

Migration of Step 3 Examination to New Software for Computer-Based USMLE in March 2009

A new version of the software used to deliver the computer-based USMLE Step examinations was introduced in mid-August 2008. The Step 3 Examination is scheduled to be migrated to the new version in March 2009.

The migration is expected to begin at a small number of test centers on March 9, and will then be phased in at remaining test centers during the week of March 16. **If you plan to take the Step 3 examination in March 2009 or later**, you should familiarize yourself with both the current test delivery software and the new version.

Because the Step 3 examination is a 2-day exam, no Step 3 examinations can be administered when a test center is migrating to the new test delivery software (in order to prevent migration of the software between the first and second day of an administration). **For this reason, no Step 3 examinations can be scheduled on the following dates in March 2009:**

March 9-10, 2009

March 16-22, 2009

Orientation and practice materials using both the current and new versions of the software are available for downloading by clicking here. <http://www.usmle.org/Orientation/2009/menu.html>

The change to the test delivery software will be accounted for in scoring the examination results, so that scores will be comparable to those of exams using the older software. Because of this change, as well as routine modifications to the test item pool, it will be necessary to delay the reporting of scores for some examinees. The normal turnaround time for reporting scores to Step 3 examinees is 3 to 4 weeks. However, during this transition, turnaround time for some examinees may be as long as 6 to 8 weeks. **The target date for reporting Step 3 scores for most examinees testing from early March through late April will be Wednesday, May 13, 2009.**

It is possible that scores will be available earlier – please check this website for updates.