specific years) are eligible to participate in the certification program. <http://www.wdoms.org/>

ECFMG Certification

The Educational Commission for FMG (ECFMG) provides certification for graduates of foreign medical schools to compete for Residency in the U.S. <http://www.ecfm.org/>

You will register through ECFMG's Interactive Web Application to take the USMLE Step 1 and 2 examinations. <https://secure2.ecfm.org/emain.asp?app=iwa>

ECFMG also provides other online services. The [ECFMG 2015 Bulletin](#) has essential information to learn more about the ECFMG Certification process.

[ECFMG Common Fees](#)

The ECFMG Certificate Holders Office (ECHO) is a free advising program for first-year resident IMGs: <http://www.ecfm.org/echo/index.html>

FREIDA online is the AMA searchable database on Residency programs.

<https://login.ama-assn.org/account/login>

[Electronic Residency Application Service \(ERAS\)](#)

The National Resident Matching Program helps Residency candidates and programs match. <http://www.nrmp.org/>

United States Medical Licensing Exams (USMLEs):

Register for USMLE Step 3 through the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB).

<http://www.fsmb.org/>

After you obtained all the USMLE examinations, fill out the Examination and Board Action History Report at:

Test Preparation

National Boards of Medical Examiners, NBME, offers web-based self-assessments, descriptions and content outlines for all USMLE computer-based tests (Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 3). <http://www.usmle.org/practice-materials/>

Professional Associations

The Idaho Medical Association: www.idmed.org

American Medical Association (AMA) <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama>

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education <http://www.acgme.org/acgmeweb/>

The American Osteopathic Association: <http://www.osteopathic.org/Pages/default.aspx>

APPENDIX A:

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Final Medical Diploma (Include copies in original language and English translated copies. See Appendix C)

ECFMG requires all medical school graduates to submit copies of their final medical diploma. You must send two photocopies of your final medical diploma to ECFMG. Do not send an original diploma. The exact name of the final medical diploma you must provide is listed in the *Reference Guide for Medical Education Credentials* on the ECFMG website. The *Reference Guide* lists these medical credential qualifications by country of medical

school. Although this *Reference Guide* is based upon information that was current at the time of publication, this information is subject to change.

The photocopies of your medical diploma must be 216 mm x 279 mm (8½ in x 11 in). If these documents are larger than 216 mm x 279 mm (8½ in x 11 in), you must send reduced photocopies that are 216 mm x 279 mm (8½ in x 11 in).

You must send the photocopies of your diploma to ECFMG by mail or courier service.

ECFMG/Registration & Certification Services
3624 Market Street, 4th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2685 USA

ECFMG does not accept these documents by fax or e-mail. You must send one full-face, passport-sized, color photograph with the copies of your medical diploma. The photograph that you send must be current; it must have been taken within six months of the date that you send it. A photocopy of a photograph is not acceptable.

You must submit the photocopies of the final medical diploma in the original language, containing the issue date and all of the appropriate signatures of the medical school and/or university officials. Documents that are not in English must be accompanied by an official English translation. ECFMG will not accept copies of a medical diploma that is not in English without an official English translation. Likewise, ECFMG will not accept an English translation of a diploma without copies of the original language document from which the English translation was prepared.

Do not submit professional evaluations of your final medical diploma. ECFMG does not accept such evaluations in lieu of your final medical diploma.

You must also complete and submit with your medical diploma two copies of the *Medical School Release Request (Form 345)*. This form is available in the Resources section of the ECFMG website and from ECFMG, upon request. If you are submitting the photocopies of your medical diploma with an exam application, follow the instructions for additional documents in the USMLE exam application [overview](#) in ECFMG's IWA.

The name on your medical diploma must match exactly the name in your ECFMG record. If the name on your diploma does not match the name in your ECFMG record, you must submit documentation that verifies the name on your diploma is (or was) your name. See *Name on Medical Diploma and Transcript(s)* in *Medical Education Credentials*.

APPENDIX B:

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Final Medical School Transcript (Include copies in original language and English translated copies. See Appendix C)

When ECFMG requests verification of your medical diploma from your medical school, ECFMG will request the medical school to provide your final medical school transcript.

If ECFMG is unable to obtain your final medical school transcript directly from your medical school, ECFMG will contact you and request that you submit to ECFMG two photocopies of your final medical school transcript. If ECFMG has previously verified your medical diploma with your medical school but not the final medical school transcript, you must send two photocopies of the final medical school transcript to ECFMG. ECFMG will then send a copy of the final medical school transcript to the medical school for verification.

The photocopies of your medical school transcript must be 216 mm x 279 mm (8½ in x 11 in). If these documents are larger than 216 mm x 279 mm (8½ in x 11 in), you must send reduced photocopies that are 216 mm x 279 mm (8½ in x 11 in).

You must send the photocopies of your transcript to ECFMG by mail or courier service.

**ECFMG/Registration & Certification Services
3624 Market Street, 4th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2685 USA**

ECFMG does not accept these documents by fax or e-mail. You must send one full-face, passport-sized, color photograph with the photocopies of your final medical school transcript. The photograph that you send must be current; it must have been taken within six months of the date that you send it. A photocopy of a photograph is not acceptable.

You must submit the photocopies of the final medical school transcript in the original language. Documents that are not in English must be accompanied by an official English translation. ECFMG will not accept copies of a medical school transcript that is not in English without an official English translation. Likewise, ECFMG will not accept an English translation of a transcript without copies of the original language document from which the English translation was prepared. See *English Translations* in *Medical Education Credentials*.

