UCSF Medical Student Licensing Exam Timeline

UCSF
University of California San Francisco

F1 FOUNDATIONS 1

Y1 YEAR 1

BUILD MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE

- **Foundations 1 (F1)** of the Bridges Curriculum provides you with the basic science knowledge required to succeed on Step 1 and beyond.
- **Open-ended question exams** help establish an early foundation for clinical reasoning.
- **Weekly medical knowledge checkpoints** include NBME-style multiple-choice questions to help you build your skills.
- **Attend Peer Teaching Program sessions** to reinforce high-yield material.

CONSULT WITH MENTORS/ADVISORS

- **Meet with your Course Directors,** Bridges Coach, SET Learning Specialist, and/or Pre-Clinical Advisor to review your academic progress and performance.
- **Review your Medical Knowledge (MK)** student dashboard and connect with a One-on-One Peer Tutor or a Medical Knowledge representative for support in areas needing improvement.
- **If eligible, apply to PILLAR Summer** to strengthen Year 1 foundational science content and prepare for Year 2 and clerkships.
- **Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP) and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Postgraduate Program (OMFS)** students should meet with their Program Directors to discuss their individualized Step 1 and Step 2 timelines.

EXPLORE TOOLS (NOVEMBER)

- **Activate your free, two-year UWorld subscription** for Step 1 and Step 2 preparation. You will receive separate codes for Step 1 and Step 2 QBanks.
- **Use the Step 1 QBank** to prepare for the Step 1 Exam.
- **Use the Step 2 QBank** to prepare for both Step 2 and NBME Subject ("Shelf") Exams during clerkships.
- **Take your first Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessment (CBSSA)** during the fall of Year 2 to establish an early benchmark for Step 1 readiness.

Y2 YEAR 2

F2 FOUNDATIONS 2

Y3 YEAR 3

APPLY MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE

- **Apply the knowledge and skills** developed during pre-clerkship coursework in the clinical learning environment to reinforce learning.
- **UC Berkeley-UCSF Joint Medical Program (JMP) students should meet with a SET Clinical Student Advisor** or Learning Specialist to review available resources and prepare for clerkships.
- **NBME Subject ("Shelf") Exams are administered** during Core Clerkships and help you prepare for board exams that use clinical vignette-style, multiple-choice questions.
- If you require exam accommodations for Step 1 and Step 2, you must **apply through the NBME USMLE Testing Accommodations** process 3 to 6 months in advance of your planned exam date. Attend the USMLE Step Accommodations Info Session hosted by UCSF in June to learn more about the application process.

PLAN FOR STEP 1 (AUGUST – DECEMBER)

- **Sit for the Comprehensive Basic Science Exam (CBSE)** during PI Week 6. Your results will guide your preparation for Steps 1 and 2.
- **Review biweekly "Step Prep Digests"** to stay informed about Step 1 and Step 2 deadlines.
- **Register for Step 1** between September and November.
- **Develop a Step 1 study plan** and submit it to your Bridges Coach and SET Learning Specialist for review.
- **Meet with your Bridges Coach** to discuss and refine your study plan.
- **Optional: Apply to PILLAR Winter**, a structured Step 1 support program offered in person at Parnassus during the licensing exam dedicated period.
- **Optional: Attend Study Planning Office Hours** with Peer Step Study Coaches to explore study tools and refine your study plan.

LICENSING EXAM DEDICATED PERIOD (JANUARY – FEBRUARY)

- **Prepare for and take Step 1.**
- **Use your free Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessment voucher** (NBME form) by the end of January to assess your progress.
- **Read "Step Prep Digests"** for study tips, resources, and NBME/USMLE updates.
- **Attend** Peer Step Study Coach office hours.
- **Review your Step 2 estimated score range** and schedule a check-in meeting with your Bridges Coach, SET Learning Specialist and/or Specialty Advisor to discuss your Step 2 timeline and goals.

- **Take Step 1** by the end of dedicated period. You must take Step 1 before progressing into Career Launch.

CL CAREER LAUNCH

Y4 YEAR 4

PLAN FOR STEP 2 (MARCH)

- **Review the Guide for Meeting with Specialty Advisors** and attend individual or group advising sessions to better understand the role of Step 2 in your intended specialty.
- **Develop a** Step 2 study plan that aligns with your Career Launch schedule and submit to your Bridges Coach and SET Learning Specialist for review.
- **Meet with your Bridges Coach** to discuss and refine your study plan.
- **Attend the Step 2 Student Panel** and/or Peer Step Study Coach office hours to learn about study tools and resources.
- **Optional: Apply to the PILLAR Spring Pilot**, a structured Step 2 support program.
- **Use your free Comprehensive Clinical Science Self-Assessment voucher** (NBME form) to establish a baseline or assess your progress.

STEP 2 SEASON (APRIL – JULY)

- **Prepare for and take Step 2.**
- **Enroll in IDS 199A/B** for a two- or four-week dedicated Step 2 study period.
- **Optional: Consider taking Step 2** in April or May to receive personalized residency application advising, and before you begin your Sub-Internships (Sub-Is).

- **Take Step 2** by the end of July to ensure scores are available for residency applications.

RESIDENCY APPLICATIONS (SEPTEMBER)

- **Meet with a Specialty Career Advisor** to review your Step 2 score and finalize your application and signaling strategy.
- **Include your Step 1 and Step 2 results** in your residency applications.
- **Celebrate** reaching this important milestone in your medical education journey!

Comments or Questions?

Heather Yaden
Learning Success Specialist
heather.yaden@ucsf.edu

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