

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	N/A	
AR	3	Must have either completed additional PGT or be ABMS certified.
CA-M	4	Minimum of 4 years continuous licensure in another state and ABMS certified may be considered
CA-O	N/A	N/A
CO	No limit	
CT	No limit	None
DE	6	
DC	3	After 3 failed attempts, 1 additional yr ACGME- or AOA-approved GME
FL-M	No limit	N/A
FL-O	N/A	N/A
GA	3	1 yr 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 yrs 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	N/A	N/A
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 3 attempts for any Step	Must pass within 4 yrs of first sitting for Step 3; Otherwise, must complete 1 yr of postgraduate training before re-sitting
MI-O	N/A	N/A
MN	3 (4 if currently licensed in another state and specialty board certified)	—
MS	3	After 3 failed attempts, 1 additional yr ACGME- or AOA-approved GME
MO	3	
MP		
MT	6	—
NE	4	
NV-M	3	
NV-O	N/A	N/A
NH	3	Further education, training, or experience
NJ	5	Further education, training, or experience
NM	6 (within 7 yrs 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	N/A	N/A
OR	4	After 3 failed attempts, 1 yr of GME required before 4th attempt
PA-M	No limit	
PA-O	N/A	N/A
PR	No limit	
RI	3	
SC	4	
SD	3 as long as other steps have no failure	None
TN-M	3 then show ABMS cert & proof of meeting requirements	
TN-O	N/A	N/A
TX	3	
UT-M	3	Remedial training
UT-O	N/A	
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 yrs	10 yrs	Yes (if ABMS or AOA certified)
AK	7 yrs	10 yrs	No
AZ-M	7 yrs (initial applicants only)	N/A	No
AZ-O	N/A	N/A	N/A
AR	No limit	No limit	No
CA-M	10 yrs	–	Yes
CA-O	N/A	N/A	N/A
CO	7 yrs	10 yrs	Yes
CT	7 yrs	No	No
DE	7 yrs	N/A	No
DC	7 yrs	10 yrs	Yes
FL-M	No limit	N/A	N/A
FL-O	N/A	N/A	N/A
GA	7 yrs	9 yrs	Yes
GU	7 yrs	N/A	No
HI	No limit	No limit	N/A
ID	7 yrs	10 yrs	Yes
IL	7 yrs	N/A	Yes
IN	10 yrs	10 yrs	Yes
IA	10 yrs (If not, then active ABMS or AOA board certification or proof delay was due to participation in joint MD/PhD program)	–	Yes
KS	10 yrs	N/A	Yes
KY	No limit	N/A	No
LA	10 yrs	N/A	Yes
ME-M	7 yrs	–	Yes
ME-O	N/A	N/A	N/A
MD	No limit	No limit	No limit
MA	7 yrs	7 yrs with a maximum of 10 yrs	May request waiver under special conditions
MI-M	7 yrs	N/A	No
MI-O	N/A	N/A	N/A
MN	Within 5 yrs of passing Step 2 or by end of training	N/A	Yes (medical illness)
MS	7 yrs	N/A	Yes
MO	7 yrs	Waived for MD/PhD candidates	–
MP			
MT	7 yrs	Exception may be granted	Yes
NE	10 yrs	N/A	–
NV-M	7 yrs	10 yrs	N/A
NV-O	N/A	N/A	N/A
NH	7 yrs	N/A	N/A
NJ	7 yrs	N/A	Yes
NM	7 yrs	10 yrs	Yes
NY	No limit	N/A	–
NC	No limit	N/A	N/A
ND	7 yrs	Exception may be granted	No
OH	10 yrs	10 yrs	Yes
OK-M	10 yrs	10 yrs	No
OK-O	N/A	N/A	N/A
OR	7 yrs	Exception may be granted	Yes
PA-M	7 yrs	N/A	N/A
PA-O	N/A	N/A	N/A
PR	7 yrs	N/A	N/A
RI	7 yrs	N/A	Yes
SC	10 yrs	N/A	No
SD	7 yrs	10 yrs must be a dual-degree program	Yes (if ABMS certified)
TN-M	10 yrs	N/A	Yes
TN-O	N/A	N/A	N/A
TX	7 yrs	2 years after required GME	Yes
UT-M	7 yrs	10 yrs	No
UT-O	N/A	N/A	N/A
VT-M	7 yrs	10 yrs	Yes (if specialty board certified and other conditions are met)
VT-O	N/A	N/A	N/A
VI	N/A	N/A	No
VA	10 yrs	–	Yes (if ABMS certified)
WA-M	7 yrs	10 yrs	Yes
WA-O	N/A	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