



ECFMGSM

2006 Information Booklet

ECFMG[®] CERTIFICATION

News

- ECFMG Celebrates 50th Anniversary
- New USMLE[™] Test Delivery Software
- On-line Application Process Simplified for Graduates

and more...see page *vii*.

www.ecfm.org

Apply On-line for Step 1 and Step 2 (Clinical Knowledge and Clinical Skills) of the United States Medical Licensing Examination[™] (USMLE) using IWA.

Subscribe to *The ECFMG[®] Reporter* for important updates on ECFMG Certification and entry into graduate medical education in the United States.

Access your Information On-line using OASIS.

Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates

3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104-2685 USA

www.ecfm.org

Form 100S, August 2005

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

The ECFMG *Information Booklet* contains detailed information on ECFMG's program of certification and ECFMG's other programs and services for international medical students and graduates. The 2006 edition of the *Information Booklet* is associated with corresponding application materials for Step 1 and Step 2 (Clinical Knowledge and Clinical Skills components) of the United States Medical Licensing Examination™ (USMLE™).

Applicants for examination must use the appropriate edition of the *Information Booklet*/application materials. The 2006 *Information Booklet* and USMLE application materials pertain to eligibility periods in 2006. If your eligibility period extends into 2007 and you test in 2007, you must become familiar with and will be subject to the policies and procedures detailed in the 2007 *Information Booklet*. The 2007 *Information Booklet*/application materials are expected to be available in August 2006. Eligibility periods are explained on pages 23-25.

The USMLE *Bulletin of Information* provides information about the United States Medical Licensing Examination, the single, three-step examination program for medical licensure in the United States. The USMLE *Bulletin of Information* is available on the USMLE website at www.usmle.org, and from ECFMG, upon request. In the event that information about the USMLE in the ECFMG *Information Booklet* differs from the corresponding information in the USMLE *Bulletin of Information*, the information in the USMLE *Bulletin of Information* shall govern.

Applicants for ECFMG Certification are required to read both the ECFMG *Information Booklet* and the USMLE *Bulletin of Information*.

Although current at the time of publication, the information contained in this booklet is subject to change. If changes occur, information will be posted on the ECFMG website. You must obtain the most recent information to ensure an accurate understanding of current policies and procedures.

The ECFMG® Reporter, ECFMG's free e-mail newsletter, provides important updates on ECFMG Certification and entry into graduate medical education in the United States. All applicants for ECFMG Certification should subscribe to *The ECFMG® Reporter*. See *E-Newsletters* on page *vi*.

This publication describes deadlines related to exam applications, scheduling, and other services. Unless otherwise indicated, deadlines are calculated using Eastern Time in the United States.

HOW TO OBTAIN THIS PUBLICATION

- Access the ECFMG *Information Booklet*/USMLE *Bulletin of Information* on-line and apply on-line for USMLE Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 2 CS on the ECFMG website at www.ecfm.org.
- Download the ECFMG *Information Booklet*/USMLE *Bulletin of Information* and application materials for USMLE Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 2 CS from the ECFMG website at www.ecfm.org.
- If you are not able to access these materials on-line, contact ECFMG in writing (mail or fax) to obtain photocopies by mail. See *General Inquiries* on page *ii*.

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COMMUNICATING WITH ECFMG

Always include your USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number, if one has been assigned, when communicating with ECFMG. If you forget or lose your number, you can obtain it by accessing the Interactive Web Application (IWA) on the ECFMG website.

To protect the privacy of applicants, ECFMG will e-mail applicant-specific information only to the e-mail address in the applicant's ECFMG record. If your e-mail inquiry requires a specific response, you must send your inquiry from your e-mail address of record.

Applicant Information

Use ECFMG's On-line Applicant Status and Information System (OASIS) to check the status of items related to ECFMG Certification, such as your exam applications, score reports, and medical education credentials; general information, such as your name and contact information; and your ECFMG financial account. To access OASIS, visit the ECFMG website at www.ecfm.org.

General Inquiries & Correspondence — www.ecfm.org

Contact Applicant Information Services at:

ECFMG
3624 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2685 USA

TEL: (215) 386-5900

(Telephone assistance is available between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.)

Always include your USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number, if one has been assigned, when communicating with ECFMG.

FAX: (215) 386-9196

E-MAIL

For inquiries on:

Send e-mail to:

Scheduling permits
Credentials
General inquiries

permits@ecfm.org
credentials@ecfm.org
info@ecfm.org

Registration & Credentials Services — www.ecfm.org

Paper Exam Applications and Other Paper Requests for Services, such as requests for USMLE Transcripts

Certification Statements (Form 183), Certification of Identification Forms (Form 186), and IWA Document Submission Forms (Form 187) for on-line exam applications

By mail to:

ECFMG/Registration & Credentials Services
PO Box 48087
Newark, NJ 07101-4887 USA

By mail or courier service to:

IWA
ECFMG
3624 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2685 USA

By courier service to:

ECFMG
c/o Image Remit
205 North Center Drive
Commerce Center
North Brunswick, NJ 08902 USA

Request Forms and Payments

By mail to:
ECFMG/CVS Department
PO Box 48083
Newark, NJ 07101-4883 USA

By courier service to:
ECFMG/CVS Department
c/o Image Remit
205 North Center Drive
Commerce Center
North Brunswick, NJ 08902 USA

Correspondence and Inquiries to:

ECFMG/CVS Department
PO Box 13679
Philadelphia, PA 19101-3679 USA

TEL: (215) 386-5900

Supporting Documents for Scanning

By mail to:
ECFMG/ERAS Program
PO Box 11746
Philadelphia, PA 19101-0746 USA

By courier service to:
ERAS
ECFMG
3624 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2685 USA

Correspondence and Inquiries to:

ERAS
ECFMG
3624 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2685 USA

TEL: (215) 386-5900
FAX: (215) 222-5641
E-MAIL: eras-support@ecfm.org

An *ERAS Document Submission Form* must accompany any supporting documents you send to ECFMG. This form is available on the ECFMG website at www.ecfm.org/eras.

Do **not** send supporting documents by fax.

Applications and Payments

If paying on-line using OASIS

By mail or courier service to:

ECFMG/Exchange Visitor Sponsorship
Program
3624 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2685 USA

If enclosing a check or money order

By mail to:

ECFMG/Exchange Visitor Sponsorship Program
PO Box 48087
Newark, NJ 07101-4887 USA

By courier service to:

ECFMG
c/o Image Remit
205 North Center Drive
Commerce Center
North Brunswick, NJ 08902 USA

Correspondence and Inquiries to:

ECFMG/Exchange Visitor Sponsorship Program
3624 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2685 USA

TEL: (215) 823-2121

FAX: (215) 386-9766

ON-LINE SERVICES

Web-based access to services is available on the ECFMG website at www.ecfm.org. ECFMG's on-line services are available twenty-four hours/day, seven days/week at no cost to users.

OASIS — On-line Applicant Status and Information System

The On-line Applicant Status and Information System (OASIS) is a web-based information service for ECFMG applicants and ECFMG-certified physicians.

You can use OASIS to check the status of:

- Exam applications and score reports,
- USMLE scheduling permits,
- Medical education credentials,
- USMLE transcript requests (except for electronic transcripts requested through ERAS),
- Standard ECFMG Certificate,
- Requests for permanent validation of examination dates, if applicable, and
- *Certification of Identification Form* (Form 186), for graduates.

You can also check:

- Name of record,
- Contact information, and
- Status of ECFMG financial account.

You can use OASIS to:

- Make on-line payments to your ECFMG financial account.
- Update your contact information, including your e-mail address, mailing address, and telephone and fax numbers.
- Request an ERAS Token.
- Request a permanent validation sticker for exams listed on your Standard ECFMG Certificate, if applicable.

IWA — Interactive Web Application

The Interactive Web Application is ECFMG's web-based application service for ECFMG applicants. You can use IWA to:

- Apply for USMLE Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 2 CS,
- Request extension of your USMLE Step 1/Step 2 CK eligibility period, if you are registered, and
- Access your USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number, if lost or forgotten.

On-line applicants submit most application information, including payment, to ECFMG via the Internet. IWA provides applicants with on-line instructions, the ability to save a partially completed application, and on-line validation that prevents many common errors. ECFMG processes on-line applications typically within ten business days of receipt of the complete application.

ECFMG also accepts paper exam applications and requests for USMLE eligibility period extensions. Paper application materials are available on the ECFMG website at www.ecfm.org and from ECFMG, upon request (see *General Inquiries* on page *ii*). ECFMG processes paper applications typically within four weeks of receipt.

Step 2 CS Calendar

The Step 2 CS Calendar allows unrestricted access to the calendar of available test dates at all clinical skills evaluation centers. All visitors to the ECFMG website can access the Step 2 CS Calendar.

Step 2 CS Scheduling

Step 2 CS Scheduling allows registered applicants to check available test dates at all clinical skills evaluation centers and schedule, cancel, reschedule, and confirm testing appointments.

E-Newsletters

Subscription to ECFMG's e-newsletters is free, and issues are delivered to subscribers by e-mail.

- ***The ECFMG® Reporter*** – www.ecfmg.org/reporter
Important, updated information for international medical students and graduates pursuing ECFMG Certification and graduate medical education in the United States.
- ***ECFMG-ERAS News*** – www.ecfmg.org/eras
Important updates for international medical students and graduates using the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) to apply for residency positions in U.S. programs of graduate medical education.
- ***The ECFMG Correspondent*** – www.ecfmg.org/correspondent
Issues of interest to ECFMG-certified physicians.

Changing your e-mail address using OASIS or Form 182 does not update your e-mail address in your e-newsletter subscription(s). To ensure that you continue to receive the latest information, update your subscription(s) when your e-mail address changes. If you are subscribed to one or more of ECFMG's e-mail newsletters and your e-mail address changes, you must update your e-mail address for **each** e-newsletter. To update your e-mail address in your e-newsletter subscription(s), visit the Publications page of the ECFMG website, click on the newsletter(s) you receive, unsubscribe your old e-mail address, and subscribe your new e-mail address.

ECFMG Website

Visit the ECFMG website at www.ecfmg.org for:

- Information on ECFMG's programs,
- Publications and forms,
- On-line services, and
- Important updates.

CERTIFICATION NEWS

ECFMG Celebrates 50th Anniversary

In 2006, ECFMG will celebrate 50 years of promoting excellence in international medical education. Established in 1956 to evaluate the qualifications of international medical graduates entering graduate medical education in the United States, ECFMG has grown to meet the needs of physicians, medical educators, licensing and credentialing agencies, and those involved in the evaluation and certification of health care professionals, both in the United States and abroad.

In conjunction with its 50th anniversary, ECFMG is introducing a redesigned logo. The new identifier, which appears on the cover of this publication, continues to convey the global scope of our mission, while providing a contemporary image for the organization as it begins its second half-century.

Look for more on our new logo and our 50th anniversary celebrations, beginning in late 2005.

