

Testing and Educational Methods Accommodation Policy

An individual seeking the M.D. degree at the West Virginia University School of Medicine must be capable of acquiring and demonstrating all program objectives across the six core competencies, which include medical knowledge, patient care, interpersonal and communication skills, practice-based learning and improvement, professionalism, and system-based practice. If a student desires special accommodations for examination testing and/or educational methods within the M.D. degree curriculum, the student must make such a request in writing to an Associate Dean for Student Services. Technological compensation and reasonable accommodations may be required by otherwise-qualified individual candidates to meet the functional technical standards, but a candidate should be able to perform in a reasonably independent manner.

The student must clearly state the reasons such accommodations should be made, what accommodations are being requested, and provide documentation from a health care professional supporting this request. Individuals enrolled in the medical school M.D. program must submit requests in a timely manner, as defined as 10 working days prior to implementing an accommodation.

The Associate Dean will review the information and decide if such a request is reasonable, and can be reasonably accommodated given the rigors of the M.D. degree curriculum. Depending on when and the type of accommodation requested, the Associate Dean may collaborate with the Office of Accessibility Services (OAS) to determine whether reasonable accommodations can be provided, which do not cause a fundamental alteration of the medical education program, and are consistent with the standards of the medical profession. Students are advised that the Associate Dean can accept, reject or modify the specific accommodation being requested.

If the accommodation is approved, it is the student's responsibility to alert the course director(s) in a timely manner (as defined by 10 working days prior to implementing the accommodation) about the requested accommodation(s). Students may request accommodations for some but not necessarily all courses. The Associate Dean will then convey the approved accommodations to the course director(s) for implementation.

Students should be aware that School of Medicine special approval testing and educational methods accommodations do not guarantee that the same or similar accommodations will be provided by nationally standardized examinations, such as those administered by the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) such as the United States Licensing Examination (USMLE). Students should submit requests directly to the USMLE, which sets their own requirements for requests for accommodations <http://www.usmle.org/test-accommodations/>. We advise students that the process to compile information (e.g., personal statement requesting the accommodations, letters and documentation from healthcare providers detailing a disability evaluation, etc...) may take more than three months to complete. Once a request is submitted to NBME, it may take 90 days or more for NBME to process the request and submit a decision. Students are therefore advised to begin the NBME accommodation request process at least 10 months prior to taking the USMLE Step 1, Step 2CK or Step 2CS exams. Student's may request students services to submit a letter of support, which will include details about approved accommodations at West Virginia University School of Medicine M.D. program.

Implemented August 1999

Revised July 2003

Update August 2012

Update May 2018

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LCME Element 8.7 Comparability of Education/Assessment

A medical school ensures that the medical curriculum includes comparable educational experiences and equivalent methods of assessment across all locations within a given course and clerkship to ensure that all medical students achieve the same medical education program objectives.