

UTHSCSA Graduate Medical Education Policies

Section 3	Evaluation and Assessment Processes	Effective: Revised: Responsibility:	July 2005 November 2005 Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education
Policy 3.1.3.	Completion of USMLE Examinations		

Completion of USMLE Examinations

Policy The GME Committee at UTHSCSA believes that graduates of GMEC approved programs, by the completion of their training, must be capable of performing competent and independent practice in that specialty. A medical license is necessary for independent medical practice. An essential parameter for obtaining a medical license is the successful completion of the medical licensing examinations. The purpose of this policy is to make certain that residents enrolled in graduate medical education programs meet eligibility requirements to obtain medical licensure beyond the level of the Physician in Training permit.

The Program Director for each GMEC approved program is responsible for tracking this progress for each resident in his/her program. A suggested time sequence is outlined below. A Program Director may choose to modify the time sequence based on individual circumstances, but the expectation is that each trainee will have successfully completed all USMLE **Steps 1, 2, and 3** (or COMLEX Parts 1, 2, and 3) examination activities, as evidenced by obtaining passing grades for those examinations, prior to completion of the training program.

Recommended time sequence:

Entry into PGY-1 year - All residents in GMEC approved programs should successfully complete **Step 1** of the USMLE (or COMLEX, if graduates of an osteopathic medical school), for appointment to a PGY1 position. Graduates of international medical schools must have passed both **Steps 1 and 2** of the USMLE, or equivalent Canadian Medical Licensing Examination, and hold a valid ECFMG certificate.

Entry into PGY-2 year - All residents in GMEC approved programs should successfully complete all USMLE **Step 2** (or COMLEX Part 2) examination activities, as evidenced by obtaining a passing grade for those examinations, prior to March 1 in the first post-graduate year of attendance in a GMEC approved training program.

Entry into PGY-3 year - All residents in GMEC approved programs should successfully complete USMLE **Step 3** (or COMLEX Part 3) examination activities, as evidenced by obtaining a passing grade for that examination, prior to March 1 of the second post-graduate year of attendance in a GMEC approved training.

Residents who transfer into GMEC approved programs should follow the

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time sequence developed by the Program Director of that program.