New USMLE Test Delivery Software

The National Board of Medical Examiners® (NBME®) has developed new software for the computer-based components of the USMLE (Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 3). In 2005, the NBME software, known as FRED™, began to replace the Prometric software, which had been used to deliver these examinations. If you plan to take Step 1, Step 2 CK, or Step 3, refer to the ECFMG website and the USMLE website at www.usmle.org for important information on:

- the sample test materials you should use to prepare,
- scoring and score reporting during the transition,
- test delivery software for practice sessions at Prometric test centers, and
- international test centers that will continue to use the Prometric test delivery software throughout 2005.

Sample test materials using the FRED test delivery software are available on the USMLE Orientation Materials CD, which ECFMG sends to applicants when they are registered, and on the USMLE website. Sample test materials using the Prometric test delivery software are available on the USMLE website and from ECFMG, upon request.

On-line Application Process Simplified for Medical School Graduates

ECFMG is pleased to announce a significant enhancement to its Interactive Web Application (IWA) for applicants who have graduated from medical school. This enhancement allows **graduates** to complete the IWA application on-line, without submitting a paper certification form for each application.

Medical school graduates who apply using IWA complete the on-line portion of the application and then complete and return a paper *Certification of Identification Form* (Form 186) that remains valid for five years. Once ECFMG has received and accepted Form 186, the entire exam application process can be completed on-line during the five-year period that the Form 186 is valid.

This enhancement is not yet available for medical school **students**. ECFMG continues to require that medical school students print a *Certification Statement* (Form 183) at the end of **each** IWA application and submit the completed *Certification Statement* to complete their exam applications. Monitor the ECFMG website for updates on a similar enhancement for students in mid-2006.

For additional information, see *Applying for Examination* on page 19 or access IWA on the ECFMG website.

USMLE Step 2 CS Replaces ECFMG CSA[®] and TOEFL[®] Exam as Requirements for ECFMG Certification

In June 2004, Step 2 CS of the USMLE replaced the former ECFMG Clinical Skills Assessment (CSA) and the Test of English as a Foreign Language[™] (TOEFL) as requirements for ECFMG Certification. Applicants who have passed the former ECFMG CSA and achieved a score acceptable to ECFMG on the TOEFL exam can continue to use these passing performances, in lieu of passing Step 2 CS, to satisfy the clinical skills requirement for ECFMG Certification. See *Clinical Skills Requirement* on page 16. Additionally, applicants who have passed the former ECFMG CSA can use this passing performance to satisfy the clinical skills requirement for Step 3. Refer to *USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) Examination* in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information* for additional information. To meet the clinical skills requirement for Step 3, your **most recent** clinical skills performance (ECFMG CSA or USMLE Step 2 CS) must be a passing performance. See *Official Performance of Record for Examinees Retaking a Previously Passed Step* in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information*.

Validity of Examinations for Entry into Graduate Medical Education

To enter accredited programs of graduate medical education in the United States, international medical graduates must hold a Standard ECFMG Certificate without expired examination dates, if applicable. The transition to USMLE Step 2 CS resulted in changes to the validity of certain examinations for the purpose of entry into graduate medical education programs. As a result of this transition, passing performances on the following examinations are not subject to expiration for this purpose:

- USMLE Step 2 CS
- Administrations of the ECFMG CSA that took place on or after June 14, 2001
- English examinations

Administrations of the ECFMG CSA that took place before June 14, 2001 remain subject to expiration for the purpose of entry into graduate medical education in the United States.

Refer to *Validity of Examinations for Entry into Graduate Medical Education* on page 8 for additional information.

The ECFMG[®] Reporter

Applicants who supply their e-mail addresses to us as part of the application process will automatically receive our electronic newsletter, *The ECFMG[®] Reporter*. *The ECFMG[®] Reporter* provides important information regarding the ECFMG certification process and entry into graduate medical education in the United States. *The ECFMG[®] Reporter* may also advise you of services and programs offered by other organizations in connection with the certification process or graduate medical education in the United States.

The ECFMG[®] Reporter is a free publication. ECFMG will not share *The ECFMG[®] Reporter* subscriber database with third parties. Interested individuals can join or leave *The ECFMG[®] Reporter* subscriber list or update their e-mail addresses at any time by visiting the ECFMG website at www.ecfm.org/reporter/subscribe.html or by writing to: Director of Communications, ECFMG, 3624 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19104-2685, USA.

Please note that ECFMG may share certain information contained in your exam applications with other organizations under specified circumstances. For further information regarding ECFMG's data collection and privacy practices, please refer to our Privacy Policy available on the ECFMG website at www.ecfm.org/annoc/privacy.html.

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ACRONYM KEY

AAMC	Association of American Medical Colleges
ABMS	American Board of Medical Specialties
ACGME	Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education
AMA	American Medical Association
AOA	American Osteopathic Association
CD	Compact Disc
CIN	Candidate Identification Number
CK	Clinical Knowledge, a component of USMLE Step 2
CS	Clinical Skills, a component of USMLE Step 2
CSA	Clinical Skills Assessment, formerly administered by ECFMG
CVS	Certification Verification Service
ECFMG	Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates
ERAS	Electronic Residency Application Service
ETS	Educational Testing Service
EVSP	Exchange Visitor Sponsorship Program
FAIMER®	Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research
FLEX	Federation Licensing Examination
FMGEMS	Foreign Medical Graduate Examination in the Medical Sciences
FSMB	Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, Inc.
GME	Graduate Medical Education
IMED	International Medical Education Directory
IMG	International Medical Graduate
IWA	Interactive Web Application
JCAHO	Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations
LCME	Liaison Committee on Medical Education
NBME	National Board of Medical Examiners
NRMP	National Resident Matching Program
OASIS	On-line Applicant Status and Information System
SP	Standardized Patient
TOEFL	Test of English as a Foreign Language
USMLE	United States Medical Licensing Examination
VQE	Visa Qualifying Examination

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ECFMG Certification

1. *What is ECFMG Certification?*

Medical schools outside the United States and Canada vary in their educational standards and curricula. The purpose of ECFMG Certification is to assess the readiness of graduates of these schools to enter U.S. residency and fellowship programs that are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). To be certified by ECFMG, you must pass a series of exams; you must also fulfill ECFMG's medical education credential requirements. These requirements include providing ECFMG with copies of your medical education credentials, which ECFMG will verify directly with your medical school. See *ECFMG Certification* on page 6.

2. *Why would I want to be certified by ECFMG?*

If you are an international medical graduate and wish to enter an ACGME-accredited residency or fellowship program in the United States, you must be certified by ECFMG before you can enter the program. You must also be certified by ECFMG if you wish to take Step 3 of the three-step United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). ECFMG Certification is also one of the requirements to obtain an unrestricted license to practice medicine in the United States. See *ECFMG Certification* on page 6.

3. *How can I find out if students/graduates of my medical school are eligible for ECFMG Certification?*

To be eligible for certification by ECFMG, among other requirements, your medical school must be listed in the *International Medical Education Directory (IMED)* of the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER). If you are a medical school student and you want to apply for examination, your medical school must be listed in *IMED* and your medical school's "Graduation Years" must be listed as "Current," both at the time you apply for the exam and at the time you take the exam. If you are a medical school graduate, your medical school and graduation year must be listed in *IMED* to be eligible for examination and for ECFMG Certification. To verify that you meet these requirements, access *IMED* on the ECFMG website at www.ecfm.org. See *ECFMG Certification* on page 6.

4. *How do I begin the certification process?*

The certification process begins when you submit your first exam application to ECFMG. At this time, ECFMG will assign you an identification number that you will use throughout the certification process. See *USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number* on page 10.

5. *How long does the certification process take?*

The time required to complete the certification process is different for each applicant. You may apply for the required exams as soon as you meet the eligibility requirements for examination. All of the exams required for ECFMG Certification are offered continuously throughout the year.

Both medical school students and graduates may begin the certification process. However, since one of the requirements for ECFMG Certification is that your medical education credentials be verified by ECFMG with your medical school, you cannot complete the certification process until you graduate. The time required for some aspects of the certification process, such as the time required by your medical school to verify your medical education credentials, is beyond the control of ECFMG. See *ECFMG Certification* on page 6.

6. In what order do I take the exams required for ECFMG Certification?

To be eligible for ECFMG Certification, you must, among other requirements, pass USMLE Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 2 CS. See *Examination Requirements* on page 15. Once you meet the eligibility requirements for examination, you can take these exams in any order. See *Eligibility for Examination* on page 17.

7. How can I have ECFMG confirm to a medical licensing authority or residency/fellowship program that I am ECFMG-certified?

ECFMG will confirm your certification status when it receives a request directly from a medical licensing authority, residency/fellowship program official, or other appropriate organization. For status reports sent to medical licensing authorities, the request can also be sent to ECFMG by you. Approximately two weeks are required for the confirmation to be completed. Please note that there may be a fee for this service. See *Confirmation of ECFMG Certification Status* on page 9. If you apply to residency programs through ERAS, ECFMG will send an electronic ECFMG Status Report automatically to all of the programs to which you applied. See *Electronic Residency Application Service* on page 47.

USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 (CK and CS)

8. How can I apply?

You can apply on-line using ECFMG's Interactive Web Application (IWA). For more information, visit ECFMG's website at www.ecfm.org. You can also download the paper USMLE application materials from the ECFMG website. If you do not have access to the Internet, you can request a photocopy of these materials. See *How To Obtain This Publication* on page i.

9. How can I prepare for the exams?

Information on preparing for the exams is available in this booklet and in the USMLE *Bulletin of Information*. Sample test materials for all Steps and Step Components are available on the USMLE Orientation Materials Compact Disc (CD), which ECFMG sends to applicants when they are registered. The sample test materials on the CD and additional information on examination content and test formats are available on the USMLE website at www.usmle.org. See *Preparation* on page 29.

10. When and where can I take Step 1 and Step 2?

Step 1 and Step 2 (CK and CS) are offered continuously throughout the year. Applicants registered for these exams are assigned an eligibility period during which they must take the exam. See *When to Apply* on page 21 and *Eligibility Periods* on page 23.

Step 1 and Step 2 CK are offered worldwide at test centers of Prometric, a division of Thomson Learning, Inc. For information on Prometric test centers offering USMLE, visit the Prometric website at www.prometric.com. Step 2 CS is administered at clinical skills evaluation centers in Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia in the United States. For all exams, see *Testing Locations* on page 22.

11. Do I need to graduate from medical school before taking the exams?

Both students and graduates may take the exams. To take the exams, medical school students must have completed at least two years of medical school. This eligibility requirement means that students must have completed the basic medical science component of the medical school curriculum. Other eligibility requirements apply to both students and graduates. Refer to *Eligibility for Examination* on page 17.

12. What if I cannot take an exam once I have registered?

Once registered, you cannot cancel or postpone your registration (except as described below for Step 1/ Step 2 CK). If you do not take the exam, you will not receive a refund or credit of your exam fee(s). For detailed information on ECFMG's payment policy, refer to *Payment* on page 12.

Although you cannot cancel your registration, there are options that provide flexibility. Registered applicants can change their test date and/or test center, subject to availability. See *Rescheduling* on page 28. If you are unable to take Step 1/Step 2 CK during your assigned eligibility period, you can request an extension of your eligibility period for a fee. See *Eligibility Period Extension* on page 24. If you are unable to obtain the appropriate visa to enter the United States to take Step 2 CS, you may request a full refund of the exam fee. See *Refunds* on page 14.