Do not submit professional evaluations of your final medical school transcript. ECFMG does not accept such evaluations in lieu of your final medical school transcript.

The name on your final medical school transcript must match exactly the name in your ECFMG record. If the name on your transcript does not match the name in your ECFMG record, you must submit documentation that verifies the name on your transcript is (or

was) your name. See *Name on Medical Diploma and Transcript(s) in Medical Education Credentials*.

APPENDIX C

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English Translations

Any document submitted to ECFMG that is not in English must be accompanied by an English translation that meets ECFMG's translation requirements. The English translation must:

- be prepared by a government official (for example, a Consular Officer), medical school official (for example, a Dean or Registrar), or a professional translation service.
- include a statement from the government or medical school official or representative of the translation service certifying that the translation is correct.
- appear on letterhead. If the translation service is a private company, the letterhead must identify the company as a translation service.
- bear the signature and title of the government or medical school official or representative of the translation service and, if there is one, the seal of the government official, medical school, or translation service.
- be a word-for-word translation of the original language document. An abstract or summary translation of the document is not acceptable.
- be prepared from the original document or a photocopy of the original document. ECFMG will not accept a translation prepared from a transcription (transcribed version) of the document.

An English language certificate issued by the medical school that is not a word-for-word English language version of the degree, transcript, or other document in the original language is not acceptable as a translation. English translations that do not meet the requirements above will not be accepted. Examples of unacceptable translations include, but are not limited to:

- translations prepared by a notary who is not a government or medical school official or representative of a professional translation service
- a translation that was not signed by the translator or official or representative of the translation service, and
- a translation that is not a word-for-word translation of the original language document.

Additionally, applicants are not permitted to translate their own documents.

Documents submitted to ECFMG as part of the exam application and certification processes, including translations, will not be returned. ECFMG does not endorse or

recommend individual translation services. However, you can locate a translation service by consulting the website of the [American Translators Association](#).

APPENDIX D

USMLE Step 1 Outline:

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* Even though this is a detailed overview of the USMLE Step 1, you are required to review the entire Content Description and General Information PDF on the USMLE website:

http://www.usmle.org/pdfs/step-1/2015content_step1.pdf

The following information has been provided by the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). For more comprehensive information on the USMLE, please visit USMLE's website at <http://www.usmle.org>. The steps must be completed in the following order.

Step 1: Examination Preparation

- While you may not have had to return to these basic science subjects for many years, there are several reasons why you should take test preparation for Step 1 very seriously:
 - Residency programs tend to use Step 1 scores as a predictor of performance in a Residency program or specific specialty.
 - Many Residency programs have established a minimum score for the Step 1 and will not interview candidates with lower results.

- **Once you pass the Step 1 you cannot retake it, even if your score was lower than you desired.**
- **If you have 6 failures on any USMLE Step or Step Component, you will be ineligible to make another attempt.**
- **Practice materials for Step 1 of the USMLE can be found at USMLE’s website:**
<http://www.usmle.org/practice-materials/index.html>

Step 1: Overview

Step 1 is a one-day examination. The testing day includes 308 multiple-choice items divided into 7 blocks of 44 items; 60 minutes are allotted for completion of each block of test items. On the test day, examinees have a minimum of 45 minutes of break time and a 15- minute optional tutorial. The amount of time available for breaks may be increased by finishing a block of test items or the optional tutorial before the allotted time expires.

Step 1: Application Process

See previous section: “*Step 2: Applying for USMLE Examinations*”

Step 1: Content Description

Step 1 consists of multiple-choice questions prepared by examination committees composed of faculty members, teachers, investigators, and clinicians with recognized prominence in their respective fields. Committee members are selected to provide broad representation from the academic, practice, and licensing communities across the United States and Canada.

The test is designed to measure basic science knowledge. The majority of questions require the examinee to interpret graphic and tabular material, to identify gross and microscopic pathologic and normal specimens, and to solve problems through application of basic science principles.

Step 1 is constructed from an integrated content outline that organizes basic science content according to general principles and individual organ systems. Test questions are classified in one of 18 major areas, depending on whether they focus on concepts and principles that are important across organ systems or within individual organ systems.

Step 1: Examination Content

USMLE Step 1 Section focuses on individual organ systems and are subdivided according to normal and abnormal processes, including principles of therapy. Each Step 1 examination covers content related to the following traditionally defined disciplines:

- **anatomy**
- **behavioral sciences**
- **biochemistry**
- **biostatistics and epidemiology**
- **microbiology**
- **pathology**
- **pharmacology**
- **physiology**
- **genetics**
- **aging**
- **immunology**
- **nutrition**
- **molecular and cell biology**

Most organ systems are partitioned into Normal Processes and Abnormal Processes, and include subcategories of specific disease processes. In most instances, knowledge of normal processes is evaluated in the context of a disease process or specific pathology.

The content outline is not intended as a curriculum development or study guide. It provides a flexible structure for test construction that can readily accommodate new topics, emerging content domains, and shifts in emphasis. The categorizations and content coverage are subject to change. Broadly based learning that establishes a strong general understanding of concepts and principles in the basic sciences is the best preparation for the examination.

