



Category: Graduate Medical Education
Effective Date: July 1, 2017
Last Review/Revision Date: July 10, 2020

Page 1 of 1

Title: Completion of Licensing Examinations

Reference: Texas statute(s) on Medical Licensure

Purpose:

All residents enrolled in graduate medical education (GME) programs sponsored by the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley (UTRGV) School of Medicine (SOM) will begin their residency programs with physician-in-training permits but must meet eligibility requirements to obtain full medical licensure within the State of Texas. An essential parameter for obtaining a medical license is the successful completion of the medical licensing examinations. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that residents enrolled in graduate medical education programs meet eligibility requirements to obtain full medical licensure.

Policy:

UTRGV will require of its residents the following:

- Postgraduate Year (PGY) 1: All residents in Accreditation Council for GME (ACGME) accredited programs must pass United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Steps 1, 2 CK, and 2 CS (or the Comprehensive Osteopathic Medical Licensing Examination, or COMLEX 1, 2 PE & 2 CE if graduates of an osteopathic medical school) prior to appointment to a PGY 1 position. Graduates of international medical schools must have passed Steps 1, 2 CK, and 2 CS of the USMLE, or equivalent Canadian Medical Licensing Examination and hold a valid ECFMG certificate.
- PGY 2: All residents will be encouraged to **sit** for the USMLE Step 3 examination (or the COMLEX 3) early in the PGY 1 year and certainly by January 1 (or by the first day of the seventh month for off cycle residents) of PGY 2 year. All residents will be **required to show proof of passage of Step 3 or Level 3 by March 1** (or by the first day of the ninth month for off cycle residents) **of the PGY 2 year in order to advance to the PGY 3 year**. Residents who do not meet this requirement **will not be promoted** beyond the PGY 2 year.
- Exceptions due to extenuating circumstances may be made at the discretion of the Program Director with approval from the GME office. Each training program may have stricter guidelines for completion of examinations, for example, to mandated USMLE Step 3 completion during the PGY 1 year.
- Program Directors of ACGME accredited programs are responsible for tracking the progress of residents in their programs and may choose to modify the time sequence to mandate earlier completion, as per program policy.