13. Is there a limit to the number of times I can take an exam?

For the purpose of ECFMG Certification, there is no limit on the number of times you can take a Step or Step Component you have not passed. If you fail or do not complete a Step or Step Component, you may retake it, but you must reapply and pay the appropriate fee(s). Certain restrictions apply when retaking the same Step or Step Component. Once you pass a Step or Step Component, you may not repeat it, and you will have seven years to pass the other Step(s) or Step Component(s) required for ECFMG Certification. See *Time Limit for Completing Examination Requirements* on page 16 and *Reexamination and Reapplication* on page 36.

Interactive Web Application (IWA)

14. What is a Certification of Identification Form (Form 186)?

The *Certification of Identification Form* (Form 186) is the paper certification required by ECFMG for **graduates** who apply for exams on-line using IWA. Form 186 replaces the *Certification Statement* (Form 183) for **graduates**, beginning with the 2006 application materials. Form 186 requires that an authorized official certify the applicant's identity. Once submitted to and accepted by ECFMG, Form 186 remains valid for five years. See *Applying for Examination* on page 19.

15. What is the difference between a Certification Statement (Form 183) and a Certification of Identification Form (Form 186)?

The *Certification Statement* (Form 183) is the paper certification required by ECFMG for **students** who submit on-line exam applications. A new Form 183 is generated with each on-line application. Form 183 must be completed by the student and an authorized medical school official and submitted to ECFMG for **each** on-line application, or the application will be rejected.

The *Certification of Identification Form* (Form 186) is the paper certification required by ECFMG for **graduates** who submit on-line exam applications, beginning with the 2006 application materials. Once the form is received and accepted by ECFMG, it remains valid for five years. During this five-year period, graduates may submit on-line exam applications without submitting another paper certification.

See *Applying for Examination* on page 19.

16. Do I have to submit a new Form 186 every time I apply for an examination?

No. Once Form 186 is accepted by ECFMG, it is valid for five years. Graduates with a valid Form 186 can apply for exams using IWA by completing only the on-line part of the application.

17. I am a medical school graduate and have submitted a Certification Statement (Form 183) previously. Do I still have to submit a Certification of Identification Form (Form 186)?

Yes. The *Certification of Identification Form* (Form 186) is a new form and must be submitted by graduates who apply for an exam on-line, beginning with the 2006 application materials.

ECFMG Clinical Skills Assessment (CSA)

18. How do I fulfill the clinical skills requirement for ECFMG Certification?

USMLE Step 2 CS has replaced the ECFMG CSA as the exam that satisfies the clinical skills requirement for ECFMG Certification. Applicants who have not passed the ECFMG CSA must take USMLE Step 2 CS. See *Clinical Skills Requirement* on page 16.

19. What if I have already passed the ECFMG CSA?

If you have passed the ECFMG CSA, you will not be required to pass Step 2 CS for ECFMG Certification. See *Examination Requirements* on page 15. Additionally, applicants who have passed the CSA will not be required to pass Step 2 CS to meet the eligibility requirements for Step 3, provided their **most recent** clinical skills performance (ECFMG CSA or USMLE Step 2 CS) is a pass. See *USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) Examination, Eligibility, and Official Performance of Record for Examinees Retaking a Previously Passed Step* in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information*.

Effective June 14, 2004, passing performances on the CSA that took place on or after June 14, 2001 do not expire for the purpose of entering graduate medical education. If you are certified by ECFMG and the CSA pass date on your certificate is June 14, 2001 or later, you may request a permanent validation sticker for your CSA date. See *Validity of Examinations for Entry into Graduate Medical Education* on page 8.

If you passed the CSA before June 14, 2001, your passing performance on the CSA remains subject to expiration for the purpose of entry into graduate medical education. See *Validity of Examinations for Entry into Graduate Medical Education* on page 8.

Medical Education Credentials

20. What is a final medical school transcript?

The final medical school transcript is an official document that is the record of the graduate's medical education, issued by the medical school or university, upon or after graduation.

The format of the final medical school transcript may vary among institutions. The final medical school transcript contains the name of the medical school or university and the name of the graduate. Other items that may be contained in the final medical school transcript include, but are not limited to, the dates of attendance, courses taken, credits for each course, grade in each course, summary of transfer credit accepted and the name of the institution from which the credit was accepted, title of the degree awarded, date degree was awarded, program of study (i.e., medicine), and date the transcript was issued.

21. Do I need to send my final medical school transcript to ECFMG?

When ECFMG sends your medical diploma to your medical school for verification, ECFMG will request the medical school to include your final medical school transcript when the school returns the verification of your medical diploma to ECFMG. If ECFMG is unable to obtain your final medical school transcript directly from your medical school, ECFMG will contact you and request that you submit to ECFMG copies of your final medical school transcript. If ECFMG has previously verified your medical diploma with your medical school but not the final medical school transcript, you must send copies of the final medical school transcript to ECFMG. See *Provision of Credentials and Translations* on page 37.

22. How will I know if ECFMG has received verification of my medical diploma and transcript from my medical school?

ECFMG will notify you when it sends the request for verification of your medical education credentials to your medical school. After ECFMG receives the verification of your diploma and/or your final medical school transcript from your medical school and evaluates it, ECFMG will send you another notification. You can check the status of your medical education credentials using OASIS (see page v). See *Verification of Credentials* on page 41.

Fifth Pathway Program

23. What if I plan to attend a Fifth Pathway program?

If you intend to complete a Fifth Pathway program, you are required to notify ECFMG of this intent. See *The Fifth Pathway Program* on page 42.

ERAS

24. What medical specialties are participating in the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) in 2006?

Most specialties participate in ERAS. For the list of participating specialties, visit the ERAS website of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) at www.aamc.org/eras. Programs participating in ERAS will, in principle, no longer accept paper applications. However, there may be exceptions by individual program directors. You should contact the programs directly for their policies.

Payment

25. How do I pay for the exam(s)?

If you apply for an exam or request a service on-line, you can pay the required fees **on-line** with a credit card (Visa, MasterCard, or Discover) or with an electronic payment from your U.S. checking account. If you submit a paper exam application or request for service and you have a USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number, you can pay in advance using OASIS. All applicants submitting paper applications/requests can pay by credit card, check, or wire transfer by completing the payment section of the application/request form. Payment for all services is due at the time of application. **If you do not include full payment, your application/request for service will be rejected.** See *Payment* on page 12.

ECFMG CERTIFICATION

The Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG), through its program of certification, assesses whether international medical graduates are ready to enter residency or fellowship programs in the United States that are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

ECFMG and its organizational members define an international medical graduate as a physician who received his/her basic medical degree or qualification from a medical school located outside the United States and Canada*. To be eligible for ECFMG Certification, the physician's medical school and graduation year must be listed in the *International Medical Education Directory (IMED)* of the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER). To verify that a particular medical school and graduation year are listed, access *IMED* on the ECFMG website at www.ecfmg.org.

Citizens of the United States who have completed their medical education in schools outside the United States and Canada are considered international medical graduates; non-U.S. citizens who have graduated from medical schools in the United States and Canada are not considered international medical graduates.

ECFMG Certification assures directors of ACGME-accredited residency and fellowship programs, and the people of the United States, that international medical graduates have met minimum standards of eligibility required to enter such programs. ECFMG Certification does not, however, guarantee that these graduates will be accepted into programs, since the number of applicants frequently exceeds the number of available positions.

ECFMG Certification is one of the eligibility requirements for international medical graduates to take Step 3 of the three-step United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). Medical licensing authorities in the United States require ECFMG Certification, among other requirements, to obtain an unrestricted license to practice medicine.

Requirements for ECFMG Certification

To be eligible for certification by ECFMG, international medical graduates must meet the following examination and medical education credential requirements.

Examination Requirements

The examination requirements for ECFMG Certification include passing Step 1 and Step 2 of the USMLE. The Step 2 exam has two separately administered components, the Clinical Knowledge (CK) component and the Clinical Skills (CS) component.

To meet the examination requirements for ECFMG Certification, applicants must:

1. Satisfy the medical science examination requirement.

Step 1 and Step 2 CK of the USMLE are the exams currently administered that satisfy this requirement. To meet the medical science examination requirement for ECFMG Certification, applicants must pass both Step 1 and Step 2 CK within a specified period of time. For detailed information, including information on time limits for completing the examinations for ECFMG Certification and former examinations that satisfy this requirement, refer to *Examination Requirements* on page 15.

* The United States and Canada refer to the geographic locations where citizens are issued passports by the governments of either the United States or Canada.

2. Satisfy the clinical skills requirement.

This requirement includes demonstration of data-gathering and communication (including spoken English) skills. Step 2 CS of the USMLE is the exam currently administered that satisfies this requirement. Specific time limits for passing Step 2 CS for ECFMG Certification may apply. For detailed information, including information on time limits for completing the examinations for ECFMG Certification and using a passing performance on the former ECFMG CSA to satisfy this requirement, refer to *Examination Requirements* on page 15.

Medical Education Credential Requirements

The physician's medical school and graduation year must be listed in the *International Medical Education Directory (IMED)*. International medical graduates must have had at least four credit years (academic years for which credit has been given toward completion of the medical curriculum) in attendance at a medical school that is listed in *IMED*. *IMED* is available on the ECFMG website at www.ecfmg.org. *IMED* is maintained by the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER), a non-profit foundation of ECFMG. *IMED* contains information supplied by countries about their medical schools. FAIMER is not an accrediting agency.

To meet the medical education credential requirements for ECFMG Certification, applicants must provide the required medical education credentials, which include the **final medical diploma** and **final medical school transcript**.

Applicants must document the completion of all requirements for, and receipt of, the final medical diploma. ECFMG verifies every applicant's medical school diploma with the appropriate officials of the medical school that issued the diploma. When ECFMG sends your medical diploma to your medical school for verification, ECFMG will request that the medical school include your final medical school transcript when the school returns the verification of your medical diploma to ECFMG. An applicant's credentials are not considered complete until ECFMG receives verification of the medical diploma and the final medical school transcript directly from the medical school. For detailed information, see *Medical Education Credentials* on page 37.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Submitting altered or falsified documents to ECFMG may be sufficient cause for ECFMG to bar you from an exam, to terminate your participation in an exam, to withhold and/or invalidate the results of an exam, to withhold a certificate, revoke a certificate, or to take other appropriate action. ECFMG may also report instances of altered or falsified documents to the USMLE Committee on Irregular Behavior, FSMB Board Action Databank, state medical licensing authorities, and directors of graduate medical education programs, or to any other organization or individual who, in the judgment of ECFMG, has a legitimate interest in such information. In all cases when the ECFMG Committee on Medical Education Credentials has made a finding of irregular behavior, a permanent annotation will be included in the individual's ECFMG Status Report and ECFMG Certification Verification Service (CVS) Report. See *Irregular Behavior* on pages 14 and 41.