Step 1: Examination Specifications

System	Range
General Principles of Foundational Science**	15%-20%
Immune System Blood & Lymphoreticular System Behavioral Health Nervous System & Special Senses Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue Musculoskeletal System Cardiovascular System Respiratory System Gastrointestinal System Renal & Urinary System Pregnancy, Childbirth, & the Puerperium Female Reproductive & Breast Male Reproductive	60%-70%

Endocrine System	
Multisystem Processes & Disorders	15%-20%
Biostatistics & Epidemiology	
Population Health	
Social Sciences	
Process	
Normal Processes†	10%-15%
Abnormal Processes	55%-60%
Principles of Therapeutics	15%-20%
Other‡	10%-15%

*** Percentages are subject to change at any time. See the USMLE Web site for the most up-to-date information.**

**** The general principles category includes test items concerning those normal and abnormal processes that are not limited to specific organ systems. Categories for individual organ systems include test items concerning those normal and abnormal processes that are system-specific.**

† This category includes questions about normal structure and function that may appear in the context of an abnormal clinical presentation.

‡ Approximately 10%-15% of questions are not classified in the normal processes, abnormal processes, or principles of therapeutics categories. These questions are likely to be classified in the general principles, biostatistics/evidence-based medicine, or social sciences categories in the USMLE Content Outline.

Failing/Retaking USMLE Step 1

If you fail a Step or Step Component, you must reapply, including payment of the full retake examination fee (Step 1 retake exam fee for 2015 is \$552), to retake the exam. If you do not take an exam during your assigned eligibility period, you must reapply including payment of the full retake examination fee (Step 1 retake exam fee for 2015 is \$552), if you wish to take the exam; in this event, you may reapply at any time, however, ECFMG cannot begin to process a subsequent application for this exam until at least four weeks after the end of the eligibility period for the exam you did not take.

Number of Attempts Allowed: The USMLE allows 6 exam retakes per Step or Step Component. An examinee is ineligible to take a Step or Step Component if the examinee has made six or more prior attempts to pass that Step or Step Component, including incomplete attempts. All attempts at a Step or Step Component are counted toward the limit, regardless of when the exams were taken. For the purpose of U.S. medical licensure, state medical licensing authorities may limit the number of attempts allowed to pass each Step or Step Component.

Time Between Examination Attempts: The USMLE program sets rules on how quickly you can retake the same Step or Step Component. You may not take the same examination 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 exam and at least six months after your most recent attempt at that exam.

Time Limit for Completing Examination Requirements: For the purpose of ECFMG Certification, you must pass the USMLE Steps and Step Components required for ECFMG Certification within a seven-year period. If you do not pass all Steps and Step Components required for ECFMG Certification within a maximum of seven years, your earliest USMLE passing performance will no longer be valid for ECFMG Certification.

If you have passed a Step or Step Component but this passing performance is no longer valid for ECFMG Certification, you may request an exception to retake the previously passed exam that is no longer valid. For the purpose of U.S. medical

licensure, time limits to complete the USMLE are established by state medical licensing authorities and may require completion of all Steps or Step Components (including Step 3, which is not required for ECFMG Certification) within seven years from the date the first Step is passed.

You may request an exception to retake a previously passed exam to comply with the time limit of a medical licensing authority.

- **Important Notes:** You may only request the exception at the time that you apply for the previously passed exam. Complete requirements and instructions will be provided at the time of exam application. Exceptions to the reexamination policy are not approved prior to your submitting the exam application.

Applicants who retake a previously passed Step or Step Component to comply with a time limit should understand the implications of a failing retake performance on their Step 3 eligibility.

APPENDIX E

USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) Outline:

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* Even though this is a detailed overview of the USMLE Step 2 CK, you are required to review the entire Content Description and General Information PDF on the USMLE website: http://www.usmle.org/pdfs/step-2-ck/2015_Step2CK_Content.pdf

The following information has been provided by the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). For more comprehensive information on the USMLE, please visit USMLE's website at <http://www.usmle.org>. The steps must be completed in the following order.

Step 2 CK: Examination Preparation

- Practice materials for Step 2 ck of the USMLE can be found at USMLE's website: <http://www.usmle.org/practice-materials/index.html>

Step 2 CK: Overview

- **Step 2 CK is constructed according to an integrated content outline that organizes clinical science material along two dimensions: physician task and disease category.**
- **Step 2 CK is a one-day examination. The test items are divided into blocks, and test item formats may vary within each block.**
- **The number of items in a block will be displayed at the beginning of each block. This number will vary among blocks, but will not exceed 45 items. The total number of items on the overall examination form will not exceed 355 items. Regardless of the number of items, 60 minutes are allotted for the completion of each block.**
- **On the test day, examinees have a minimum of 45 minutes of break time and a 15-minute optional tutorial. The amount of time available for breaks may be increased by finishing a block of test items or the optional tutorial before the allotted time expires.**

Step 2 CK: Application Process

See previous section: “*Step 2: Applying for USMLE Examinations*”

Step 2 CK: Content Description

USMLE Step 2 CK Test Specifications*

System	Range
General Principles of Foundational Science**	1% – 3%
Immune System Blood & Lymphoreticular Systems	85% – 95%

Behavioral Health Nervous System & Special Senses Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue Musculoskeletal System Cardiovascular System Respiratory System Gastrointestinal System Renal & Urinary Systems Pregnancy, Childbirth, & the Puerperium Female Reproductive System & Breast Male Reproductive System Endocrine System Multisystem Processes & Disorders	
Biostatistics & Epidemiology/Population Health Interpretation of the Medical Literature	1%-5%

* Percentages are subject to change at any time. See the USMLE Web site for the most up-to-date information.

