Policy on the Timing and Passing of the United States Medical Licensing Examination ® (USMLE®)

The USMLE is a three-step examination for medical licensure in the United States and is sponsored by the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) and the National Board of Medical Examiners® (NBME®). The USMLE assesses a physician's ability to apply knowledge, concepts, and principles, and to demonstrate fundamental patient-centered skills, that are important in health and disease and that constitute the basis of safe and effective patient care. Each of the three Steps of the USMLE complements the others.

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (JHUSOM) medical students must take and pass Step 1 USMLE by graduation.

JHUSOM medical students must schedule both components of Step II (Clinical Skills and Clinical Knowledge) by December of their fourth year, and sit for the examination prior to graduation. It is advantageous, but not required, to take Step 2 Clinical Skills near the beginning of Quarter Two of Year Four, and Step 2 Clinical Knowledge by the end of December of Year Four, because many hospitals are encouraging students to successfully pass both Step 2 components so that they can rank applicants in the Match.

JHUSOM medical students take Step 3 after graduation.