Standard ECFMG Certificate

ECFMG issues the Standard ECFMG Certificate to applicants who meet all of the examination and medical education credential requirements. Applicants must also pay any outstanding charges on their ECFMG financial accounts before their certificates are issued. Standard ECFMG Certificates are sent approximately two weeks after all of these requirements have been met. Currently, ECFMG sends the Standard ECFMG Certificate to the applicant's address of record by Federal Express. If your address of record with ECFMG is a U.S. post office box, the certificate will be sent by certified mail.

The Standard ECFMG Certificate includes:

- the name of the applicant;
- the applicant's USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number;
- the dates that the examination requirements were met;
- the date that the certificate was issued; and
- **if applicable**, the dates through which the passing performances on certain exams remain valid for the purpose of entry into graduate medical education. (See *Validity of Examinations for Entry into Graduate Medical Education* below).

Applicants may use the Standard ECFMG Certificate to enter an accredited program of graduate medical education in the United States.

Validity of Examinations for Entry into Graduate Medical Education

Clinical Skills Examinations

For applicants who satisfy the clinical skills requirement for ECFMG Certification by passing Step 2 CS, this passing performance is not subject to expiration for the purpose of entering programs of graduate medical education.

For applicants who satisfied the clinical skills requirement for ECFMG Certification by passing the former ECFMG CSA and an English language proficiency test, passing performance on the CSA may be subject to expiration for the purpose of entering graduate medical education, as described below.

- Passing performances on CSA administrations that took place on or after June 14, 2001 are not subject to expiration for the purpose of entering graduate medical education programs. If you are certified by ECFMG and your Standard ECFMG Certificate lists a "valid through" date for an administration of the CSA that took place on or after June 14, 2001, you may request a permanent validation sticker on-line by accessing OASIS or by completing a *Special Request for Permanent Validation Sticker* (Form 295) and submitting it to ECFMG. You can access OASIS and Form 295 on the ECFMG website.
- Passing performances on CSA administrations that took place before June 14, 2001 are valid for three years from the date passed for the purpose of entering graduate medical education programs. The date through which passing performance on the CSA remains valid for entry into graduate medical education (the CSA "valid through" date) will be listed on the applicant's Standard ECFMG Certificate. If the applicant has entered a program before expiration of the valid through date, the applicant may request permanent validation. This means that the CSA date is no longer subject to expiration. To request permanent validation, the applicant and an authorized official of the training institution must complete a *Request for Permanent Validation* (Form 246), available on the Publications page of the ECFMG website and from ECFMG, upon request. On receipt of this form, ECFMG will provide a permanent validation sticker to be affixed to the certificate. If an applicant who passed CSA before June 14, 2001 does not enter a program within three years of the CSA pass date, the applicant's CSA passing performance will expire for the purpose of entering graduate medical education. Before entering a program, these applicants must pass Step 2 CS. Passing performance on Step 2 CS does not expire for the purpose of entry into graduate medical education.

English Examinations

Passing performances on the English language proficiency test (such as the TOEFL exam or the former ECFMG English Test) are not subject to expiration for the purpose of entering graduate medical education programs, regardless of the date passed. If you are certified by ECFMG and your Standard ECFMG Certificate lists a “valid through” date for an English language proficiency test, you may request a permanent validation sticker on-line using OASIS or by completing a *Special Request for Permanent Validation Sticker* (Form 295) and submitting it to ECFMG. You can access OASIS on the ECFMG website. Form 295 is available on the Publications page of the ECFMG website and from ECFMG, upon request.

Requesting Duplicate Permanent Validation Stickers

If you lost or did not receive your permanent validation sticker(s), you may request duplicates on-line using OASIS or by completing a *Request for Duplicate Permanent Validation Sticker* (Form 296). You can access OASIS on the ECFMG website. Form 296 is available on the Publications page of the ECFMG website and from ECFMG, upon request.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The preceding discussion of validity and expiration of examinations, and the “valid through” and “valid indefinitely” designations on the Standard ECFMG Certificate (if applicable), are relevant only for the purpose of entry into programs of graduate medical education in the United States. They do not pertain to eligibility for USMLE Step 3 or to any time limits imposed by medical licensing authorities or other entities for the completion of all USMLE Steps.

Confirmation of ECFMG Certification

Status – ECFMG’s Certification Verification Service

ECFMG’s Certification Verification Service provides primary-source confirmation of the ECFMG certification status of international medical graduates. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) has determined that an accredited health organization will satisfy the Joint Commission requirement for primary-source verification of medical school completion for international medical graduates if it confirms directly with ECFMG that an applicant possesses a Standard ECFMG Certificate without expired examination dates (if applicable).

ECFMG will confirm your certification status when a request is received from a medical licensing authority, residency program director, hospital, or other organization that, in the judgment of ECFMG, has a legitimate interest in such information. For status reports sent to **medical licensing authorities**, the request can also be sent to ECFMG by you. Requesting organizations must normally secure and retain your signed authorization to obtain certification information. Please note that there may be a fee for this service.

Requests for confirmation must contain your name, date of birth, USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number, and name and address of the organization to which the confirmation should be sent. To obtain the appropriate request form or to make an on-line request, visit the ECFMG website at www.ecfm.org/cvs. Confirmations are mailed to the requesting organization within approximately two weeks. Confirmations are not sent to applicants directly.

If the requesting organization does not receive the report, ECFMG will honor requests for duplicate reports at no additional cost up to ninety days after the date that the original report was processed.

If you apply to residency programs through ERAS, ECFMG will send an electronic ECFMG Status Report automatically to all of the programs to which you applied. If your ECFMG certification status changes during the ERAS application process, ECFMG will send an updated status report automatically to all programs to which you applied.

GENERAL APPLICANT INFORMATION

Before you apply to ECFMG for examination or other services, please review the following information. The information in this section pertains to all services for which you may apply with ECFMG.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Application and other requests for services will not be processed if it is determined that doing so would be violative of any applicable federal laws or regulations.

USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number

When you apply for the first time to ECFMG for an exam, you will be assigned an eight-digit USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number. Your USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number cannot be changed. It will become a part of your permanent ECFMG record. Once ECFMG informs you of this number, you must include it on all communications, medical education credentials, application forms, and payments that you send to ECFMG. You will also need your USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number to use ECFMG's on-line services (see page v).

If you forget or lose your USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number, you can obtain it by accessing IWA on the ECFMG website or by contacting ECFMG. To protect the privacy of applicants, ECFMG will not provide USMLE/ECFMG Identification Numbers by telephone.

IMPORTANT NOTE: As part of the examination application process, you will be asked whether you have applied to ECFMG previously. If you have submitted a prior exam application, you must answer "Yes" to this question, even if you submitted the prior application under a different name or did not take the exam for which you applied. You must answer "Yes" regardless of whether you submitted an Interactive Web Application (IWA) or a paper application. If you have submitted an application to ECFMG but indicate when applying subsequently that you have not applied previously, this may result in a finding of irregular behavior. See *Irregular Behavior* on pages 14 and 35.

Name of Applicant

Your ECFMG record contains your name as it appears on your initial application (unless you legally change your name and submit to ECFMG acceptable documentation of this name change). The name in your ECFMG record will appear on all communications that ECFMG sends to you. This name will also appear on your Standard ECFMG Certificate once you have met all requirements for certification. You can check the name in your ECFMG record on-line using OASIS.

You must ensure that the name in your ECFMG record is your correct and current legal name. You must use this name consistently in all communications you send to ECFMG, including exam applications and requests for other services. Additionally, your name as it appears on all medical education credentials, such as your medical diploma and medical school transcript, must match the name in your ECFMG record. Failure to use the name in your ECFMG record consistently in all communications with ECFMG may delay exam registration and verification of your medical education credentials. It may also prevent you from taking an exam for which you are registered and scheduled. For example:

- If the name you enter on an exam **application** does not match **exactly** your name as it appears in your **ECFMG record**, you must submit unexpired, legal documentation with the application to **change** the name in your ECFMG record. Otherwise, your application will be rejected. Refer to *Changing or Verifying Your Name* on page 11. If you apply on-line, refer to *Applying for Examination* on page 19 for information on submitting this documentation to ECFMG.
- The name you enter on your **application** will appear on your exam **scheduling permit**. The name on your scheduling permit, including the spelling, must match **exactly** the name on the form(s) of **identification** you present at the test center. See *Acceptable Identification* on page 32.

If you change the name in your ECFMG record while you are registered for Step 1/Step 2 CK, a new scheduling permit reflecting this change will be mailed to you. You must bring the new scheduling permit to the test center on your exam date. If you change the name in your ECFMG record while you are registered for Step 2 CS, you can print a new scheduling permit reflecting this change by accessing IWA on the ECFMG website. Name changes must be received **and processed** by ECFMG no later than seven business days before your testing appointment, or you will not be able to test.

If the name on your application and in your ECFMG record is correct, but your name on the scheduling permit has been misspelled, contact ECFMG immediately by e-mail at permits@ecfm.org or by telephone or fax (see *General Inquiries* on page ii).

- The name on your **medical diploma, transcript, or other credential** must match **exactly** the name in your **ECFMG record**. If the names do not match exactly, you must submit legal documentation that **verifies** the name on your medical diploma, transcript, or other credential is (or was) your name. Refer to *Name on Medical Diploma and Medical School Transcript* on page 39 for examples of common name discrepancies that require name **verification**.

Changing or Verifying Your Name

If you have legally changed your name and want to request a **change** of name in your ECFMG record, send a completed *Request to Change Applicant Contact Information* (Form 182) to ECFMG. Form 182 is available on the Publications page of the ECFMG website and from ECFMG, upon request. Form 182 must be accompanied by a copy of one of the legal documents listed below. For the purpose of **changing** your name, the document you provide must be **unexpired** (if applicable).

- Passport (including the page with your photograph),
- Birth certificate,
- Marriage certificate,
- Official court order,
- U.S. Resident Alien Card, or
- U.S. Naturalization Certificate.

Attestations and affidavits are **not** acceptable as documentation to change or verify your name.

Please do not submit an original document; a copy of the document is sufficient.

If the name in your ECFMG record is correct but this name does not match **exactly** your name as listed on your medical diploma, transcript, or other credential, you must **verify** that the name on these documents is (or was) your name. To verify your name, send to ECFMG a copy of one of the acceptable documents listed above that verifies the name on your medical diploma, transcript, or other credential. As an alternative to one of the documents listed above, ECFMG will accept for purposes of verifying your name a letter from the Dean, Vice Dean, or Registrar of your medical school that verifies that the name on your medical diploma, transcript, or other credential is (or was) your name. If you choose to submit a letter from your medical school to verify the name on your medical diploma, transcript, or other credential, the letter must be signed by the Dean, Vice Dean, or Registrar and must be written on the medical school's official letterhead stationery. The legal documentation you send must show your name exactly as it appears on your medical diploma/transcript.

All documents submitted to change or verify your name that are not in English must be accompanied by an official English translation. See *English Translations* on page 40.

All documents submitted to change or verify your name will become a part of your permanent ECFMG record.

Contact Information

The contact information in your ECFMG record consists of your e-mail and mailing addresses, your telephone number, and your fax number (if applicable). If you provide an e-mail address, ECFMG will send information on the status of your exam applications by e-mail. You will also need an e-mail address to use ECFMG's on-line services (see page v).

