

Administration of the U.S. Medical Licensing Examination Step 3: Time Limits for Completion

SMB	Number of times candidates for licensure may take USMLE Step 3	Requirements to repeat Step 3 if not passed in designated number of attempts
AL	3	Further education or training
AK	2	
AZ-M	No Limit	
AZ-O	No Limit	
AR	3	Must have either completed additional PGT or ABMS certified
CA-M	4	Minimum of 4 years continuous licensure in another state and ABMS certified may be considered
CA-O	No Limit	
CO	No Limit	
CT	No Limit	None
DE	6	
DC	3	After 3 failed attempts, 1 additional year ACGME- or AOA-approved GME
FL-M	No Limit	N/A
FL-O	N/A	N/A
GA	3	1 year of additional Board-approved training
GU	No Limit	
HI	No Limit	
ID	After 2 failed attempts, licensee may be interviewed or evaluated by the board	Remedial training; may be required to be interviewed, evaluated, or examined by the Board
IL	5 combined all steps	A person who has failed any combination of steps 5 times must undergo remedial education
IN	3	
IA	3	After 3 failed attempts, 3 years of progressive GME required
KS	3	After 3 failed attempts, must appear before Board for approval to take a fourth or subsequent attempt
KY	4	
LA	4	
ME-M	3	After 3 failed attempts, applicant may request waiver
ME-O	No Limit	
MD	No limit - however physicians are required to meet certain criteria if they fail an exam 3 or more times	
MA	3	
MI-M	Not more than 4 attempts for any step	Must pass within 4 years of first sitting for Step 3; Otherwise must complete 1 year of postgraduate training before re-sitting
MI-O		
MN	3 (4 if currently licensed in another state and specialty board certified)	
MS	3	After 3 failed attempts, 1 additional year ACGME- or AOA-approved GME
MO	3	
MP	No Limit	
MT	6	
NE	4	
NV-M	3	
NV-O		
NH	3	Further education, training, or experience
NJ	5	Further education, training, or experience
NM	6 (within 7 years of first pass)	
NY	No Limit	
NC	3	
ND	3	
OH	6	No applicant may have failed any step more than 5 times
OK-M	3	
OK-O	After 4 failed attempts, may be required to appear before the Board	
OR	4	After 3 failed attempts, 1 year of GME required before 4th attempt
PA-M	No Limit	
PA-O		
PR	No Limit	
RI	3	
SC	4	
SD	3	None
TN-M	3 then show ABMS Certification & MOC	
TN-O	No Limit	N/A
TX	3	
UT	3	Remedial training
VT-M	3	
VT-O	N/A	N/A
VI	N/A	
VA	No Limit	
WA-M	3	Remedial training
WA-O	N/A	
WV-M	6	
WV-O	N/A	
WI	3	Board review
WY	7 attempts (all 3 steps)	1 additional year of training or other assessment, training, or evaluation program(s)

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SMB	Time limit for completion of all steps of USMLE	Time limit for MD/PhD or dual-degree candidates	Time limit may be waived in event of extenuating circumstances
AL	7 years	10 years	Yes, if ABMS or AOA certified
AK	7 years	10 years	No
AZ-M	No Limit	No Limit	No
AZ-O	No Limit	No Limit	N/A
AR	No Limit	No Limit	Yes, documented personal or health problems
CA-M	No Limit	No Limit	Yes
CA-O	No Limit	No Limit	N/A
CO	7 years	10 years	Yes
CT	No Limit	No Limit	No
DE	7 years	N/A	No
DC	7 years	10 years	Yes
FL-M	No Limit	No Limit	N/A
FL-O	Does not accept USMLE	Does not accept USMLE	N/A
GA	7 years	9 years	Yes, if ABMS or AOA certified
GU	No Limit	No Limit	No
HI	No Limit	No Limit	No
ID	No Limit	10 years	Yes
IL	7 years	N/A	Yes
IN	10 years	10 years	Yes
IA	10 years (If not, then active ABMS or AOA board certification or proof delay was due to participation was due to participation in joint MD/PhD program)		Yes
KS	No Limit	No Limit	Yes
KY	No Limit	No Limit	No
LA	10 years	No Limit	Yes
ME-M	7 years		Yes
ME-O	No Limit	No Limit	N/A
MD	No Limit	No Limit	No Limit
MA	7 years	7 years with a maximum of 10 years	Yes, may request waiver under special conditions
MI-M	7 years	N/A	No
MI-O		N/A	N/A
MN	Within 5 years of passing Step 2 or by end of training	N/A	Yes, medical illness
MS	7 years	N/A	Yes
MO	7 years	Waived for MD/PhD candidates	
MP	No Limit	No Limit	
MT	7 years	Exception may be granted	Yes
NE	10 years	N/A	
NV-M	7 years	10 years	N/A
NV-O	No Limit	No Limit	N/A
NH	No Limit	No Limit	N/A
NJ	7 yrs	N/A	Yes
NM	7 yrs	10 yrs	Yes
NY	No limit	No Limit	—
NC	No limit	No Limit	Waived if certified/recertified by ABMS, CCFP, FRCP, AOA, or ABOMS within past 10 years
ND	No Limit	No Limit	No
OH	10 yrs	10 yrs	Yes
OK-M	10 yrs	10 yrs	No
OK-O	No Limit	No Limit	N/A
OR	7 yrs	Exception may be granted	Yes
PA-M	7 yrs	N/A	N/A
PA-O		N/A	N/A
PR	7 yrs	N/A	N/A
RI	7 yrs	N/A	Yes
SC	10 yrs	N/A	No
SD	No Limit	10 yrs must be a dual-degree program	Yes, if ABMS certified
TN-M	10 yrs	N/A	Yes
TN-O	No Limit	No Limit	N/A
TX	7 yrs	2 years after required GME	Yes
UT	No Limit	No Limit	No
VT-M	7 yrs	10 yrs	Yes, if specialty board certified and other conditions are met
VT-O	No Limit	No Limit	N/A
VI	No Limit	No Limit	No
VA	10 yrs	—	Yes, if ABMS certified
WA-M	7 yrs	10 yrs	Yes
WA-O	No Limit	N/A	N/A
WV-M	10 yrs	10 yrs	No
WV-O	N/A	N/A	N/A
WI	10 yrs	12 yrs	No
WY	7 yrs	8 yrs	No