** The general principles category for the Step 2 CK examination includes test items concerning normal processes not limited to specific organ systems. These test items are typically related to normal development. Categories for individual organ systems include test items concerning those normal and abnormal processes that are system-specific.

Physician Tasks/Competencies

An additional organizing construct for Step 2 CK design is physician tasks and competencies, as shown in Table 2. Items are constructed to focus on assessing one of the following competencies:

- Medical knowledge/scientific concepts: Applying foundational science concepts
- Patient care: Diagnosis

- **Patient care: Management**
- **Communication and interpersonal skills**
- **Professionalism, including legal and ethical issues**
- **Systems-based practice, including patient safety**
- **Practice-based learning, including biostatistics and epidemiology**

Table 2: Step 2 CK Physician Task/Competency Specifications

Competency	Range
Medical Knowledge/Scientific Concepts	10% – 15%
Patient Care: Diagnosis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History/Physical Examination • Laboratory/Diagnostic Studies • Diagnosis • Prognosis/Outcome 	40% – 50%
Patient Care: Management Health Maintenance/Disease Prevention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharmacotherapy • Clinical Interventions • Mixed Management • Surveillance for Disease Recurrence 	30% – 35%
Communication Professionalism Systems-based Practice/Patient Safety Practice-based Learning	3% – 7%

Failing/Retaking USMLE Step 2 CK

- **If you fail a Step or Step Component, you must reapply, including payment of the full examination fee (Step 2 CK retake exam fee for 2015 is \$552), to retake the exam. If you do not take an exam during your assigned eligibility period, you must reapply including payment of the full examination fee (Step 2 CK retake exam fee**

for 2015 is \$552), if you wish to take the exam; in this event, you may reapply at any time, however, ECFMG cannot begin to process a subsequent application for this exam until at least four weeks after the end of the eligibility period for the exam you did not take.

- **Number of Attempts Allowed:** The USMLE allows 6 exam retakes per Step or Step Component. An examinee is ineligible to take a Step or Step Component if the examinee has made six or more prior attempts to pass that Step or Step Component, including incomplete attempts. All attempts at a Step or Step Component are counted toward the limit, regardless of when the exams were taken. For the purpose of U.S. medical licensure, state medical licensing authorities may limit the number of attempts allowed to pass each Step or Step Component.
- **Time Between Examination Attempts:** The USMLE program sets rules on how quickly you can retake the same Step or Step Component. You may not take the same examination 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 exam and at least six months after your most recent attempt at that exam.
- **Time Limit for Completing Examination Requirements:** For the purpose of ECFMG Certification, you must pass the USMLE Steps and Step Components required for ECFMG Certification within a seven-year period. If you do not pass all Steps and Step Components required for ECFMG Certification within a maximum of seven years, your earliest USMLE passing performance will no longer be valid for ECFMG Certification.

If you have passed a Step or Step Component but this passing performance is no longer valid for ECFMG Certification, you may request an exception to retake the previously passed exam that is no longer valid. For the purpose of U.S. medical licensure, time limits to complete the USMLE are established by state medical licensing authorities and may require completion of all Steps or Step Components

(including Step 3, which is not required for ECFMG Certification) within seven years from the date the first Step is passed.

You may request an exception to retake a previously passed exam to comply with the time limit of a medical licensing authority.

- **Important Notes: You may only request the exception at the time that you apply for the previously passed exam. Complete requirements and instructions will be provided at the time of exam application. Exceptions to the reexamination policy are not approved prior to your submitting the exam application.**

Applicants who retake a previously passed Step or Step Component to comply with a time limit should understand the implications of a failing retake performance on their Step 3 eligibility.

APPENDIX F

USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) Outline:

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*** Even though this is a detailed overview of the USMLE Step 2 CS, you are required to review the entire Content Description and General Information PDF on the USMLE website: <http://www.usmle.org/pdfs/step-2-cs/cs-info-manual.pdf>**

The following information has been provided by the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). For more comprehensive information on the USMLE, please visit

USMLE's website at <http://www.usmle.org> . The steps must be completed in the following order.

Step 2 CS: Examination Preparation

Step 2 CS uses standardized patients to test medical students and graduates on their ability to gather information from patients, perform physical examinations, and communicate their findings to patients and colleagues

Practice materials for Step 2 CS of the USMLE can be found at USMLE's website:

<http://www.usmle.org/practice-materials/index.html>

Step 2 CS: Overview

The elements of the history and physical examination necessary for each case will be determined by the nature of the patient's problems. The cases you will see will not require you to do a complete history and a complete physical examination. In fact, if you attempt to do so, you may run out of time and will not be able to fully address the emotional and communication needs of the patient.

You will be expected to communicate with the standardized patients in a professional and empathetic manner, being responsive to the patient's needs. As you would when encountering real patients, you should answer any questions they may have, tell them what diagnoses you are considering, and advise them on what tests and studies you will order to clarify their diagnoses.

After each interaction with a patient, you will complete a patient note. You will record pertinent history and physical examination findings, list diagnostic impressions, and outline plans for further evaluation, if necessary.

The cases cover common and important situations that a physician is likely to encounter in common medical practice in clinics, doctors' offices, emergency departments, and hospital

settings in the United States. The cases that make up each administration of the Step 2 CS examination are based upon an examination blueprint that defines the requirements for each examination, regardless of where and when it is administered. The sample of cases selected for each examination reflects a balance of cases that is fair and equitable across all examinees. While the set of cases administered on a given day will differ from the set of cases administered on another day, each set of cases is comparable.