You should ensure that the contact information in your ECFMG record is current. You can check and update your contact information on-line using OASIS. You can also change your contact information by submitting a completed *Request to Change Applicant Contact Information* (Form 182) to ECFMG. Form 182 is available on the Publications page of the ECFMG website and from ECFMG, upon request. You cannot submit changes to your contact information to ECFMG by e-mail. ECFMG will not process changes to contact information received from any person other than the applicant.

Changing your e-mail address using OASIS or Form 182 does not update your e-mail address in your e-newsletter subscription(s). If you are subscribed to one or more of ECFMG's e-mail newsletters, such as *The ECFMG® Reporter* (see page vi) and your e-mail address changes, you must update your e-mail address for **each** e-newsletter. To update your e-mail address in your e-newsletter subscription(s), visit the Publications page of the ECFMG website, click on the newsletter(s) you receive, unsubscribe your old e-mail address, and subscribe your new e-mail address.

To protect the privacy of applicants, ECFMG will e-mail applicant-specific information only to the e-mail address in the applicant's ECFMG record. If your e-mail inquiry requires a specific response, you must send your inquiry from your e-mail address of record.

Payment

Full payment for all services is due at the time of application. **If the funds in your ECFMG financial account are not sufficient to cover all fees, your application or other service request will be rejected.** If you apply for more than one exam at the same time, you must pay applicable fees for **all** exams, or your application will be rejected.

If you apply **on-line**, you can pay on-line by:

- **Credit Card** – Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.
- **Electronic Check** – To use this option, you must have a checking account at a U.S. bank and either a U.S. Social Security Number or U.S. driver's license.

If you submit a **paper** exam application or request for service and have a USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number, you can pay on-line, as described above. To make an advance on-line payment to your ECFMG financial account, access OASIS on the ECFMG website.

ECFMG's on-line payment is secured using industry-standard encryption technology. Please note that it takes at least twenty-four hours for on-line payments to be reflected in your ECFMG financial account.

All applicants who submit **paper** applications/requests can pay by completing the payment section of the paper application/request form. If you complete the payment section of the paper application/request form, you can pay by:

- **Credit Card** – Visa, MasterCard, or Discover.
- **Check, bank draft, or money order** made payable to the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (or ECFMG). All payments must be made in U.S. funds. **You must write your full name and USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number, if one has been assigned, on your payment.**
- **Wire Transfer** – Funds may be wire transferred through most banks in the United States (Fedwire) to the ECFMG ACCOUNT NUMBER 361024284 at COMMERCE BANK, ROUTING/TRANSIT NUMBER 036001808. **However, in order for a wire transfer to be credited to your ECFMG financial account, it must be identified with your full name and USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number, if one has been assigned.** If you pay by wire transfer, you must also include the following information in the payment section of the application/request form: the date that the wire transfer was sent, its bank reference number, name of the originating bank, amount, and the name of sender, if different from your name.

Financial institutions involved in processing wire transfers may deduct processing fees. To ensure that sufficient funds are transferred to your ECFMG financial account, you should inquire about fees before sending a wire transfer.

Do **not** send payments in cash.

If you owe money to ECFMG at the time that your application/service request is processed, ECFMG will apply the payment included with your application/service request to the amount that you owe. Any money that is left after this will be used to pay for the exam(s)/service that you request. If there is not enough money remaining to pay for the exam(s)/service you request, your application/request for service will be rejected.

If you have money in your ECFMG financial account at the time that your application/service request is processed, it will be used to pay for the next exam/service request processed by ECFMG.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Changes to ECFMG's payment policy are expected in late 2005. These changes may affect how payments you submit are applied to your account and when funds are deducted from your account for services you request. Additional information on these changes will be posted to the ECFMG website as it becomes available.

You can check the status of your ECFMG financial account and make on-line payments using OASIS.

All fees are in U.S. dollars. Fees are subject to change without notice.

Refunds

If you have money in your ECFMG financial account and will not request additional exams/services, you may send a written request to ECFMG for a refund. If the money in your account was a payment for an exam application that was rejected (because you were not eligible or the application was incomplete or otherwise deficient), your refund will be subject to a \$100 processing fee.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You should consider carefully the timing of your exam application, eligibility period, and test date. Once registered, you cannot cancel or postpone your registration. If you do not schedule and take the exam, you will not receive a refund or credit of your exam fee(s), and you will be required to reapply, including payment of all applicable fees, to take the exam.

Although you cannot cancel or postpone your registration, there are options that provide registered applicants with flexibility. All registered applicants may change their scheduled test date and/or center, subject to availability (see *Rescheduling* on page 28). Applicants registered for Step 1/Step 2 CK may request extension of their eligibility periods (see *Eligibility Period Extension* on page 24). Applicants registered for Step 2 CS who are unable to obtain the appropriate visa to enter the United States to take the exam may request a full refund of the exam fee. Other requests for exceptions from Step 2 CS applicants are considered on a case-by-case basis. ECFMG will consider requests for exceptions only after the applicant's eligibility period has expired.

Irregular Behavior

The ECFMG Medical Education Credentials Committee and/or the USMLE Committee on Irregular Behavior review allegations of irregular behavior. If the ECFMG Medical Education Credentials Committee determines that you engaged in irregular behavior, a permanent annotation will be included in your ECFMG Status Report and ECFMG Certification Verification Service (CVS) Report. Additionally, ECFMG may bar you from an exam, terminate your participation in an exam, withhold and/or invalidate the results of your exam, withhold a certificate, revoke a certificate, or take other appropriate action, including reporting instances of irregular behavior to the USMLE Committee on Irregular Behavior, FSMB Board Action Databank, state medical licensing authorities, and directors of graduate medical education programs, or to any other organization or individual who, in the judgment of ECFMG, has a legitimate interest in such information. If the USMLE Committee on Irregular Behavior determines that you engaged in irregular behavior, a permanent annotation will be included in your USMLE transcript. You may also be barred from examination, or your exam results may be withheld or invalidated.

For examples of irregular behavior and its consequences, refer to *Irregular Behavior* on pages 35 and 41 and to *Irregular Behavior* in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information*.

EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for ECFMG Certification must satisfy both the medical science examination and clinical skills requirements. To satisfy these requirements, applicants must pass Step 1 and Step 2 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE). Step 2 of the USMLE has two separately administered components, the Clinical Knowledge (CK) component and the Clinical Skills (CS) component.

The United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE)

The USMLE is a single, three-step examination for medical licensure in the United States. The USMLE provides a common system to evaluate applicants for medical licensure. The USMLE is sponsored by the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, Inc. (FSMB) and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME). The USMLE is governed by a committee consisting of representatives of FSMB, NBME, ECFMG, and the American public. If you apply for examination, you are **required** to read the USMLE *Bulletin of Information* for complete information on the USMLE. The *Bulletin of Information* is available on the USMLE website at www.usmle.org and from ECFMG, upon request.

Registration Entity and Test Delivery Entity

Step 1 and Step 2

ECFMG serves as the registration entity for international medical students/graduates taking Step 1 and Step 2 (CK and CS). This means that ECFMG processes your application and payment, determines your eligibility, and notifies you of the outcome of your application. The NBME serves as the registration entity for students/graduates of U.S. and Canadian medical school programs accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) and U.S. medical schools/programs accredited by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA).

For eligible Step 1/Step 2 CK applicants, ECFMG forwards registration information to NBME, and NBME generates and sends the exam scheduling permits. Scheduling and test centers for USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK are provided by Prometric, a division of Thomson Learning, Inc. Prometric serves as the test delivery entity for all examinees taking Step 1/Step 2 CK. Step 1 and Step 2 CK are delivered at Prometric test centers worldwide. ECFMG is not responsible for errors or any associated computer problems that may occur in generating Step 1/Step 2 CK scheduling permits or in delivering these exams. These functions are the responsibility of NBME and/or Prometric.

For eligible Step 2 CS applicants, ECFMG generates and sends the exam scheduling permits. Step 2 CS is delivered to all examinees at regional clinical skills evaluation centers in the United States.

Step 3

The FSMB serves as the registration entity for **all** Step 3 applicants. To be eligible for Step 3, international medical graduates must have passed Step 1 and Step 2 and must be certified by ECFMG, among other requirements. See *Eligibility* in the USMLE *Bulletin of Information*. If you have not met all eligibility requirements, your application for Step 3 will not be accepted. For detailed information and application procedures for Step 3, contact the individual medical licensing authorities or the FSMB (see *Communicating About USMLE* in the USMLE *Bulletin of Information*). Scheduling and test centers for Step 3 are provided by Prometric, which serves as the test delivery entity for all Step 3 examinees. Step 3 is delivered at Prometric test centers in the United States.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Step 2 CS has replaced the former ECFMG CSA. ECFMG-certified physicians, and physicians who have successfully completed Fifth Pathway programs, must have taken and passed either Step 2 CS or the CSA in order to register for Step 3. See *USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) Examination* in the USMLE *Bulletin of Information*.

Medical Science Examination Requirement

Step 1 and Step 2 CK of the USMLE are the exams currently administered that satisfy this requirement. To meet the medical science examination requirement for ECFMG Certification, applicants must pass both Step 1 and Step 2 CK within a specified period of time. See *Time Limit for Completing Examination Requirements* below.

ECFMG also accepts a passing performance on the following **former** examinations to satisfy the medical science examination requirement for ECFMG Certification: ECFMG Examination, Visa Qualifying Examination (VQE), Foreign Medical Graduate Examination in the Medical Sciences (FMGEMS), and the Part I and Part II Examinations of the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME).

Combinations of exams are also acceptable. Specifically, if you have passed only part of the former VQE, FMGEMS, or the NBME Part I or Part II, you may combine a passing performance on the basic medical science component of one of these exams or USMLE Step 1 with a passing performance on the clinical science component of one of the other exams or USMLE Step 2 CK, provided that the components are passed within the period specified for the exam program.

Additionally, ECFMG accepts a score of 75 or higher on each of the three days of a single administration of the former Federation Licensing Examination (FLEX), if taken prior to June 1985, to satisfy this requirement.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Use of the former NBME Parts or FLEX Components to fulfill eligibility requirements for Step 3 is no longer accepted. See *Formerly Administered Examinations in the USMLE Bulletin of Information*. You should also contact the FSMB or the medical licensing authority of the jurisdiction where you plan to apply for licensure for information on licensure requirements.

Clinical Skills Requirement

This requirement includes demonstration of data-gathering and communication (including spoken English) skills. Step 2 CS of the USMLE is the exam currently administered that satisfies this requirement. Specific time limits for passing Step 2 CS for ECFMG Certification may apply. See *Time Limit for Completing Examination Requirements* below.

Applicants who have **both** passed the **former** ECFMG CSA **and** achieved a score acceptable to ECFMG on an English language proficiency test (such as the TOEFL exam or the former ECFMG English Test) can use these passing performances to satisfy the clinical skills requirement for ECFMG Certification.

Time Limit for Completing Examination Requirements

ECFMG policy requires that applicants pass those USMLE Steps or Step Components required for ECFMG Certification within a seven-year period. Once an applicant passes a Step or Step Component, the applicant will have seven years to pass the other Step(s) or Step Component(s) required for ECFMG Certification. If an applicant does not pass all required Steps and Step Components within a maximum of seven years, the applicant's earliest USMLE passing performance will no longer be valid for ECFMG Certification.

