

GMEC Policy on USMLE * Step 3 Performance

USMLE Step 3 passage is required for permanent medical licensure by all USA jurisdictions. The examination may be taken by registering through the State of Illinois after 12 months of graduate medical education have been completed. House officers may choose to register through one of nine other states (which do not require licensure application at time of test registration) and take the test in Illinois during their first year of residency.

USMLE tests general medical knowledge (primarily in Internal Medicine, Pediatrics and Obstetrics & Gynecology). Housestaff who postpone the examination until late in subspecialty training run the risk of performing less well.

In addition, some medical specialty boards require a permanent license to sit for the Board examination and many fellowship programs expect their trainees to have a permanent license. All three steps of USMLE must be completed within a seven-year period.

For the above reasons, **Rush Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) requires all Rush housestaff to take the USMLE Step 3 examination by the end of the PGY-2 year.**

As Step 3 is a GME requirement, housestaff are not to use vacation or educational leave days to take the exam. Program directors are responsible for assisting housestaff in scheduling the exam at an appropriate time and arranging coverage for clinical duties.

Individual training programs may require completion of USMLE at an earlier date or have more restrictive policies.

*** or COMLEX** for Osteopathic housestaff who elect to take this exam series. COMLEX may be taken during the first year of residency training and is an alternate route to medical licensing by examination.

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