The intent is to ensure that examinees encounter a broad spectrum of cases reflecting common and important symptoms and diagnoses. The criteria that are used to define the blueprint and create individual examinations focus primarily on presenting complaints and conditions. Presentation categories include, but are not limited to, cardiovascular, constitutional, gastrointestinal, genitourinary, musculoskeletal, neurological, psychiatric, respiratory, and women's health. Examinees will see cases from some, but not all, of these categories. The selection of cases is also guided by specifications relating to acuity, age, gender, and type of physical findings presented in each case.

Step 2 CS: Application Process

When you apply for Step 2 CS through ECFMG's Interactive Web Application, you are assigned a 12-month eligibility period that begins on the date that the processing of your application is completed. Your eligibility period will be listed on your scheduling permit. Once your Step 2 CS eligibility period has been assigned, it cannot be changed or extended. You can schedule a testing appointment for any available date in your eligibility period, and reschedule a testing appointment within your eligibility period.

If you do not take Step 2 CS during your assigned eligibility period, you must reapply by submitting a new application and examination fee (see [Failing/Retaking USMLE Step 2 CS](#) section).

Step 2 CS is administered at five regional test centers in the United States:

- Atlanta, Georgia
CSEC Center – Atlanta

Two Crown Center
1745 Phoenix Boulevard, Suite 500 (5th Floor)
Atlanta, GA 30349

[View map \(Google Maps\)](#)

[Atlanta Travel Information \(PDF\)](#)

[Additional Atlanta Travel Information for International Examinees \(PDF\)](#)

- **Chicago, Illinois**
CSEC Center – Chicago
First Midwest Bank Building, 6th Floor
8501 West Higgins Road, Suite 600
Chicago, IL 60631

[View map \(Google Maps\)](#)

[Chicago Travel Information \(PDF\)](#)

[Additional Chicago Travel Information for International Examinees \(PDF\)](#)

- **Houston, Texas**
CSEC Center – Houston
Amegy Bank Building, 7th Floor
400 North Sam Houston Parkway
Suite 700
Houston, TX 77060

[View map \(Google Maps\)](#)

[Houston Travel Information \(PDF\)](#)

[Additional Houston Travel Information for International Examinees \(PDF\)](#)

- **Los Angeles, California**
CSEC Center - Los Angeles
Pacific Corporate Towers
100 N. Sepulveda Blvd., 13th Floor

El Segundo, CA 90245

[View map \(Google Maps\)](#)

[Los Angeles Travel Information \(PDF\)](#)

[Additional Los Angeles Travel Information for International Examinees \(PDF\)](#)

- **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**
CSEC Center – Philadelphia
Science Center
3624 Market Street, 3rd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104

CSEC Center – Philadelphia
3700 Market Street, 2nd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104

[View map of 3624 Market Street \(Google Maps\)](#)

[View map of 3700 Market Street \(Google Maps\)](#)

[Philadelphia Travel Information \(PDF\)](#)

[Additional Philadelphia Travel Information for International Examinees \(PDF\)](#)

Once you are registered for the exam, you will select a test center, subject to availability, when you schedule your testing appointment. If you are unable to keep your testing appointment at the test center you select, you can reschedule for a different center, subject to availability. To avoid a rescheduling fee, you must cancel or reschedule more than 14 calendar days before your scheduled testing appointment. Access [Step 2 CS Calendar and Scheduling](#) on the ECFMG website for more information.

Step 2 CS: Content Description and Scoring

USMLE Step 2 CS is a pass/fail examination.

Examinees are scored in three separate subcomponents: Communication and Interpersonal Skills (CIS), Spoken English Proficiency (SEP), and Integrated Clinical Encounter (ICE). Each of the three subcomponents must be passed in a single administration in order to achieve a passing performance on Step 2 CS.

- a) **The CIS subcomponent includes assessment of the patient-centered communication skills of fostering the relationship, gathering information, providing information, helping the patient make decisions about next steps and supporting emotions. CIS performance is assessed by the standardized patients, who record these skills using a checklist based on observable behaviors.**

Examinees demonstrate the ability to foster the relationship by listening attentively, showing interest in the patient as a person, and by demonstrating genuineness, caring, concern and respect.

Examinees demonstrate skills in gathering information by use of open-ended techniques that encourage the patient to explain the situation in his/her own words and in a manner relevant to the situation at hand, and by developing an understanding of the expectations and priorities of the patient and/or how the health issue has affected the patient.

Examinees demonstrate skills in providing information by use of terms the patient can understand, and by providing reasons that the patient can accept. These statements need to be clear and understandable and the words need to be those in common usage. The amount of information provided needs to be matched to the patient's need, preference, and ability. The patient should be encouraged to develop and demonstrate a full and accurate understanding of key messages.

Examinees demonstrate helping the patient make decisions by outlining what should

happen next, linked to a rationale, and by assessing a patient's level of agreement, willingness, and ability to carry out next steps.

Examinees demonstrate ability to support emotions when a clinical situation warrants by seeking clarification or elaboration of the patient's feelings and by using statements of understanding and support. 10

- b) **The SEP subcomponent** includes assessment of clarity of spoken English communication within the context of the doctor-patient encounter (for example, pronunciation, word choice, and minimizing the need to repeat questions or statements).