Before implementation of Step 2 CS on June 14, 2004, applicants were required to pass Step 1 and Step 2 CK within a seven-year period for ECFMG Certification. Effective June 14, 2004, applicants must pass Step 1, Step 2 CK, **and Step 2 CS** within a seven-year period for ECFMG Certification; this new seven-year requirement applies to applicants whose earliest USMLE passing performance that is valid for ECFMG Certification took place on or after June 14, 2004, as described on page 17.

- **Earliest USMLE Passing Performance Before June 14, 2004**

If an applicant's earliest USMLE passing performance that is valid for ECFMG Certification took place before June 14, 2004, the applicant is required to pass **only Step 1 and Step 2 CK** within a seven-year period for ECFMG Certification. (If the applicant is required to pass Step 2 CS to satisfy the clinical skills requirement for ECFMG Certification, the applicant will not be required to pass Step 2 CS during the seven-year period in which the applicant must pass Step 1 and Step 2 CK.)

- **Earliest USMLE Passing Performance On or After June 14, 2004**

If an applicant's earliest USMLE passing performance that is valid for ECFMG Certification took place on or after June 14, 2004, the applicant is required to pass Step 1, Step 2 CK, **and Step 2 CS** within a seven-year period for ECFMG Certification.

IMPORTANT NOTE: These policies apply only to ECFMG Certification. The USMLE program has made specific recommendations to state medical licensing authorities regarding the time to complete all three Steps and the number of attempts allowed to pass each Step or Step Component. See *Time Limit and Number of Attempts Allowed to Complete All Steps and Retakes* in the USMLE *Bulletin of Information*. Additionally, applicants who retake a previously passed Step or Step Component to comply with a time limit should understand the implications for Step 3 eligibility of a failing attempt on a retake. See *Official Performance of Record for Examinees Retaking a Previously Passed Step* in the USMLE *Bulletin of Information*. You should also contact the FSMB or the medical licensing authority of the jurisdiction where you plan to apply for licensure, since licensure requirements vary among jurisdictions.

Eligibility for Examination

The eligibility requirements for examination differ depending on whether you are a medical school **student** or a medical school **graduate**.

IMPORTANT NOTES: If your eligibility for an exam changes after you apply but before you take the exam, you are required to inform ECFMG immediately of this change in your status.

Medical school students who transfer to another medical school after submitting an application for examination must inform ECFMG immediately of this transfer.

Medical School Students

To be eligible for Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 2 CS, you must be officially enrolled in a medical school located outside the United States and Canada that is listed in the *International Medical Education Directory (IMED)* of the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER), both at the time that you apply and at the time you take the exam. In addition, the "Graduation Years" in *IMED* for your medical school must be listed as "Current" at the time you apply and at the time you take the exam. Your Medical School Dean, Vice Dean, or Registrar must certify your current enrollment status on the application. This certification must be **current**; the official must have signed the application within **four months** of its receipt by ECFMG. As soon as you graduate and receive your medical diploma, you must send two photocopies of your medical diploma and one full-face color photograph to ECFMG (see *Provision of Credentials and Translations* on page 37). The photograph that you send must be current; it must have been taken within six months of the date that you send it. A photocopy of a photograph is not acceptable.

In addition to being currently enrolled as described above, to be eligible for Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 2 CS, you must have completed at least two years of medical school. This eligibility requirement means that you must have completed the basic medical science component of the medical school curriculum by the beginning of your eligibility period.

Although you may apply for and take the examinations after completing the basic medical science component of your medical school curriculum, you should consider the following recommendations before applying for Step 2 CK and Step 2 CS. Before taking Step 2 CK and Step 2 CS, it is recommended that you complete your core clinical clerkships, including actual patient contact. If English is not your first language, it is recommended that you take the Test of Spoken English™ (TSE®), offered by the Educational Testing Service® (ETS®), and achieve a score of at least 45 before taking Step 2 CS. For more information on the TSE exam or to obtain application materials, visit www.ets.org/tse or call ETS at (609) 921-9000. This recommendation is for self-assessment purposes only; if you take the TSE exam, do not send your TSE score to ECFMG.

If you have passed the former ECFMG CSA, you are **not** eligible to take Step 2 CS, except under certain, well-defined circumstances. Eligible circumstances include: taking Step 2 CS to permanently validate an expired CSA examination date (see *Validity of Examinations for Entry into Graduate Medical Education* on page 8), taking Step 2 CS because your most recent performance on a clinical skills exam (CSA or Step 2 CS) is a failing performance (see *Official Performance of Record for Examinees Retaking a Previously Passed Step* in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information*), and retaking Step 2 CS to meet a time limit (see *Reexamination and Reapplication* on page 36 and *Retakes* in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information*).

ECFMG reserves the right to reverify with the medical school the eligibility of medical school students who are registered for an exam. If ECFMG requests reverification of your student status with your medical school, ECFMG will release your score report only after reverification of your status has been received by ECFMG.

Medical School Graduates

To be eligible for Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 2 CS, you must be a graduate of a medical school located outside the United States and Canada that is listed in the *International Medical Education Directory (IMED)* of the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER). Your graduation year must be included in the medical school's *IMED* listing. You must have had at least four credit years (academic years for which credit has been given toward completion of the medical curriculum) in attendance at a medical school that is listed in *IMED*. The signature of the official who certifies your status as a graduate on the application must be **current**; the official must have signed the application within **four months** of its receipt by ECFMG.

You must also submit two photocopies of your medical diploma at the time of application if you have not sent the diploma to ECFMG previously. One full-face color photograph must accompany the copies of your diploma. The photograph that you send must be **current**; it must have been taken within six months of the date that you send your application. A photocopy of a photograph is not acceptable. If your medical diploma has not yet been issued, you must submit with the application a current color photograph and a letter signed by your Medical School Dean, Vice Dean, or Registrar that confirms you graduated from medical school, have met all requirements to receive your medical diploma, and states the date (month and year) that your medical diploma will be issued. You must then send the photocopies of your medical diploma to ECFMG as soon as your diploma is issued. (See *Provision of Credentials and Translations* on page 37.) You must also complete and submit with your medical diploma or letter from your medical school the *ECFMG Medical Education Credentials Submission Form* (Form 344) and *Medical School Release Request* (Form 345). These forms are available on the Publications page of the ECFMG website.

The name on your medical diploma and/or letter from your medical school must match **exactly** the name in your ECFMG record. If the names do not match **exactly**, you must submit legal documentation that **verifies** the name on your medical diploma and/or letter from your medical school is (or was) your name. (See *Changing or Verifying Your Name* on page 11.)

If English is not your first language, it is recommended that you take the Test of Spoken English (TSE), offered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS), and achieve a score of at least 45 before taking Step 2 CS. For more information on the TSE exam or to obtain application materials, visit www.ets.org/tse or call ETS at (609) 921-9000. This recommendation is for self-assessment purposes only; if you take the TSE exam, do not send your TSE score to ECFMG.

If you have passed the former ECFMG CSA, you are **not** eligible to take Step 2 CS, except under certain, well-defined circumstances. Eligible circumstances include: taking Step 2 CS to permanently validate an expired CSA examination date (see *Validity of Examinations for Entry into Graduate Medical Education* on page 8), taking Step 2 CS because your most recent performance on a clinical skills exam (CSA or Step 2 CS) is a failing performance (see *Official Performance of Record for Examinees Retaking a Previously Passed Step in the USMLE Bulletin of Information*), and retaking Step 2 CS to meet a time limit (see *Reexamination and Reapplication* on page 36 and *Retakes* in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information*).

Applying for Examination

You can apply **on-line** using ECFMG's Interactive Web Application (IWA) or download a **paper** application from the ECFMG website and send the completed application to ECFMG.

You may not register using a letter, postcard, or e-mail message. All photographs, signatures, and seals/stamps on the application must be original. You cannot register by faxing your application or sending photocopies of the application to ECFMG.

Detailed instructions accompany both the on-line and paper applications. Follow the instructions carefully and answer all questions completely. You should review the instructions **before** you begin working on the application. Some of the necessary items require advance planning. These items include photographs, official signatures, and additional documentation, such as copies of your medical diploma if you are a medical school graduate. If your application is not complete, it will be rejected.

ECFMG will notify you when your application is received. If you provide an e-mail address when you apply, ECFMG will send this notification by e-mail. If you do not provide an e-mail address, ECFMG will send this notification by postal mail. You can check the status of your exam application on-line using OASIS.

ECFMG will process your application and payment and determine your eligibility to take the exam(s) you requested. Once your application has been processed, ECFMG will notify you of the outcome of your application. For eligible applicants, ECFMG will also send important information about scheduling and taking the exams.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Application and other requests for services will not be processed if it is determined that doing so would be violative of any applicable federal laws or regulations.

Applying On-line

Access IWA on the ECFMG website at www.ecfm.org. ECFMG processes on-line applications typically within ten business days of receipt of the complete application.

Students

Medical school **students** who use IWA must print a *Certification Statement* (Form 183) after completing the on-line portion of the application and return the completed Form 183 to ECFMG. Students must complete and submit Form 183 for **each** on-line application.

Form 183 must be completed by the student and certified by an appropriate official of the student's medical school. This certification must be **current**; the official must have signed the form within four months of its receipt by ECFMG (see *Eligibility for Examination* on page 17).

Any additional documentation that is required at the time of application must be submitted with Form 183. The only items that should not be submitted with Form 183 are requests and supporting documentation for test accommodations; follow the instructions in the Test Accommodations information on the USMLE website for submitting these items to ECFMG (see *Examinees with Disabilities* on page 22 and in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information*).

On-line applications from students are not considered complete until ECFMG receives the completed Form 183 accompanied by any other required documents.

You can access Form 183 from IWA after completing the on-line portion of the application.

Graduates

Effective August 31, 2005, the on-line application process has been simplified for medical school **graduates**. Graduates who apply on-line on/after August 31, 2005 must print a *Certification of Identification Form* (Form 186) after completing the on-line portion of the application and return the completed Form 186 to ECFMG. Once accepted by ECFMG, this form remains valid for on-line applications received during the following five-year period, and subsequent applications during this period can be completed entirely on-line.

Form 186 must be completed by the graduate and certified by an appropriate official. This certification must be **current**; the official must have signed the form within four months of its receipt by ECFMG (see *Eligibility for Examination* on page 17).

Any additional documentation that is required at the time of application, including Form 186, must be accompanied by a completed *IWA Document Submission Form* (Form 187) to ensure that it is matched with the on-line portion of the application. The only items that should not be submitted with Form 187 are requests and supporting documentation for test accommodations; follow the instructions in the Test Accommodations information on the USMLE website for submitting these items to ECFMG (see *Examinees with Disabilities* on page 22 and in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information*).

On-line applications from graduates are not considered complete until the completed Form 186 (if required) and any other required documents are received at ECFMG. All required documents must be sent in one envelope, accompanied by Form 187.

You can access Form 186 from IWA after completing the on-line portion of the application. Form 187 is available from IWA and the Publications page of the ECFMG website.

