

United States Medical Licensing Examination™

2007 USMLE BULLETIN

Testing

The USMLE program has established rules to govern administration of the examinations to ensure that no examinee or group of examinees receives unfair advantage on the examination, inadvertently or otherwise. The rules include standard test administration conditions consistent with the principles on which the examinations are developed and scored. For example, examinations are designed to sample knowledge across specified content domains and unauthorized access to examination content prior to testing violates that principle.

If there is a reason to believe that the integrity of the examination process is jeopardized, the USMLE parent organizations may invalidate all or any part of an examination. If information indicates that continued testing would jeopardize the security of examination materials or the integrity of scores, the USMLE parent organizations reserve the right to suspend or cancel test administration.

Testing Regulations and Rules of Conduct

Test center staff monitor all testing sessions for USMLE Steps. You must follow instructions of test center staff throughout the examination. Failure to do so may result in a determination of [irregular behavior](#) and permanent annotation of your USMLE transcript.

Test center staff are not authorized to answer questions from examinees regarding examination content, testing software, or scoring.

If staff observe you violating test administration rules or engaging in other forms of irregular behavior during an examination, the center staff will not necessarily tell you of the observation at the time of the examination. Test center staff are required to report such incidents to the USMLE program; each report is fully investigated.

Personal Items

Unauthorized possession of personal items while in the secure areas of the testing centers may lead to a finding of irregular behavior and permanent annotation of your USMLE transcript. **It is important that you read and understand the rules regarding personal possessions; the rules for Steps 1, 2 CK, and 3 differ from those for Step 2 CS.** Also, for Step 2 CS, you should understand that the entire testing session from orientation until the evaluation is completed, including all breaks, is considered a closed and secure testing session, and that the entire test center, including the orientation room and the restrooms, is a secure testing area. Therefore the rules regarding unauthorized possession during Step 2 CS extend to the orientation room and to all breaks.

For Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 3, unauthorized items include, but are not limited to:

- mechanical or electronic devices, such as cellular telephones, personal digital assistants (PDAs), calculators, watches of any type, electronic paging devices, recording or filming devices, radios;
- outerwear, such as coats, jackets, head wear, gloves;
- book bags, backpacks, handbags, briefcases, wallets;
- books, notes, study materials, or scratch paper;
- food, candy, gum, or beverages.

Rules of Conduct

When you apply to take the USMLE, you are agreeing to the following Rules of Conduct:

1. You are the person named on the Scheduling Permit for the examination.
2. You will not give, receive, or obtain any form of unauthorized assistance during the examination or during breaks.
3. You will not have in your possession any formulas, study materials, notes, papers, or electronic devices of any kind unless you are out of the secure areas of the center.
4. You will place in a locker or cubicle all personal belongings, including cellular telephones, watches, pagers,

personal digital assistants (PDAs), formulas, study materials, notes, papers, and your purse or wallet, before you enter the testing room (or Orientation Room for Step 2 CS).

5. During the computer-based examinations (Steps 1, 2 CK, and 3), you will not leave your testing station for breaks unless the break screen is visible on your monitor. It will be considered a violation of the Rules of Conduct if you indicate on the center log that your break screen is visible when it is not.
6. During computer-based testing (Steps 1, 2 CK, and 3) you may use a telephone or other communication device only during an authorized break. You may not use it for any purpose related to test content. During Step 2 CS you may not use a telephone at any time while you are in the testing center.
7. You will not remove materials in any form (written, printed, recorded, or any other type) from the test center.
8. All examination materials remain the property of the USMLE parent organizations, and you will maintain the confidentiality of the materials, including the multiple-choice items, and the case content for Step 2 CS and *Primum* CCS. You will not reproduce or attempt to reproduce examination materials through memorization or any other means. Also, you will not provide information relating to examination content that may give or attempt to give unfair advantage to individuals who may be taking the examination. This includes postings regarding examination content and/or answers on the Internet.

If you violate these Rules of Conduct, you may be directed to leave the test center before you complete the examination. Also, evidence of violation of any test administration rule, including these Rules of Conduct, will result in actions being taken under USMLE policies and procedures on irregular behavior. If you are found to have engaged in irregular behavior, your score report and transcripts will include this finding, and you may be barred from taking the USMLE in the future.