SEP performance is assessed by the standardized patients using a global rating scale, where the rating is based upon the frequency of pronunciation or word choice errors that affect comprehension, and the amount of listener effort required to understand the examinee's questions and responses.

- c) **The ICE subcomponent** includes assessments of both data gathering and data interpretation skills. Scoring for this subcomponent consists of a checklist completed by the standardized patients for the physical examination portion of the encounter, and global ratings provided by trained physician raters. The patient note raters provide ratings on the documented summary of the findings of the patient encounter (history and physical examination), diagnostic impressions, justification of the potential diagnoses, and initial patient diagnostic studies.

Although it is not feasible to list every action that might affect an examinee's patient note score, the descriptions below are meant to serve as examples of actions that would add to or subtract from an examinee's score.

The following are examples of actions that would result in higher scores:

- i. Using correct medical terminology
- ii. Providing detailed documentation of pertinent history and physical findings. For example: writing “pharynx without exudate or erythema” is preferable to stating that the pharynx is clear.
- iii. Listing only diagnoses supported by the history and findings (even if this is fewer than three)
- iv. Listing the correct diagnoses in the order of likelihood, with the most likely diagnosis first
- v. Supporting diagnoses with pertinent findings obtained from the history and physical examination

The following are examples of actions that would result in lower scores on the patient note:

- i. Using inexact, nonmedical terminology, such as *pulled muscle*
- ii. Listing improbable diagnoses with no supporting evidence
- iii. Listing an appropriate diagnosis without listing supporting evidence
- iv. Listing diagnoses without regard to the order of likelihood

A program for practicing typing the patient note is available on the USMLE website (www.usmle.org).

Failing/Retaking USMLE Step 2 CS

- If you fail a Step or Step Component, you must reapply, including payment of the full examination fee (Step 2 CS retake exam fee for 2015 is \$1,250), to retake the

exam. If you do not take an exam during your assigned eligibility period, you must reapply including payment of the full examination fee (Step 2 CS retake exam fee for 2015 is \$1,250), if you wish to take the exam; in this event, you may reapply at any time, however, ECFMG cannot begin to process a subsequent application for this exam until at least four weeks after the end of the eligibility period for the exam you did not take.

- **Number of Attempts Allowed:** The USMLE allows 6 exam retakes per Step or Step Component. An examinee is ineligible to take a Step or Step Component if the examinee has made six or more prior attempts to pass that Step or Step Component, including incomplete attempts. All attempts at a Step or Step Component are counted toward the limit, regardless of when the exams were taken. For the purpose of U.S. medical licensure, state medical licensing authorities may limit the number of attempts allowed to pass each Step or Step Component.
- **Time Between Examination Attempts:** The USMLE program sets rules on how quickly you can retake the same Step or Step Component. You may not take the same examination 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 exam and at least six months after your most recent attempt at that exam.
- **Time Limit for Completing Examination Requirements:** For the purpose of ECFMG Certification, you must pass the USMLE Steps and Step Components required for ECFMG Certification within a seven-year period. If you do not pass all Steps and Step Components required for ECFMG Certification within a maximum of seven years, your earliest USMLE passing performance will no longer be valid for ECFMG Certification.

If you have passed a Step or Step Component but this passing performance is no longer valid for ECFMG Certification, you may request an exception to retake the previously passed exam that is no longer valid. For the purpose of U.S. medical

licensure, time limits to complete the USMLE are established by state medical licensing authorities and may require completion of all Steps or Step Components (including Step 3, which is not required for ECFMG Certification) within seven years from the date the first Step is passed.

You may request an exception to retake a previously passed exam to comply with the time limit of a medical licensing authority.

- **Important Notes: You may only request the exception at the time that you apply for the previously passed exam. Complete requirements and instructions will be provided at the time of exam application. Exceptions to the reexamination policy are not approved prior to your submitting the exam application.**

Applicants who retake a previously passed Step or Step Component to comply with a time limit should understand the implications of a failing retake performance on their Step 3 eligibility.

APPENDIX G

USMLE STEP 3

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The following information has been provided by the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). For more comprehensive information on the USMLE Certification, please visit USMLE's website at <http://www.usmle.org/>. The steps must be completed in the following order.

* Even though this is a detailed overview of the USMLE Step 3, you are required to review the entire Content Description and General Information PDF on the USMLE website: http://www.usmle.org/pdfs/step-3/2014content_Step3.pdf

Overview

Step 3 is a two-day examination. The first day of testing includes 256 multiple-choice items divided into 6 blocks of 42 to 43 items; 60 minutes are allotted for completion of each block of test items. Items with an associated pharmaceutical advertisement or scientific abstract are included in each of these multiple-choice blocks. There are approximately 7 hours in the test session on the first day, including 45 minutes of break time and a 5-minute optional tutorial. Note that the amount of time available for breaks may be increased by finishing a block of test items or the optional tutorial before the allotted time expires.

There are approximately 9 hours in the test session on the second day. This day of testing includes a 5-minute optional tutorial followed by 198 multiple choice items, divided into 6 blocks of 33 items; 45 minutes are allotted for completion of each block of test items. The second day also includes a 7-minute CCS tutorial. This is followed by 13 case simulations, each of which is allotted 10 or 20 minutes of maximum real time. A minimum of 45 minutes is available for break time. There is an optional survey at the end of the second day, which can be completed if time allows.