Submitting a Paper Application

Download paper application materials from the Publications page of the ECFMG website or request a photocopy from ECFMG (see *How To Obtain This Publication* on page *i*). Processing time for paper applications is approximately four weeks.

For both students and graduates, **each** paper application must be certified by an appropriate official. This certification must be **current**; the official must have signed the form within four months of its receipt by ECFMG (see *Eligibility for Examination* on page 17).

Any additional documentation that is required at the time of application must be submitted with the application. The only items that should not be submitted with the application are requests and supporting documentation for test accommodations; follow the instructions in the Test Accommodations information on the USMLE website for submitting these items to ECFMG (see *Examinees with Disabilities* on page 22 and in the USMLE *Bulletin of Information*).

When to Apply

Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 2 CS are offered regularly throughout the year; however there may be occasional, brief periods when all test centers are closed or the exam is not available. There is no deadline for submitting your exam application. However, the application materials specify a date after which you cannot use them and must use the next year's application materials. You should check for this date before you apply. In planning the timing of your application, refer to *Eligibility Periods* on page 23 for information on how eligibility periods are assigned. You should also consider deadlines imposed by the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) and graduate medical education (GME) programs. (See *Applying to Graduate Medical Education Programs* on page 47.) Finally, you should be aware that demand for test dates/centers at certain times during the year may exceed the number of testing spaces available.

IMPORTANT NOTE: It is solely the responsibility of the applicant to complete the required exams in time to meet deadlines imposed by the NRMP and/or GME programs. Since the number of applicants seeking to complete these exams may exceed the spaces available in time to meet those deadlines, there is no guarantee that sufficient spaces will be available for all applicants to meet deadlines imposed by the NRMP and/or GME programs. ECFMG assumes no liability of any kind if an applicant does not complete the exams in time to have results available to meet NRMP and/or GME program deadlines.

Fees

You must pay all applicable fees at the time of application. If you apply for more than one exam at the same time, you must pay applicable fees for **all** exams at the time of application. **If you do not pay all fees, your application will be rejected.** If your application is rejected, any payment received with that application will be credited to your ECFMG financial account. See *Payment* on page 12.

For Step 1 or Step 2 CK, the total fee consists of the examination fee plus the appropriate international test delivery surcharge, if applicable.

- **Examination Fee.** The examination fee for 2006 eligibility periods is \$695 for each exam. All applicants must pay the examination fee.
- **International Test Delivery Surcharge.** If you choose a testing region other than the United States/Canada, you must also pay the international test delivery surcharge for the international testing region that you choose. These surcharges represent the additional cost of offering Step 1 and Step 2 CK by computer outside the United States and Canada. If you choose to take the exam in the United States or Canada, you do not need to pay a surcharge. For information on Step 1/Step 2 CK testing regions, refer to *Testing Locations* on page 22. For the international test delivery surcharges that apply to eligibility periods ending in 2006, refer to the list of Step 1/Step 2 CK testing regions on pages 58-60 or to the USMLE application materials.

For Step 2 CS, the fee for 2006 applications is \$1,200.

Examinees with Disabilities

The USMLE program provides reasonable accommodations for examinees with disabilities who are covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you are a disabled individual covered under the ADA and require test accommodations, you must obtain information regarding procedures and documentation requirements **before** applying for **each** Step or Step Component. If you are applying for Step 2 CS, review the informational materials available on the USMLE website **before** requesting accommodations.

Detailed information and the required forms are available on the USMLE website or from ECFMG, upon request. International medical students/graduates must submit official requests and documentation to ECFMG. ECFMG forwards these requests to NBME for processing. The NBME processes requests for test accommodations in accordance with USMLE policies and procedures and renders a decision. Once your request has been processed, NBME will inform you of the outcome of your request. If you take USMLE Steps or Step Components with test accommodations, your score reports and transcripts may indicate that such accommodations were provided.

All requests and accompanying documentation must be in English. If you request test accommodations, you must send your official request/documentation to the ECFMG Test Accommodations Coordinator at the address indicated in the Test Accommodations information on the USMLE website **at the same time** that you apply for the exam. **To protect your privacy, do not send your request for test accommodations to the same address or in the same envelope with application materials.**

For additional information, see *Examinees with Disabilities* in the USMLE *Bulletin of Information*.

Testing Locations

Step 1 and Step 2 CK

Step 1 and Step 2 CK are delivered at Prometric test centers worldwide. Prometric's test centers are grouped into distinct testing regions. Within each region, Prometric has a central office known as the *Regional Registration Center*.

When you complete your application, you must choose the testing region where you want to take the exam. If you apply for both Step 1 and Step 2 CK at the same time, you can choose the same testing region for both Step 1 and Step 2 CK, or you can choose a different testing region for each exam. Although you will choose a testing region when you apply, you will not choose a particular test center within that region until you schedule your testing appointment. A list of Prometric testing regions is located on pages 58-60. **The test centers available for USMLE are subject to change.** To obtain current information on test centers in specific testing regions, visit the Prometric website at www.prometric.com or follow instructions on the scheduling permit for contacting Prometric.

IMPORTANT NOTE: A small number of test centers in international testing regions are not expected to offer Step 1 and Step 2 CK, beginning in calendar year 2006. These test centers are located in Georgia, Israel, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Ukraine. For additional information, refer to the ECFMG website.

You must take the exam in your assigned testing region. You can take the exam at any test center in your testing region that offers USMLE, provided there is space available on the date you choose. Once your testing region has been assigned, it cannot be changed. **If you cannot take the exam in your assigned testing region, you will lose your payment for the exam, and you will need to reapply, including payment of all applicable fees, to take the exam.** See *Reexamination and Reapplication* on page 36. Although you cannot change your testing region, you can reschedule your testing appointment for a different test center within your testing region, subject to availability. To avoid a rescheduling fee, you must cancel or reschedule at least five business days before your scheduled testing appointment. See *Rescheduling* on page 28.

Step 2 CS

Step 2 CS is administered at regional clinical skills evaluation centers in Atlanta, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia in the United States. You will not choose a test center when you complete the application. Once registered, you will select a test center, subject to availability, when you schedule your testing appointment. If you are unable to keep your testing appointment at the test center you select, you can reschedule for a different center, subject to availability. To avoid a rescheduling fee, you must cancel or reschedule more than fourteen days before your scheduled testing appointment. See *Rescheduling* on page 28.

Travel information for each test center is available on the USMLE website.

Eligibility Periods

Step 1 and Step 2 CK

When you apply for Step 1 or Step 2 CK, you must choose a three-month period, such as January-February-March, February-March-April, etc., during which you would like to take the exam. This three-month period is referred to as your eligibility period. If you apply for Step 1 and Step 2 CK at the same time, you can choose the same eligibility period for both Step 1 and Step 2 CK, or you can choose a different eligibility period for each exam. You must take the exam during the eligibility period assigned to you. You can take the exam on any day that it is offered during your assigned eligibility period, provided that there is space available at the test center that you choose.

When choosing your eligibility period, remember that: Prometric test centers are closed on major local holidays; Step 1 and Step 2 CK are not offered during the first two weeks in January; and the busiest testing times in the United States/Canada testing region are May through July and November through December. Your eligibility period will not be adjusted to compensate for dates when the exams are not available.

ECFMG must receive your **complete** application **at least one month in advance of the eligibility period you select**. The following table lists the specific date by which ECFMG must receive your complete application for each eligibility period. Keep in mind that delays or interruptions in postal service may delay delivery of your application to ECFMG.

Desired Eligibility Period:	Latest Date of Receipt at ECFMG:
November 1, 2005 – January 31, 2006	September 30, 2005
December 1, 2005 – February 28, 2006	October 31, 2005
January 1, 2006 – March 31, 2006	November 30, 2005
February 1, 2006 – April 30, 2006	December 28, 2005
March 1, 2006 – May 31, 2006	January 31, 2006
April 1, 2006 – June 30, 2006	February 28, 2006
May 1, 2006 – July 31, 2006	March 31, 2006
June 1, 2006 – August 31, 2006	April 28, 2006
July 1, 2006 – September 30, 2006	May 31, 2006
August 1, 2006 – October 31, 2006	June 30, 2006
September 1, 2006 – November 30, 2006	July 31, 2006
October 1, 2006 – December 31, 2006	August 31, 2006

If your application is not received in time to assign the eligibility period you select, you will be assigned to the next eligibility period. The eligibility period assigned to you will be listed on your scheduling permit. If the eligibility period you want **ends** in the next calendar year, you must use the next year’s application materials.

EXAMPLE: An applicant decides in May 2006 that he wants to apply to take Step 2 CK during the November-December-January eligibility period. Since the last month of the eligibility period desired by the applicant (January) falls within the year 2007, the applicant must apply using the 2007 application materials.

Eligibility Period Extension

If you are unable to take Step 1/Step 2 CK during the three-month eligibility period assigned to you, you may request a **one-time** extension. You may extend your eligibility period only through the next, contiguous eligibility period (the next eligibility period that does not overlap with your original eligibility period).

EXAMPLE: An applicant’s original eligibility period is April-May-June 2006. The eligibility period may be extended only through July-August-September 2006.

You may request an extension on-line using IWA or by completing a *Request to Extend a USMLE™ Step 1/ Step 2 CK Eligibility Period* (Form 176) and submitting it to ECFMG. You can access IWA on the ECFMG website. Form 176 is available on the Publications page of the ECFMG website and from ECFMG, upon request. Payment of the appropriate fee must be submitted with the request. You may request an extension of your eligibility period only once for each exam registration. You may request an extension of your eligibility period only **after** your eligibility period has begun. Requests received at ECFMG more than **twenty-five days** after the end of the original eligibility period will **not** be processed. For specific information on deadlines, refer to IWA or Form 176.

Additionally, you must continue to be eligible to take the exam during the extended eligibility period (you must still be officially enrolled in a medical school located outside the United States and Canada that is listed in the *International Medical Education Directory [IMED]* and the “Graduation Years” for your medical school must be listed as “Current,” or you must be a graduate of such a medical school and your graduation year must be included in the school’s *IMED* listing). See *Eligibility for Examination* on page 17.

If your eligibility period is extended, NBME will send you a new scheduling permit reflecting the extension. You must bring the new scheduling permit to the test center on the date of your exam.

If you have a scheduled appointment during your original eligibility period and need to cancel and reschedule the appointment for your extended eligibility period, you must cancel or reschedule at least five business days before your scheduled appointment to avoid a rescheduling fee. Requesting an extension of your eligibility period does **not** cancel a scheduled appointment. See *Rescheduling* on page 28.

If you are unable to take the exam during your original or extended eligibility period or you are unable to extend your original eligibility period, you must reapply, including payment of the appropriate fee(s), to take the exam.

Step 2 CS

When you are registered for Step 2 CS, you are assigned a twelve-month eligibility period that begins on the date that the processing of your application is completed.

EXAMPLE: A complete application is received at ECFMG on July 15, 2006, and processing of the application is completed on July 28, 2006. The applicant will be assigned an eligibility period of July 28, 2006 – July 28, 2007.

