

653—9.6(147,148) Licensure examinations.**9.6(1) USMLE.**

a. The USMLE is a multipart examination consisting of Step 1, Step 2, and Step 3. Steps 1 and 2 are administered by NBME and ECFMG. The board contracts with FSMB for the administration of Step 3.

b. Applications are available at Department of Examination Services, FSMB, 400 Fuller Wisser Road, Suite 300, Euless, Texas 76039, or www.fsmb.org.

c. Candidates who meet the following requirements are eligible to take USMLE Step 3:

(1) Submit a completed application form and pay the required examination fee as specified in rule 653—8.3(147,148,272C).

(2) Document successful completion of USMLE Steps 1 and 2 in accordance with the requirements of NBME. Graduates of a foreign medical school shall meet the requirements of ECFMG.

(3) Document holding a medical degree from a board-approved educational institution. If a candidate holds a medical degree from an educational institution not approved by the board at the time the applicant graduated and was awarded the degree, the candidate shall meet the requirements specified in subparagraph 9.3(1)“b”(3).

(4) Document successful completion of a minimum of seven calendar months of resident training in a program approved by the board at the time of the application for Step 3 or enrollment in a resident training program approved by the board at the time of the application for Step 3.

d. The following conditions apply to applicants for licensure in Iowa who utilize USMLE as the licensure examination:

(1) Passing Steps 1, 2, and 3 is required within a ten-year period beginning with the date of passing either Step 1 or Step 2, whichever occurred first. If the applicant did not pass Steps 1, 2, and 3 within the required time frame, then the requirement will be satisfied by either proof of active board certification by the ABMS or AOA or proof the delay was caused by participation in a joint M.D./Ph.D. or D.O./Ph.D. program.

(2) Step 3 may be taken and passed only after Steps 1 and 2 are passed.

(3) A score of 75 or better on each step shall constitute a passing score on that step.

(4) Successful completion of a continuous, progressive three-year resident training program is required if the applicant passes the examination after more than six attempts on Step 1 or six attempts on Step 2 CK and Step 2 CS combined or three attempts on Step 3.

9.6(2) NBME. Successful completion of NBME Parts I, II and III with a passing score of 75 or better on each part is required for NBME certification.

9.6(3) FLEX.

a. (Old) FLEX is a three-day examination administered from 1968 to 1985. Applicants who took (Old) FLEX shall provide evidence of successful achievement of at least two of the following:

(1) Certification under seal that the applicant passed FLEX with a FLEX-weighted average of 75 percent or better, as determined by the state medical licensing authority, in no more than two sittings.

(2) Verification under seal of medical licensure in the state that administered the examination.

(3) Evidence of current certification by an American specialty board approved or recognized by the Council of Medical Education of AMA, ABMS, or AOA.

b. (New) FLEX is a three-day nationally standardized examination administered from 1985 to 1994. To be eligible for licensure, the candidate must have passed both components with a FLEX score of 75 or better within a seven-year period beginning with the date of initial examination.

9.6(4) Combination examination sequences. The board approved the following licensing combinations of examinations for licensure only if completed prior to January 1, 2000. These combinations are now only acceptable from an applicant who already holds a license from any United States jurisdiction.

a. FLEX Component I plus USMLE Step 3 with a passing score of 75 or better on each examination;

b. NBME Part I or USMLE Step 1 plus NBME Part II or USMLE Step 2 plus FLEX Component II with a passing score of 75 or better on each examination; or

c. NBME Part I or USMLE Step 1 plus NBME Part II or USMLE Step 2 plus NBME Part III or USMLE Step 3 with a passing score of 75 or better on each examination.

9.6(5) COMLEX. COMLEX is a three-level examination that replaced the three-part NBOME examination. All three examinations must be successfully completed in sequential order within ten years of the successful completion of COMLEX Level 1. If the applicant did not pass Levels 1, 2, and 3 within the required time frame, then the requirement will be satisfied by either proof of active board certification by the ABMS or AOA or proof the delay was caused by participation in a joint D.O./Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D. program.

a. A standard score of 400 on Level 1 or Level 2 is required to pass the examination. A standard score of 350 on Level 3 is required to pass the examination.

b. A candidate shall have successfully completed a minimum of seven calendar months of resident training in a program approved by the board at the time of the application for Level 3 or enrollment in a resident training program approved by the board at the time of the application for Level 3.

c. Successful completion of a continuous, progressive three-year resident training program is required if the applicant passes the examination after more than six attempts on Level 1 or six attempts on Level 2 CE and Level 2 PF combined or three attempts on Level 3.

d. Each COMLEX level must be passed individually, and individual level scores shall not be averaged to compute an overall score.

e. Level 3 may be taken and passed only after Levels 1 and 2 are passed.

f. A failure of any COMLEX level, regardless of the jurisdiction for which it was taken, shall be considered a failure of that level for the purposes of Iowa licensure.

9.6(6) NBOME.

a. NBOME was a three-part examination. All three parts must have been successfully completed in sequential order within seven years of the successful completion of NBOME Part 1.

b. A passing score is required on each part of the examination.

c. A candidate shall have successfully completed a minimum of seven calendar months of resident training in a program approved by the board at the time of the application for NBOME Part 3. Candidates shall have completed their resident training by the last day of the month in which the examination was taken.

d. Successful completion of a three-year resident training program is required if the applicant passes the examination after more than six attempts on Part 1 or six attempts on Part 2 or three attempts on Part 3.

e. Each NBOME part must have been passed individually, and individual part scores shall not be averaged to compute an overall score.

f. Part 3 must have been taken and passed only after Parts 1 and 2 were passed.

g. A failure of any NBOME part, regardless of the jurisdiction for which it was taken, shall be considered a failure of that part for the purposes of Iowa licensure.

9.6(7) LMCC. The board accepts toward Iowa licensure a verification of a licensee's registration with the Medical Council of Canada, based on passing both parts of the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination.

9.6(8) State licensing examinations. Licensing examinations administered by the board of medicine or another U.S. jurisdiction prior to 1974 are accepted if the examination was passed according to criteria established by that state at the time and led to licensure in that state.

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