

Policy: USMLE & COMLEX Examinations Policy		
Original Approval: June 23, 2004	Effective date: June 23, 2004	Revision Date: July 11, 2007 December 9, 2009 September 26, 2018 March 17, 2021 February 21, 2024 (Editorial) July 23, 2025 May 20, 2026

Purpose

To ensure that Residents and Fellows matriculating into training programs meet the eligibility requirements to obtain medical licensure in Colorado beyond the level of the Physician Training License upon completion of their training.

Scope

In this document, “Resident” refers to both specialty Residents and subspecialty Fellows.

This policy does not apply to:

- PhD-only post-doctoral residents and fellows matriculating into an ACGME-accredited program following graduation from an accredited doctoral program in a clinically related discipline
- Residents and fellows matriculating into a GMEC approved program with a CUSOM primary appointment type of Instructor/Fellows.

Policy

1. All Residents matriculating into GMEC approved programs **must** have successfully completed the USMLE Step 1 or the COMLEX Level 1 examination and the USMLE Step 2 (CK) or the COMLEX Level 2 (CE) examination, as evidenced by obtaining a passing grade for each of those two examinations prior to entering a residency.
 - a. Original transcripts of exam score(s) must be provided at least six weeks prior to an incoming Resident’s appointment start date.
2. All Residents enrolled in GMEC approved programs are required to have successfully completed the USMLE Step 3 examination or the COMLEX Level 3 examination by December 31st of their second post-graduate year (PGY2).

- a. For USMLE Step 3, the USMLE recommends that applicants should have completed, or be near the completion of, at least one post graduate training year in an accredited US graduate medical education program.¹
 - b. Residents must sit for their exam by October 31st of the PGY2 year so that they receive and can upload their transcripts by December 31st (USMLE processing takes ~6-8 weeks).
 - c. Exam transcripts must be provided to the GME office no later than December 31st of the PGY2 year.
 - d. Failure to pass Step 3 and upload a passing score by December 31st of the PGY2 year will result in academic and/or disciplinary actions, up to and including Focused Review, Probation, non-renewal of the contract, or termination from the training program at the end of the academic year.
3. All Fellows matriculating into a GMEC approved program must have successfully completed the USMLE Step 3 examination or the COMLEX Level 3 examination as evidenced by obtaining a passing grade for that examination prior to starting a fellowship.
 - a. Original transcripts of exam score(s) must be provided at least six weeks prior to an incoming Fellow's appointment start date.
- 4. Academic actions including non-renewal or termination as a consequence of failure to meet requirements in this policy are not grievable under the terms of the GME Remediation, Disciplinary Action, and Grievance Policy.**

¹ <https://www.usmle.org/bulletin-information/eligibility>