



☒ Policy ☐ SOP ☐ Memorandum

Audience: ☒ Students ☐ Faculty and Staff ☐ Both

- Approved by: Curriculum and Examination Committee
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- Review Department: Registrar
- Reviewed by: Cherie Rodriguez

MD5 Progression Policy

The MD5 semester is a 16-week course commonly referred to as the Basic Science Review Course (BSRC) or System-Based Review Course (SBRC) that must be completed before appearing for the USMLE Step 1. This semester is the steppingstone towards preparing for and passing the USMLE Step 1 and progressing to Clinical Rotations. **A student is not allowed to commence their Clinical Rotations until and unless they pass the USMLE Step 1.**

The BSRC / SBRC consists of various assessments that include:

- An NBME Customized Assessment Service Test (NBME CAS)
- Biweekly quizzes
- A graded mid-term and a penultimate test that is an NBME Customized Assessment Service Test (NBME CAS)
- The final exam is the NBME Comprehensive Basic Science Exam (NBME CBSE), where the student must attain a requisite score of 64. Note: The score on this test does not contribute towards the students' final grade, but it is required to complete the course and be certified for USMLE Step 1

Important Note:

-Until and unless the student obtains the requisite score of 64 on the final NBME CBSE, the MD5 is not deemed to be complete, the student shall receive a grade of I (for Incomplete) on their transcript, and the student will not be certified for the USMLE Step 1.

-Students must pass USMLE Step 1 within 24 months of completing their MD5 course requirements (this does not include the CBSE). Failure to pass Step 1 within 24 months of completing MD5 course requirements results in Administrative Withdrawal from SJSJ.

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MD5 Completion Requirements

The final NBME Comprehensive Basic Science Exam (CBSE) Requirement

All students are required to complete and pass the necessary BSRC/SBRC coursework, as well as achieve the requisite score of 64 on the NBME CBSE as a completion requirement of the MD5 semester. The NBME CBSE is taken towards the end of the MD5 semester for any student who has received a passing grade in their BSRC/SBRC coursework. The exam is scheduled by the school and administered on campus.

Failing the MD5 BSRC/SBRC Coursework

Any student who has failed the MD5 BSRC/SBRC coursework will not be eligible to sit for the NBME CBSE at the end of the semester and must repeat the course the following semester. The student will be responsible for any repeat course fees.

- Passing MD5 after repeating
 - Please refer to the MD5 requirements section of the policy
- Failing MD5 after repeating
 - The student will be academically dismissed from SJSJ due to failure to progress.

1. NBME CBSE First Attempt

A student who achieves the requisite score of 64 on their first NBME CBSE attempt at the end of MD5:

- The student will be assigned a grade for BSRC/SBRC based on their coursework performance.
- The Basic Science portion of the program will be marked as completed.
- The student will be eligible to sit for the USMLE Step 1 Exam and the school must receive the Step 1 status verification from ECFMG within 45 days of receiving a passing NBME CBSE score.

A student who fails to achieve the required score of 64 on the NBME CBSE on their first attempt:

- An Incomplete (I) grade will be assigned for BSRC/SBRC.
- The student must then register for the USMLE Focus program (See Section 2)
- Students are required to complete the USMLE Focus program before registering for their next NBME CBSE attempt.
- Failure to attend the USMLE Focus program will result in Administrative Withdrawal according to the Attendance Policy.

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2. Step 1 Focus (4 months)

Any student who fails the NBME CBSE at the end of MD5 (CBSE Attempt 1) must register for the approved Step 1 prep program, also called the Step 1 Focus course (Cost: \$2,195)

- Students will be automatically registered in the next upcoming Step 1 Focus session and the program cost will be applied to your student finance account.
- Students are required to enroll and pass the Step 1 Focus course (with a cumulative score of 70% or higher) before registering for their next NBME CBSE attempt NBME CBSE Attempt 2.
- Students are required to attempt the NBME CBSE within 2 months after the Step 1 Focus course is completed.
- If the student achieves the requisite score of 64 on the NBME CBSE they will be eligible to sit for the USMLE Step 1 Exam and the school must receive the Step 1 status verification from ECFMG within 45 days of receiving a passing NBME CBSE score.
- If the student fails to achieve the requisite score on the NBME CBSE, they will proceed to the Core Concept Review Program (CCRP) (See Section 3)
- Students who fail the USMLE Focus course (i.e. cumulative grade below 70%), must repeat the course and pay the associated fees. Any associated NBME CBSE attempts that are scheduled will be cancelled.

Failure to take the NBME CBSE (2nd attempt) within the 2 months following completion of the Step 1 Focus course, will lead to automatic enrollment in the CCRP (Section 3) .

- Failure to follow progression policy will result in Administrative Withdrawal due to inactivity according to the Attendance Policy.

3. Core Concept Review Program (CCRP) (14 months)

Any student who fails the NBME CBSE after Step 1 Focus Program (NBME CBSE Attempt 2) or does not sit for the NBME CBSE 2nd attempt within 2 months of completion of USMLE Focus, will be automatically registered for the Core Concept Review Program (CCRP). The CCRP was developed to help students review and reinforce core concepts. Students will remain in CCRP status until they pass USMLE Step 1 and progress to Clinical Rotations or progress to Section 4.

