

**Medical University of South Carolina**  
**Graduate Medical Education Committee**  
**POLICY for the USMLE STEP 3 (or equivalent) EXAMINATION**

**Statement of Purpose:**

This policy is designed to ensure that all MUSC specialty and subspecialty residents complete all 3 steps of the USMLE sequence as part of their graduate medical education. It will also enable training programs to assess the general medical knowledge of their residents. **Please click on this link for more information:** [http://www.usmle.org/pdfs/Changes\\_to\\_USMLE\\_handout.pdf](http://www.usmle.org/pdfs/Changes_to_USMLE_handout.pdf)

**Procedure:**

1. All PGY-1 residents are required to register for and take the USMLE Step 3 Exam (or the equivalent COMLEX Step 3 Exam or MCCQE Parts I and II) prior to completion of the PGY-1 year on June 30<sup>th</sup>.
2. If a PGY-1 resident does not take the USMLE Step 3 examination (or COMLEX Step 3 Exam or MCCQE Parts I and II) during the PGY-1 year, the resident's MUSC Resident Agreement will NOT be renewed for the PGY-2 year.
3. All PGY-1 residents must PASS the USMLE Step 3 Examination (or COMLEX Step 3 Exam or MCCQE Parts I and II) by the end of the PGY-2 year on June 30<sup>th</sup>. If a resident does not pass the USMLE Step 3 Exam (or COMLEX Step 3 Exam or MCCQE Parts I and II) by the end of the PGY-2 year, the resident's MUSC Resident Agreement will NOT be renewed.
4. If a resident enters MUSC at the PGY-2 level and has not passed the USMLE Step 3 exam (or COMLEX Step 3 Exam or MCCQE Parts I and II), the resident must PASS the USMLE Step 3 Exam (or COMLEX Step 3 Exam or MCCQE Parts I and II) by the end of the PGY-2 year on June 30<sup>th</sup>. If a resident does not pass the USMLE Step 3 Exam (or COMLEX Step 3 Exam or MCCQE Parts I and II) by the end of the PGY-2 year, the resident's MUSC Resident Agreement will NOT be renewed.

*NOTE: A resident's PGY-1 or PGY-2 year will NOT be extended to meet these requirements.*

5. All specialty and subspecialty residents accepted into MUSC GME programs at the PGY- 3 level or above MUST have passed USMLE Step 3 Exam (or the equivalent COMLEX Step 3 Exam or MCCQE Parts I and II) BEFORE entering the residency program on July 1.
6. Every resident is responsible for providing copies of the USMLE Step 3 examination results (or COMLEX Step 3 Exam or MCCQE Parts I and II) to the program director and, if requested, the GME Office. It is the program coordinator's responsibility to input all scores into E\*Value.
7. The resident will be allowed two (2) days off from the program to take the USMLE (or COMLEX or MCCQE) exam. These two days will NOT be counted as annual or sick leave.
8. Program Directors are responsible for ensuring all USMLE information (date taken, score, status, etc.) is posted within their residents' E\*value profiles in a timely manner. All information is to be current by June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.
9. Exceptions to this policy will only be made by MUSC's Designated Institutional Official for GME, in consultation with the program director and department Chair, and only then in rare and unusual circumstances.