



## **USMLE STEP 2 INFORMATION**

### **Phases C – Year 4**

Revised: 4/4/2019

## USMLE Step 2 Policy Statement

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MS-IV students MUST sit for both the USMLE Step 2 CS and Step 2 CK no later than the Sit By Date designated on the Academic Calendar for the year they complete their 4th year requirements in order to be eligible for graduation in May of their designated class year. Passing both Step 2 CS and Step 2 CK is required in order to graduate.

Students who delay taking the exam after the Sit By Date, whether compelling reasons were granted or not, will not be guaranteed eligibility for graduation in May of their designated class year.

It is the student's responsibility to register to take the exams and to make any necessary transportation and housing arrangements. The earlier a student registers for the Step 2 exams, the more choices a student will have in terms of testing location and dates. There are limited test sites where the Step 2 CS exam is administered and students are encouraged to register for the examination as soon as possible due to limited space availability.

Only those students who can demonstrate compelling reasons (such as personal or family illness, tragedy) for not sitting for the exam by the Sit By Date will be allowed to register after the Sit By Date. Students requesting a delay must submit a written statement to the Office of Student Affairs explaining the reason(s) along with any requested documentation no later than August 15th to be considered. Emergent compelling conditions will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Unacceptable compelling reasons include lack of exam preparation, testing anxiety or difficulty in scheduling a preferred testing site or date.

Students have three attempts to pass Step 2 CS and three attempts to pass Step 2 CK. Failure to successfully complete either of these two exams on the third attempt will result in automatic dismissal from the School of Medicine. Additional attempts to take the exams may be given at the discretion of the Dean.

If you have any questions, please contact [annie.xiong@cnsu.edu](mailto:annie.xiong@cnsu.edu) or the Office of Student Services and Student Affairs.

## Scheduling USMLE Step 2 CS

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Because there are only 5 test centers (in the country), and also because many other med schools have similar "sit by" deadlines, there are not enough scheduling appointments available for every medical student in the nation. To gain the advantage you need to start scheduling as soon as you get your financial aid for the spring semester. This link can be used for more information about [USMLE Step 2 CS](#).

Approximately 1 month prior to your scheduled Step 2 CS exam, you are required to meet and review your MS3 Final CCE performances. These meetings will be set up by an administrator of the Clinical Skills Center.

### “SIT BY” Deadline:

You must pass both the USMLE Step 2 CS and Step 2 CK in order to graduate. The “SIT BY” DEADLINE for both of these exams is November 1st. Any student who is delayed 2 rotations may sit for CS, prior approval must be obtained by Dr. Vijay Khatri, Dr. Peter Yip, and Dr. Darilyn Falck. This sit by date is REQUIRED to ensure that we get exam results reported in time to certify you on the Official University Graduation Report with the main campus Registrar’s office. You should also have your scores in time to be reported MATCH.

### Know The Rules:

Before applying for the USMLE Step 2 exams you must become familiar with policies and procedures in the USMLE Bulletin of Information published for the specific year you will be taking the exam. This bulletin provides information on the following topics:

- Overview
- Eligibility
- Examination Content
- Preparing for the Test
- Applying for the Test and Scheduling Your Test Date
- Testing
- Scoring & Score Reporting
- Indeterminate Scores and Irregular Behavior
- Communicating With USMLE

### Apply for a Scheduling Permit

Once you have reviewed the Bulletin, you may apply for the USMLE Step 2 CS by logging into the NBME website for Licensing Examination Services. The permit eligibility period for the USMLE Step 2 CS is 12 months. Per the USMLE Bulletin, there is no fee to reschedule within your eligibility period if you cancel and reschedule more than 14 calendar days before (but not including) your scheduled test date. So scheduling an exam early will not cause you to incur any additional costs should it become absolutely necessary to reschedule (provided you give appropriate cancellation notice). The scheduling permit includes instructions on how to contact Prometric to schedule a test date appointment.

### Selecting a Test Date

There is NO advantage to selecting a LATE test date (for example, after the deadline in November or December). Graduates have consistently reported that readiness for this exam is at its optimal level upon completion of the third year and diminishes as you get further into the fourth year. If you take the exam at a later date and do not pass, you may not be able to reschedule it in time to graduate in May. In the event, you should need to reschedule and the calendar shows no openings, applicants who are registered for the exam can participate in an email notification system. You are notified by email when a testing appointment becomes available due to cancellation. Be advised that there is a lot of competition for the cancelled slots; and there is no guarantee you will get an exam appointment.

## Selecting a Test Site

There are [Five Clinical Skills Evaluation](#) Centers located in the country:

Atlanta, Georgia Clinical Skills Assessment Center Two Crown Center 1745 Phoenix Boulevard, Suite 500 Atlanta, GA 30349-5585	Chicago, Illinois Crossroads Center at O'Hare 6th Floor 8501 West Higgins Road Chicago, IL 60018
Houston, Texas Clinical Skills Assessment Center 400 North Sam Houston Parkway, Suite 700 Houston, TX 77060	Los Angeles, California Clinical Skills Assessment Center Pacific Corporate Towers 100 North Sepulveda Boulevard El Segundo, CA 90245
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Clinical Skills Assessment Center 3624 Market Street Philadelphia, PA 19104	

Please check the AAMC website for Clinical Skills Hotel Rates negotiated by the AAMC to assist students with travel expenses associated with the Clinical Skills exam.

### USMLE Step 2 CS Score Reporting:

USMLE exam scores are always reported on Wednesdays. Results for the USMLE Step 2 CS are reported in batches for examinees testing over a defined period of time. As shown in the table below the USMLE Step 2 CS reporting schedule for 2018 includes test dates through December 31st, however the Deadline for May Graduates is November 1st, 2018.

2019 Reporting Schedule – Step 2 CS		
Testing Period	Reporting Period	
<i>For examinees who test</i>	<i>Reporting start date</i>	<i>Reporting end date</i>
January 1 through January 26	March 6	March 27
January 27 through March 23*	April 24	May 22
March 24 through May 18*	June 19	July 17
May 19 through July 13	August 14	September 11
July 14 through September 7	October 9	November 6
September 8 through November 2	December 11	January 8 (2020)
November 3 through December 31	January 29 (2020)	February 19 (2020)

\*No Step 2 CS exams will be delivered March 22 through March 30.

Note: In each scoring cohort there will be occasional dates when individual test centers or the entire testing network are unavailable. These are typically known in advance, and the dates will be displayed as unavailable when examinees schedule appointments.

For each “Testing Period” in the above schedule, Step 2 CS scores are released every Wednesday over a corresponding four-to five-week “Reporting Period.” It is expected that results for the vast majority of examinees who take the exam during the testing period will be reported on the first Wednesday of the Reporting Period. Results for 98%-99% of examinees who take the exam during the testing period are reported by the third Wednesday in a Reporting Period. For a small percentage of examinees (1%-2%), scoring and quality assurance may be not completed in time for these examinees to be reported by the first three reporting dates; these will typically be examinees who took the exam in the latter part of the testing period. Results for these examinees will be reported each week throughout the reporting period, and should be reported no later than the last day of the score reporting period.

This schedule allows USMLE staff to enhance the quality assurance and data collection/scoring procedures performed prior to score reporting. Additionally, it provides examinees, as well as others who rely on Step 2 CS results, with guidelines regarding when a result will be reported for a given exam date. These guidelines allow examinees to plan their exam registration and scheduling in order to have their results in time to meet specific deadlines, such as those related to graduation or participation in the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP), or “the Match.”