

GMDEC Reviewed: December 2007

GMDEC Approved: December 2007

**POLICY: UNITED STATES MEDICAL LICENSING EXAMINATION
(USMLE) STEP 2 AND STEP 3
&
COMPREHENSIVE OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL LICENSING EXAMINATION
(COMLEX-USA) LEVEL 2 AND LEVEL 3**

The United States Medical Licensing Examination is the international standard for medical competence. UTGSM requires all residents to have successfully passed USMLE Step 2 prior to entering the graduate medical education programs. Graduates of osteopathic medical schools will be required to have successfully passed Level 2 of the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination (COMLEX-USA). Any Letter of Agreement to an applicant will be contingent on meeting this requirement.

Completion of USMLE Step 3 or COMLEX-USA Level 3 is a necessary requirement for medical licensure. In Tennessee, residents are eligible to sit for the exams upon completion of the first year of residency. All UTGSM residents are expected to have passed USMLE Step 3 or COMLEX-USA Level 3 by January 31 in the second year of residency. If a resident is unsuccessful on the first attempt, this will allow sufficient time to repeat the examination during this academic year. Residents must pass USMLE Step 3 or COMLEX-USA Level 3 to be eligible for a third year appointment. Residents must notify their program when they have successfully passed Step 3 or the Level 3 exam. Residents are responsible for contacting the appropriate board to register for the USMLE Step 3 or the COMLEX-USA Level 3 examination.

Exception: Residents in the UT Family Practice Accelerated Residency Program are not eligible to sit for the USMLE Step 3 examination until their fourth year of medical school, which is also their first year of residency training. All of the above rules apply to Family Practice Accelerated Residents during their second and third years of residency.

Successful completion of USMLE Step 3 or COMLEX-USA Level 3 is required for obtaining licensure in any state. Since many states have restrictions regarding time intervals between the three steps, residents should familiarize themselves with these requirements. In Tennessee, USMLE Steps 1, 2, and 3 and/or COMLEX-USA Levels 1, 2, and 3 must be completed successfully within a seven-year period.

Many specialty boards require physicians to be licensed prior to sitting for the specialty board examinations. Since this requires successful completion of USMLE Step 3 or COMLEX-USA Level 3, residents are encouraged to obtain a license prior to completing their residency program.

All licensure fees are the responsibility of the resident. Licensure in Tennessee obligates the recipient to an annual professional fee.

August 2002, Revised March 2003

Reviewed and Approved July 2005

Revised and Approved by GMDEC December 2007