

## USMLE Step 2 Policy

### Goals:

- ❖ Maximize students' ability to graduate and match into competitive Residency programs;
- ❖ Have a centralized body for students to approach for exception requests for delaying the USMLE Step 2 exam and outline clear mechanisms for such requests including the implications of such requests.

### Policy

1. The UCD School of Medicine graduates students in June or December only.
  - a. Students who intend to graduate in June must take and complete their USMLE Step 2 CK and CS<sup>1</sup> exams on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> of the prior calendar year.
  - b. Students who intend to graduate in December must take and complete their USMLE Step 2 CK and CS exams on or before June 30<sup>th</sup> of the year they intend to graduate.
2. Students who do not follow the above guidelines, without prior written approval from the Committee on Student Promotions (CSP) will be placed on academic warning and will need to come to CSP for discussion of their actions and formulation of a plan.
3. Exception requests for delaying the Step 2 exam will need to be directed to the CSP Chair and Staff (send to [troberson@ucdavis.edu](mailto:troberson@ucdavis.edu)) via email by October 15<sup>th</sup> for June graduates and by April 15<sup>th</sup> for December graduates and include a reason why the delay is being requested and the proposed take and complete date. CSP will make a final determination on whether the request is granted or not. Students have the option of coming to CSP to present their case.
4. While scores from USMLE Step 2 CK exams are normally reported in 3 to 4 weeks from exam date, Step 2 CS scores can take as long as 3 months to be returned.
  - a. Students who fail the USMLE Step 2 CS will need to schedule their retake so that their scores are returned in time for the UCD School of Medicine Registrar's Office to certify their graduation.<sup>2</sup>
  - b. If a passing score on the USMLE Step 2 CK or CS is not received in time for the UCD School of Medicine Registrar to certify graduation
    - i. The student will not graduate with his or her class;
    - ii. The student will be moved to the next graduation period;
    - iii. If accepted into a residency program, the student will need to inform the residency program
5. Students who fail the USMLE Step 2 CS or CK will be placed on academic warning.<sup>3</sup>
  - a. A second fail will mean the student will be placed on academic probation.<sup>3</sup>
6. The NBME rules regarding how frequently a student can take each exam can be found on their website (<http://www.usmle.org/>). These rules are generous enough that it is unlikely to affect any UCD School of Medicine student adversely.

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that CS exam spaces in California can fill up by July.

<sup>2</sup> The USMLE Step 2 CS Score Reporting schedule can be found at this site: <http://www.usmle.org/step-2-cs/#reporting>

<sup>3</sup> See Academic Warning and Academic Probation details at:

<http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/mdprogram/medicalstudentpolicies/csp/procedures.html>

**Administrative Requirements:**

- ❖ Students who fail USMLE Step 2 CK or CS are responsible for withdrawing from the classes they are enrolled in, should they choose to do so to study, in accord with the School's 4<sup>th</sup> year course withdrawal guidelines.
- ❖ Students who take time off to study for USMLE Step 2 CK or CS should keep in mind the number of units required to receive financial aid each quarter.
- ❖ An inability to adhere to administrative responsibilities will be grounds for CSP intervention.