Multiple-choice Items. One-best-answer formats are used. Items may stand alone or may be sequenced together as a set of 2 to 3 items. Some 3 sets are considered sequential and function differently. It is important to study the descriptions in the USMLE Step 3 Sample

Test Questions booklet. Test items present detailed clinical situations, usually from the patient's perspective. The presentation may be supplemented by one or more pictorials or audio or video. Assessing the patient's situation in the context of his or her environment or family is an important element of many Step 3 questions.

Items with an associated pharmaceutical advertisement or scientific abstract are included in the examination. Each pharmaceutical advertisement or scientific abstract will appear as a 2- or 3-item set; you will see no more than 6 of these item sets in the examination.

During the time allotted to complete the test items in a block, you may answer the items in any order (excluding sequential item sets), review responses, and change answers. After exiting a block, no further review of items or changing of answers within that block is possible. Practice with the multiple-choice items on the Web site will provide you with a realistic understanding of the computer interface and timing of the examination.

A table of normal Laboratory Values for frequently ordered laboratory tests, including Standard International conversions will be available as an online reference when you take the examination.

Primum® Computer-based Case Simulations. You will manage one case at a time. Free-text entry of patient orders is the primary means for interacting with the format. Selection of buttons and check boxes is used for advancing the clock, changing the patient's location, reviewing previously displayed information, and obtaining updates on the patient.

At the beginning of each case, you will see the clinical setting, simulated case time, and introductory patient information. Photographs and sounds will not be provided. Normal or reference laboratory values will be provided with each report; some tests will be accompanied by a clinical interpretation. To manage patients using the Primum CCS software, it is essential that you complete the tutorial and sample cases provided on the Web site.

The USMLE Step 3 exam is a 2-day computer-based exam, which lasts 8 hours each day. The test has 480 multiple-choice questions, broken into blocks of 35-50 questions. The entire first day consists of 336 multiple-choice questions.

On day two, the first 3 hours will be spent on 144 multiple-choice questions. The rest of the session is dedicated to nine Clinical Case Simulations. The simulations involve real-time patient care scenarios. The candidate must prescribe medications or procedures and the patient's condition will evolve.

Fees: The Step 3 exam costs \$815

Examination Preparation

The National Board of Medical Education (NBME) offers online self-assessments for the Step 1, Step 2 Clinical Knowledge and Step 3 tests. Many other companies offer study programs. You should seriously consider taking a test preparation course if your self-assessments are weak; investing early in preparation will save you money on retakes! **Do remember that Residency programs will receive ALL your USMLE attempts and scores. More than ONE failure will usually exclude you from being selected for a Residency program.** Therefore, it is imperative to only take an exam when you are well prepared! **Also significantly important:** Please note that there is a 6-attempt limit on any USMLE Step or Step Component, including incomplete attempts.

More information on test preparation resources can be found under “Important Links”, Section 9.

Application Process

Confirm that you meet the Step 3 requirements:

- Pass USMLE Step 1, Step 2 CK and Step 2 CS
- If a graduate of a medical school outside of the US or Canada, obtain ECFMG certification (Apply only after the issue date on your ECFMG certificate.)

- **The USMLE program limits all individuals to three attempts per Step within a 12 month period**
- **Your 4th and subsequent attempts must be at least 12 months after your first attempt and at least six months after your most recent attempt at the exam**

Review the USMLE Bulletin of Information:

- **Familiarize yourself with the [2015 USMLE Bulletin of Information](#) before applying. During the application process, you will be required to certify that you have read and understand the Bulletin.**

Submit an application and these required documents:

- 1. Create an account at the FSMB website and submit your application with proper payment**
 - **Your application fee must be paid by American Express, MasterCard or Visa. The Step 3 fee is non-refundable and non-transferable from one eligibility period to another or from one application to another.**
 - **Provide an email address: This is the primary means for us to communicate with you regarding your application and will be used to notify you of your application status. Please provide an email address that will accept an email from usmle@fsmb.org.**
- 2. Print and mail a completed, notarized Certification of Identity (CID) form (be sure to attach a photograph). You can find this Certification at <http://www.fsmb.org/licensure/usmle-step-3/cost-and-fees>. Your CID will not be**

approved if there is any information missing or if a photograph is not attached; in such cases you will be required to submit a new CID form.

3. Your registration will be completed within 3-5 business days after we 1) receive application and Certification of Identity form, and 2) verify you meet all eligibility requirements. We will email you when your application is approved.

At the end of your Step 3 online application process you will be asked if you would like to create an FCVS profile using your Step 3 information; this is optional. If you are applying for licensure with a board that is accepting or requiring a board of a FCVS profile, it may be beneficial to create your profile now. For more information about FCVS, please go to: <http://www.fsmb.org/licensure/fcvs/>

Supported Browsers:

This FSMB online application may be completed using Internet Explorer Version 7 or higher, Safari Version 5 or above, Google Chrome Version 22 or above, or Mozilla Firefox Version 16 or higher. All supported browsers must allow cookies and have JavaScript enabled. All features may not be fully supported or available through other browsers.

Content Description

All USMLE examinations are constructed from an integrated content outline, available at the USMLE Web site (<http://www.usmle.org>) that organizes content according to general principles and individual organ systems. Test questions are classified in one of 18 major areas, depending on whether they focus on concepts and principles that are important across organ systems or within individual organ systems. Sections focusing on individual organ systems are subdivided according to normal and abnormal processes, including principles of therapy.

