



**Policy Title:**

NBME Examinations in the M3 Year

**Policy Identifier:**

USCSOMC – UME – 1.11

Prepared by: M3/M4 subcommittee	
Reviewed by: Associate Dean for UME	Creation Date: Prior to 2017
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Approved by: MD Program Policy and Procedures Committee	Effective Date: 5-23-25
Category: Undergraduate Medical Education	

**LCME Standards**

- 9.4 - Assessment System
- 9.6 - Setting Standards of Achievement
- 9.9 - Student Advancement and Appeal Process
- 10.3 - Policies Regarding Student Selection/Progress and Their Dissemination
- 10.5 - Technical Standards

**Scope**

University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Columbia MD students.

**Reason for Policy**

To clarify requirements and procedures for NBME examinations in the M3 year.

**Procedures**

1. An NBME examination will be administered on the final day of the clerkship for each of the six core M3 rotations. As Neurology is currently incorporated into the Internal Medicine rotation, there is not a separate NBME examination for Neurology.
2. The NBME testing schedule will be determined by the Office of the Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum and Assessment and published in the Student Handbook for Clinical rotations. In general, examinations given in Columbia will occur in the afternoon. Typically, testing in Florence will occur in the morning. Exceptions may be made depending on the availability of testing space. Students should plan to take the examination at the clinical campus where they conduct their M3 rotations. Any exceptions must be cleared through the Office of the Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum and Assessment.
  - a. In Columbia, clerkships will assist with proctoring the NBME exams on the School of Medicine campus in consultation with the Office of the Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum and Assessment
3. Should a student need to postpone their NBME exam (illness, excused absence, etc.), this



must be cleared through the Office of the Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum and Assessment in coordination with the rotation's clerkship director. Make-up NBME examinations can only occur on dates when there are other NBME examinations scheduled to be taken on the School of Medicine campus.

4. Students must achieve a minimum score of the 5<sup>th</sup> percentile to pass a given NBME exam. The 5<sup>th</sup> percentile is determined by the most up to date "Academic Year" percentile rank as determined by the NBME. If a student fails their initial attempt at an NBME exam, their upcoming grade will be reported as "Incomplete" until this can be remediated. The re-take for NBME examinations will occur on the afternoon of the first Friday of the subsequent semester. The grade will be resubmitted by the clerkship director once this re-take has been successfully completed. If a failed NBME is successfully remediated, the NBME portion of the grade will be determined by the result on the initial attempt, not the re-take.
  - a. In the event that a student fails an NBME exam, a letter stating such will be sent to the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Services from the Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum and Assessment. Failure of clinical NBME exams are noted in the MSPE.
  - b. Students who have an initial failure of an NBME exam during a semester will be allowed to continue as scheduled with M3 rotations.
  - c. If the student is unsuccessful on the re-take attempt, a failing grade will be submitted for the clerkship and the student will be required to meet with each of the clerkship director, Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum and Assessment as well as the head of the Student Success and Wellness Center.
    - i. In this instance, if all other elements of the given clerkship have been successfully completed, the student may be allowed to complete an abbreviated version of the clerkship (minimum of 4 weeks) concluding with a re-take of the NBME examination. This determination will be made by the clerkship director and Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum and Assessment. For students in Florence, the site director and Associate Dean for Medical Student Education – Florence will provide input as well.
    - ii. For any subsequent failure of the NBME exam, the student would be referred to the ARC per the ARC policy
  - d. If a student is unsuccessful on a subsequent NBME exam during the same semester, the student will be pulled from the next rotation to have sufficient time to make up both NBME exams.
5. Individual clerkships determine the percentage of the overall grade that the NBME examination accounts for.
6. Students requesting accommodations for NBME exams must coordinate this through the Student Disability Resource Center on the USC main campus and the Office of the Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum and Assessment.

## Contacts

Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum and Assessment



## History

<b>Date of Change</b>	<b>Change</b>
8-13-24	Drafted policy in new template
3-13-25	Revised policy discussed and approved by Curriculum Committee
5-23-25	Revised policy reviewed and approved by Policy and Procedures Committee