

MD Degree Time Limitations

Owner Department: Office of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs

Owner: Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs

Affected Department(s) or Parties: All Students at Carle Illinois College of Medicine

Effective Date: September 20, 2023

Revision Date: September 20, 2023

Next Review Date: September 20, 2026

Policy Number: APS-33

Purpose and General Requirements:

The undergraduate medical education (UME) program leading to the Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree at Carle Illinois College of Medicine is designed to be completed in twelve semesters over the course of four years. Students seeking only the MD degree must successfully complete all curricular requirements, including United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1 and USMLE Step 2 CK, within a maximum time frame of six years after the date of matriculation (i.e., the first day of the first class in the UME program). Students who exceed this time limit are subject to review for continued enrollment by the Student Progress and Promotions Committee (SPPC) and may be dismissed from the UME program.

Leaves of Absence:

Students may be granted leaves of absence from the UME program for various purposes such as pursuing additional degrees (e.g., Master's or Doctoral degrees), completing a graduate certificate, and engaging in research or innovation opportunities. The period during which students are on a leave of absence to pursue an additional degree or complete a graduate certificate will be excluded from the six-year cumulative maximum time frame for MD degree completion.

Joint Degree Students:

Students pursuing another degree, or a graduate certificate, must adhere to the same six-year time limitation as all other medical students for the completion of the MD degree. However, time spent participating primarily in graduate studies will not count toward the time limits for MD degree completion. The time limits for the completion of the graduate portion of the student's education will be outlined in the Graduate College Handbook.

USMLE Step 1 Requirement:

All students are required to pass USMLE Step 1 within three years of matriculation to the UME program, including leave of absences. Students who fail to pass USMLE Step 1 within this time frame will undergo a review by the SPPC and may be dismissed from the UME program.

Extenuating Circumstances and Petitions:

Students may submit a petition for an extension to the SPPC. Students should work with the Office of Student Affairs to submit the petition in a timely fashion in accordance with SPPC requirements. The petition must be submitted in writing to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs, and it must explain the extenuating circumstances (i.e., health, hardship, and family circumstances) and the rationale for needing more than six years to graduate with the MD degree or more than three years to pass USMLE Step 1.

Governing Body: Curriculum Oversight Committee

History: Originally created on May 25, 2020, revised September 2023

Approved By/Date: Curriculum Oversight Committee, June 3, 2020; Curriculum Oversight Committee, September 20, 2023