California Medical Licensing
A Resource for UCSF Residents and Clinical Fellows

In order to participate in a graduate medical education program at UCSF, all residents and clinical fellows must follow the medical licensing laws of the state of California.

Residents and clinical fellows should begin the licensing process at least nine months prior to the date a license is required. In order to ensure on-time licensure, USMLE Step III should be taken during the PGY1 year. All documentation must be completed clearly, legibly, accurately, and truthfully. Send documents to the Medical Board as they are complete. It is best to use a service like FedEx or UPS in order to track delivery of the documents. Fingerprints (preferably Live Scan - digital) should be done as early in the process as possible. Fingerprint delays can happen and nothing can be done to speed up the process.

When completing the application, applicants should not include their home addresses as they will appear on the Medical Board website. UCSF addresses should be used.

This resource has been provided by the GME Resident and Fellow Affairs Committee.

United States and Canadian Medical Graduates must have completed a minimum of 12 months of ACGME training in order to qualify for a California medical license and must obtain a license by the first day of the 25th month of ACGME training. In addition, the USMLE Step III must have been taken and passed.

International Medical Graduates must have completed a minimum of 24 months of ACGME training in order to qualify for a California medical license and must obtain a license by the first day of the 37th month of ACGME training. In addition, the USMLE Step III must have been taken and passed.

License Expiration occurs on the last day of the physician’s birth month. The length of the initial license varies from 13 to 24 months depending upon when the license is initially granted. Obtaining a license during birth month means a full 24 months before first renewal. Trainees should not wait until their birth month to send in licensing documentation if they would like to be granted the full 24 months of licensure before a renewal is required (submit all documents and complete the birth month form). After initial licensure, a license is good for two years and expires on the last day of the birth month.

Required Documentation can be found on the Medical Board website.

- Completed and submitted by **applicant**: ✓ L1A-F (application) ✓ Fees ✓ Curriculum Vitae ✓ Fingerprints

- Requested by applicant and submitted by **training program(s)**: ✓ L3A-B ✓ L4 (if applicable)

- Requested by applicant and submitted by **medical school**: ✓ Transcript ✓ Certified copy of diploma ✓ L2

- Requested by applicant and submitted by **USMLE**: ✓ USMLE Transcripts

Resources are available to assist residents and clinical fellows when applying for or renewing their California medical licenses, however, they should always ask their program coordinator first:

- ✓ UCSF Eligibility, Recruitment, and Selection Policy: [http://medschool2.ucsf.edu/gme/](http://medschool2.ucsf.edu/gme/)
- ✓ California Medical Board: [http://www.mbc.ca.gov/](http://www.mbc.ca.gov/)
- ✓ UCSF Office of GME: [http://meded.ucsf.edu/gme](http://meded.ucsf.edu/gme) or (415) 476-4562

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