



GLOBAL
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IDAHO

IDAHO PHYSICIAN (MD) LICENSING GUIDE

UPDATED 2020
GLOBAL TALENT IDAHO

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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:

- 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.

Acronym Map

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

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

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 to become 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-\$145 ● Tests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Study Courses ● USMLE Step 1-\$965 ● USMLE Step 2 CK-\$965 ● USMLE Step 2 CS-\$1,600 ● <i>Approx total \$3,500* and 2.5 years</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ECFMG Credential Evaluation-\$145 ● Tests (with retake) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Study Courses ● USMLE Step 1-\$1,930 ● USMLE Step 2 CK-\$1,930 ● USMLE Step 2 CS-\$3,200 ● <i>Approx total \$5,654* and 4.5 years</i>

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2. Apply for Residency*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● FCVS Registration-\$375 ● Research Programs ● ERAS-\$115 ● NRMP-\$85 ● 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-\$375 ● Research Programs ● Match Process ● ERAS-\$115 ● NRMP-\$85 ● 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 Required for Licensure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● USMLE Step 3 exam-\$895 ● Idaho Board of Medicine License Application-\$400 ● Unrestricted permanent license renewal-\$200 ● <i>Approx total \$1,565 and 1 year</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● USMLE Step 3 exam (retake)-\$1,790 ● Idaho Board of Medicine License Application-\$400 ● Unrestricted permanent license renewal-\$200 ● <i>Approx total \$2,380 and 1 year</i>
Total	More Efficient Total About \$6,00** and 7.5 years of preparation. This total does not include the cost of traveling to residency interviews.	Less Efficient Total About \$10,00** and 9.5 years of preparation. This total does not include the cost of traveling to residency interviews.
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.**

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

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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 from what you practiced before immigrating.

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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 [\\$170,000 to \\$250,000](#). 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.

4. ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSING: PROCESS AND TIMELINE ([BACK TO TOP](#))

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

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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.

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 to 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

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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 **\$145**. 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 [2020 current fee\(s\)](#) for the different USMLE Steps:

Examinations	Fee(s)	How To Apply
Step 1	\$965 - Examination Fee	on-line using IWA
Step 2 CK	\$965 - Examination Fee	on-line using IWA
Step 2 CS	\$1,600 - Examination Fee (<u>This does not include the price of travel and accommodations to and from the testing centers</u>)	on-line using IWA
Extension of Eligibility Period (Step 1/Step 2 CK only)	\$90 per exam	on-line using IWA

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Step 1/Step 2 CK Testing Region Change	\$85 per region change	Form 312
Step 1/Step 2 CK Rescheduling Fee	\$0 – \$602 (depending on exam, testing region, and date of cancellation)	Contact Prometric
Step 2 CS Rescheduling Fee	\$0 – \$1,300 (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:

https://www.usmle.org/pdfs/step-1/content_step1_2020.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 \\$965](#)

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

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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:

https://www.usmle.org/pdfs/step-2-ck/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 a 318 multiple-choice questions test given by computer. It takes 9-hours to complete.

[Fees: The Step 2 CK exam costs \\$965](#)

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: <https://www.usmle.org/step-2-cs/>

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

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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 \\$1,600](#)

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.

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III. FEDERATION CREDENTIALS VERIFICATION SERVICE (FCVS)

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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 accepts but 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

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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 **\$375** 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>

IV. FIND AND COMPLETE POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL TRAINING/RESIDENCY

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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, 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

International Medical Graduates (IMG)

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

International Medical Graduates (IMG)

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. 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 **\$200**. The additional \$200 licensing fee is due after the application has been submitted.
- It is also strongly recommended that you register through FCVS.

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*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:

https://www.usmle.org/pdfs/step-3/content_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 \\$895](#)

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

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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/>

International Medical Graduates (IMG)

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. 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

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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

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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 2020 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/>

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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>

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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.

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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*.

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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

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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*.

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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](#).

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USMLE Step 1 Outline:

* 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:

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

International Medical Graduates (IMG)

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USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) Outline:

* 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:

https://www.usmle.org/pdfs/step-2-ck/Step2CK_Content.pdf

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USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) Outline:

* 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:

<https://www.usmle.org/step-2-cs/>

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USMLE STEP 3

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:
https://www.usmle.org/pdfs/step-3/content_Step3.pdf