- The CCRP consists of structured counselling sessions, NBME and USMLE -style mock examinations, question formulation exercises, and small group study.
 - Mock CBSE exams are online proctored exams offered on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. This exam consists of 4 blocks of 50 questions each, to be completed in a total of 5 hours and aims to simulate the CBSE Exam.
 - Additionally, the Step One Proficiency Exam (SOPE) is also offered on the 2nd Tuesday of every month, which consists of 7 blocks of 40 questions each, to be completed in a total of 8 hours. This

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exam aims to simulate the USMLE Step 1 Exam. The score of the SOPE does not count against the student if below 70%, but if above 70%, may be used to fulfil CCRP score requirements, thereby offering a fast track to fulfilling CCRP requirements, if necessary.

- CCRP requirements to proceed for the next NBME CBSE attempt:
 - One counselling session with assigned USMLE Counsellor at least once a month: Students are not allowed to register for the Mock NBME exam without at least completed counselling session.
 - At least One (1) Mock NBME Exam every month
 - Students must achieve two (2) Mock NBME Examination scores greater than or equal to 70%.
 - There is currently no cost to the CCRP.
 - Students may continue in the CCRP for a maximum of 14 consecutive months, after which they will be progressed to the Comprehensive Remedial Program (See Section 4).
 - Students are mandatorily required to take the mock exams every month. If a student fails to take a mock exam in a given month without prior clearance from CCRP Support Services, student will be considered a No Show.
- Missing 3 consecutive mock exams is considered grounds for dismissal from the school.**
- Students are required to be in good financial standing with the school at all times during the CCRP.
 - Students who achieve the required scores of two (2) Mock CBSE Examination scores greater than or equal to 70%, will receive notification from the school that they have been cleared to proceed for the next CBSE attempt.

The student is required to sign up for the NBME CBSE (Attempt 3) within 45 days of receiving the notice of clearing the CCRP requirements, failing which the student will have to meet the CCRP requirements once again.

This attempt at the NBME CBSE exam is scheduled by the student to be taken at a Prometric Center during a predetermined testing window. The student schedules the NBME CBSE through SJSM.

o <https://www.sjsmcentral.com/en/prequal-exam-information/>

- If the student achieves the requisite score of 64 on the NBME CBSE the student will be eligible to sit for the USMLE Step 1 Exam and the school must receive the Step 1 status verification from ECFMG within 45 days of receiving a passing NBME CBSE score.
- If the student fails to achieve the requisite score of 64 on the NBME CBSE (attempt 3), they will be required to continue in the CCRP until they achieve the CCRP requirements once again.

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Failure to follow progression policy will result in Administrative Withdrawal due to inactivity according to the Attendance Policy.

4. Comprehensive Remedial Program (6 months)

Any student who fails to clear the NBME CBSE (Attempt 3) within the 14 months of Core Concept Review Program (CCRP) will be registered for the Comprehensive Remedial Program.

- The Comprehensive Remedial Program is a 20-week program conducted in Chicago, IL. It is composed of didactic class instruction, as well as supervised clinical rotation experience.
- The cost of the Comprehensive Remedial Program is \$18,125, which can be deducted from the clinical tuition deposit. If the student does not have sufficient balance on their financial account, he/she must pay for the course out of pocket.
- During the Comprehensive Remedial Program, students will be required to attend and participate in class/clinical sessions. Students may optionally continue to participate in the CCRP, as a method of keeping up with their readiness to take the NBME or USMLE exams.
- Students will be automatically registered for the NBME CBSE attempt after he/she has completed 12 weeks of the Comprehensive Remedial Program. The CBSE exam is scheduled to be taken at a Prometric Center during a predetermined testing window.
- Students will be permitted one CBSE attempt after completion of the Comprehensive Remedial Program. Students will be automatically registered for the first CBSE testing window following the end-date of their Comprehensive Remedial Program.
- If the student achieves the requisite score of 64 in the NBME CBSE they will progress to the USMLE Step 1 exam as per Section 1 of this policy.
- If the student fails to achieve the requisite score of 64 on the NBME CBSE, they will be Academically Dismissed due to Failure to Progress.

5. Failing the USMLE Step 1 Exam

Any student who has failed the USMLE Step 1 exam on their first attempt will resume progression at whichever progression phase the student last attended (Sections 2, 3 or 4).

Any student who has failed the USMLE Step 1 after the Step 1 Focus Program is required to register for CCRP and meet the CCRP requirements before being allowed to attempt the next NBME CBSE.

Any student who fails the USMLE Step 1 Exam after the Comprehensive Remedial Program will be Academically Dismissed.

If the USMLE Step 1 exam has been attempted and failed a second time at any point in the progression, the student will be Academically Dismissed.

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Students must pass Step 1 within 24 months of completing their MD5 course requirements (this does not include the NBME CBSE). Failure to pass Step 1 within 24 months of completing MD5 course requirements results in Administrative Withdrawal from SJSM.
- Any student who withdraws or transfers from the program before passing the NBME CBSE will have a W grade assigned for MD5.
- Any student who received a score ≤ 40 in any two NBME CBSE will be Academically Dismissed from the program.
- There will be a maximum of 5 attempts for the NBME CBSE for each student.
- USMLE Focus course and Comprehensive Remedial Program are third party affiliated programs