Figure 1: Step 3 MCQ Test Content Specifications*

System	Range
General Principles of Foundational Science**	1% - 3%
Immune System Blood & Lymphoreticular System Behavioral Health Nervous System & Special Senses Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue Musculoskeletal System Cardiovascular System Respiratory System Gastrointestinal System Renal & Urinary System Pregnancy, Childbirth, & the Puerperium Female Reproductive & Breast Male Reproductive Endocrine System Multisystem Processes & Disorders	80% - 85%
Biostatistics & Epidemiology/Population Health, & Interpretation of the Medical Literature Social Sciences	14% - 18%

* Percentages are subject to change at any time. See the USMLE Web site (<http://www.usmle.org>) for the most up-to-date information.

** The general principles category for the Step 3 examination includes test items concerning normal processes not limited to specific organ systems. These test items are typically related to normal development. Categories for individual organ systems include test items concerning those normal and abnormal processes that are system specific.

Figure 2: Step 3 CCS Test Content Specifications Categories in bold are covered in CCS cases; categories not in bold are not covered.

System
General Principles of Foundational Science
Immune System
Blood & Lymphoreticular System
Behavioral Health
Nervous System & Special Senses
Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue
Musculoskeletal System
Cardiovascular System
Respiratory System
Gastrointestinal System
Renal & Urinary System
Pregnancy, Childbirth, & the Puerperium
Female Reproductive & Breast
Male Reproductive
Endocrine System
Multisystem Processes & Disorders
Biostatistics & Epidemiology/Population Health, & Interpretation of the Medical Literature
Social Sciences

Physician Tasks/Competencies

An additional organizing construct for Step 3 design is physician tasks and competencies. More information about the physician tasks and competencies outline is available at the USMLE Web site (<http://www.usmle.org>). Items are constructed to focus on assessing one of the following competencies:

- **Medical knowledge/scientific concepts: Applying foundational science concepts**
- **Patient care: Diagnosis**
- **Patient care: Management**
- **Communication and interpersonal skills**
- **Professionalism, including legal and ethical issues**
- **Systems-based practice, including patient safety**
- **Practice-based learning, including biostatistics and epidemiology 6**

Figure 3. Step 3 MCQ Physician Tasks/Competencies Specifications

Competency	Step 3 Foundations of Independent Practice	Step 3 Advanced Clinical Medicine
Medical Knowledge/Scientific Concepts	18% - 22%	
Patient Care: Diagnosis History/Physical Exam Laboratory/Diagnostic Studies Diagnosis	40% - 45%	
Prognosis/Outcome		20% - 25%
Patient Care: Management Health Maintenance/Disease Prevention Pharmacotherapy Clinical Interventions Mixed Management Surveillance for Disease Recurrence		75% - 80%
Communication and	8% - 12%	

Professionalism		
Systems-based Practice/Patient Safety and Practice-based Learning	22% - 27%	

Figure 4. Step 3 CCS Physician Tasks/Competencies Specifications
Categories in bold are covered in CCS cases; categories not in bold are not covered.

Competency
Medical Knowledge/Scientific Concepts
Patient Care: Diagnosis History/Physical Exam Laboratory/Diagnostic Studies Diagnosis Prognosis/Outcome
Patient Care: Management Health Maintenance/Disease Prevention Pharmacotherapy Clinical Interventions Mixed Management Surveillance for Disease Recurrence
Communication and Professionalism
Systems-based Practice/Patient Safety and Practice-based Learning

Failing/Retaking USMLE Step 1

- **If you fail a Step or Step Component, you must reapply, including payment of the full examination fee (Step 3 retake exam fee for 2015 is \$815), to retake the exam. If you do not take an exam during your assigned eligibility period, you must reapply**

including payment of the full examination fee (Step 3 retake exam fee for 2015 is \$815), if you wish to take the exam; in this event, you may reapply at any time, however, ECFMG cannot begin to process a subsequent application for this exam until at least four weeks after the end of the eligibility period for the exam you did not take.

- **Number of Attempts Allowed:** The USMLE allows 6 exam retakes per Step or Step Component. An examinee is ineligible to take a Step or Step Component if the examinee has made six or more prior attempts to pass that Step or Step Component, including incomplete attempts. All attempts at a Step or Step Component are counted toward the limit, regardless of when the exams were taken. For the purpose of U.S. medical licensure, state medical licensing authorities may limit the number of attempts allowed to pass each Step or Step Component.
- **Time Between Examination Attempts:** The USMLE program sets rules on how quickly you can retake the same Step or Step Component. You may not take the same examination 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 exam and at least six months after your most recent attempt at that exam.
- **Time Limit for Completing Examination Requirements:** For the purpose of ECFMG Certification, you must pass the USMLE Steps and Step Components required for ECFMG Certification within a seven-year period. If you do not pass all Steps and Step Components required for ECFMG Certification within a maximum of seven years, your earliest USMLE passing performance will no longer be valid for ECFMG Certification.

If you have passed a Step or Step Component but this passing performance is no longer valid for ECFMG Certification, you may request an exception to retake the previously passed exam that is no longer valid. For the purpose of U.S. medical licensure, time limits to complete the USMLE are established by state medical

licensing authorities and may require completion of all Steps or Step Components (including Step 3, which is not required for ECFMG Certification) within seven years from the date the first Step is passed.

You may request an exception to retake a previously passed exam to comply with the time limit of a medical licensing authority.

- **Important Notes: You may only request the exception at the time that you apply for the previously passed exam. Complete requirements and instructions will be provided at the time of exam application. Exceptions to the reexamination policy are not approved prior to your submitting the exam application.**