Your eligibility period will be listed on your Step 2 CS scheduling permit. You must take the exam during your eligibility period. You can schedule a testing appointment for any available date in your eligibility period. Once your eligibility period is assigned, it cannot be changed. Although you cannot change your assigned eligibility period, you can reschedule a testing appointment for a different date within your eligibility period, subject to availability. To avoid a rescheduling fee, you must cancel or reschedule more than fourteen days before your scheduled testing appointment. See *Rescheduling* on page 28.

You may take Step 2 CS only once during each assigned eligibility period. If you take and fail the exam, you may retake it, but you must reapply, pay the examination fee, and obtain a new eligibility period. You may reapply as soon as you receive your failing score report. You do not need to wait for the previously-assigned eligibility period to end. If you do not take the exam within your eligibility period, you must reapply, including payment of the examination fee, to take the exam.

Your Scheduling Permit

When your registration is complete, you will be sent an exam scheduling permit. If you apply for more than one exam at the same time, you will be sent separate scheduling permits for each exam. You can check the status of your scheduling permit on-line using OASIS. The scheduling permit includes instructions for scheduling your testing appointment and a description of form(s) of identification you must bring to the test center on your exam date (see *Acceptable Identification* on page 32).

The scheduling permit is a very important document, and you should be careful not to lose it. You must bring your scheduling permit to the test center on your exam date. If you do not bring your scheduling permit, you will not be allowed to take the exam. Additionally, your name as it appears on your scheduling permit and your form(s) of identification must match **exactly**. **If the names do not match, you will not be allowed to take the exam** (see *Acceptable Identification* on page 32). If you are not allowed to take the exam, you will need to reschedule your testing appointment and pay a rescheduling fee. Your rescheduled testing appointment must fall within your assigned eligibility period.

When you receive your scheduling permit, you should verify that all information included is correct. The scheduling permit includes your name and mailing address, the exam for which you registered, and the eligibility period during which you must take the exam. For Step 1 and Step 2 CK, it also includes the Prometric testing region where you must take the exam. If any of the information on the scheduling permit is incorrect or you have questions or concerns about this document, contact ECFMG by e-mail at permits@ecfm.org or by telephone or fax (see *General Inquiries* on page ii).

Step 1 and Step 2 CK

If ECFMG determines that you are eligible, ECFMG will forward your registration information to NBME. The NBME will send your scheduling permit within two weeks of this notification. However, if the beginning of your assigned eligibility period is more than six months away, your scheduling permit will not be sent until approximately six months before the beginning of your assigned eligibility period.

The Step 1/Step 2 CK scheduling permit includes two important numbers:

- **Your Scheduling Number** – you must provide this number when you schedule your testing appointment; and
- **Your Candidate Identification Number (CIN)** – you must enter your CIN into the computer at the test center to start the exam and to initiate each block of the exam. You must keep this number confidential. For your own protection, do not share your CIN with anyone, except as directed by test center staff on your test day.

If your name of record with ECFMG is changed or your Step 1/Step 2 CK eligibility period is extended while you are registered, a new scheduling permit reflecting the change will be sent to you automatically. You must bring this new scheduling permit to the test center on your test date.

Step 2 CS

Once you are registered, ECFMG will send your Step 2 CS scheduling permit to the e-mail address in your ECFMG record. (If you indicate on your exam application that you are unable to receive the scheduling permit by e-mail, your scheduling permit will be sent by postal mail.) If your name of record with ECFMG is changed while you are registered, you can print a new scheduling permit by accessing IWA on the ECFMG website.

Replacement Scheduling Permits

Step 1 and Step 2 CK

If you lose or do not receive your scheduling permit, you should contact ECFMG immediately by e-mail at permits@ecfmg.org or by telephone or fax (see *General Inquiries* on page *ii*) to request a replacement. There may be a fee for this service. ECFMG will notify NBME that you need a replacement scheduling permit, and NBME will send the replacement to you. If you would like your replacement scheduling permit sent by a courier service, you must pay for delivery. Although your replacement scheduling permit will be sent by NBME, you should contact ECFMG if you have questions or concerns about this document.

If your name of record with ECFMG is changed or your Step 1/Step 2 CK eligibility period is extended while you are registered, a new scheduling permit reflecting the change will be sent to you automatically. You must bring this new scheduling permit to the test center on your test date.

Step 2 CS

If you lose or do not receive your scheduling permit, or your name of record with ECFMG is changed while you are registered for Step 2 CS, you can print a new scheduling permit by accessing IWA on the ECFMG website.

Scheduling

You can schedule your testing appointment as soon as you receive your exam scheduling permit. Your scheduling permit provides instructions that will allow you to review available test dates and centers and schedule a testing appointment.

To schedule a testing appointment, you must select a test date and center. The test date you select must fall within your assigned eligibility period. For Step 1/Step 2 CK, the test center you select must fall within your assigned testing region.

Testing appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis. You should monitor the availability of test dates within your eligibility period. You should also review the important information in *When to Apply* on page 21. **If you do not schedule and take the exam during your eligibility period, you will lose your payment for the exam and you will need to reapply, including payment of applicable fees, to take the exam in the future.**

Step 1 and Step 2 CK

You can schedule your testing appointment with Prometric up to six months in advance of the beginning of your eligibility period. You must schedule before 12:00 noon (local time at the Regional Registration Center for your testing region) at least five business days prior to the exam date that you want.

When you schedule, you must provide the Scheduling Number listed on your scheduling permit. You will receive your Prometric Confirmation Number. Be sure to record this information. If you need to reschedule your testing appointment, you will need your Prometric Confirmation Number.

Step 2 CS

You should review the important information in *How Step 2 CS Test Dates Become Available* below.

Step 2 CS is administered in both morning (AM) and afternoon (PM) sessions. Although you will select your test **date** and **center**, you will not be able to choose your test **session**. When you confirm a testing appointment, you will be assigned to either an AM or PM session. A PM session is assigned if, for that test date and center, AM sessions have been filled and PM sessions have been opened. When reviewing available test dates, you will be informed whether AM or PM sessions are currently being assigned for each date, and you can continue to check available dates for one offering your preferred session. Before you confirm a testing appointment, you will be informed once again whether an AM or PM session will be assigned.

After you confirm your testing appointment, you will receive a confirmation notice that includes your scheduled test date, arrival time, test center, and other important information. You should bring the confirmation notice to the test center on your test date. If you lose the confirmation notice, you can reprint it by accessing Step 2 CS Scheduling on the ECFMG website.

How Step 2 CS Test Dates Become Available

- Test dates are opened so that dates will be available throughout your twelve-month eligibility period.
- Additional test dates are opened, depending on demand. These dates are opened in ways that maximize operational efficiency at all centers and may not reflect applicant demand for particular test dates and/or test centers.

- Testing appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis (although scheduling restrictions may be imposed). It is possible that you will not be able to obtain a testing appointment for the time period and/or test center you prefer.
- The availability of testing appointments will change frequently as a result of applicant scheduling, rescheduling, and the opening of additional test dates.
- It is possible that testing appointments will become available for the time period and/or test center that you prefer **after** you have scheduled an appointment for a different time period and/or center. In this event, you can change your scheduled test date and/or center, subject to availability. A fee may be charged for this service (see *Rescheduling* below).
- Although you can monitor available test dates for the time period and test center that you prefer, availability is not guaranteed. You must take the exam during your assigned eligibility period. If you do not take the exam during your eligibility period, you must reapply, including payment of the exam fee, to take the exam.

Rescheduling

Step 1 and Step 2 CK

If you are unable to keep your testing appointment on the scheduled date or at the scheduled test center, you may change your date and/or center, subject to availability. You may cancel and reschedule at the same time, or you may cancel and then reschedule at a later date. Your new test date and center must fall within your assigned eligibility period and testing region, respectively. You will need to provide your Prometric Confirmation Number when you cancel or reschedule.

To reschedule your appointment, follow the instructions for contacting Prometric on your scheduling permit. To avoid a rescheduling fee, you must cancel or reschedule your appointment at least five business days before your appointment. If you are testing in the United States or Canada, you must cancel or reschedule by 12:00 noon, Eastern Time, at least five business days before your scheduled appointment. If you are testing outside the United States/Canada, you must cancel or reschedule by 12:00 noon, local time at the Regional Registration Center for your testing region, at least five business days before your scheduled appointment. If you give notice of less than five business days, you must pay Prometric a rescheduling fee when you arrange your new appointment. If you give notice of less than five business days, Prometric may require additional time to process your request.

If you cannot take the exam during your assigned eligibility period, you may request an extension. See *Eligibility Period Extension* on page 24 for additional information. However, you must still cancel a scheduled testing appointment, as described above, if you cannot keep the appointment. Requesting an extension of your eligibility period does **not** cancel a scheduled testing appointment.

Step 2 CS

If you have a scheduled testing appointment and are unable to take the exam on your scheduled test date or at your scheduled test center, you can cancel your scheduled testing appointment and reschedule for a different date and/or center, subject to availability. A fee may be charged for this service depending on how much notice you provide when canceling your appointment, as described below. To cancel or reschedule, follow the instructions on your scheduling permit for accessing Step 2 CS Scheduling.

Before canceling and/or rescheduling a scheduled testing appointment, you will have the opportunity to review available test dates at all testing locations. Your rescheduled test date must fall within your assigned eligibility period. There is no limit on the number of times you can cancel and reschedule your testing appointment. However, a rescheduling fee is charged for each rescheduled testing appointment that does not meet the notice

requirements described below. **Any** change to a scheduled testing appointment constitutes rescheduling.

You can cancel and reschedule at the same time, or you can cancel and then reschedule later. You can cancel and/or reschedule at any time through the end of the day before your scheduled test date. However, no canceling or rescheduling is allowed beginning at 12:00 AM, Eastern Time in the United States, on the scheduled test date until it is confirmed that you did not take the exam (typically one to two days). If you do not cancel and you miss your scheduled testing appointment, you can reschedule after this confirmation period.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you cancel without rescheduling or miss your scheduled testing appointment, there is no guarantee that testing appointments during your eligibility period will be available at a given test center, or at any test center, when you attempt to reschedule. If you do not reschedule within your eligibility period, you must reapply, including payment of the exam fee, to take the exam.

There is no fee to **cancel** a scheduled testing appointment; the fee, if applicable, is due at the time of **rescheduling**. However, the date that you cancel your appointment, using Eastern Time in the United States, will determine whether you pay a rescheduling fee and the amount of this fee.

- If you cancel more than fourteen calendar days before (but not including) your scheduled test date, there is **no fee** to reschedule.
- If you cancel during the fourteen-day period before (but not including) your scheduled test date, your fee will be **\$150** when you reschedule.
- If you miss your scheduled testing appointment without canceling, your fee will be **\$400** when you reschedule.

If you are unable to keep your scheduled testing appointment, **you should cancel your appointment as soon as possible to avoid a rescheduling fee**, regardless of whether you are ready to reschedule.

Preparation

Format of the Exams

Step 1 and Step 2 CK are each one-day, multiple-choice exams that are administered by computer. Each exam consists of multiple-choice questions divided into sixty-minute blocks. The Step 1 testing session lasts approximately eight hours. The Step 2 CK testing session lasts approximately nine hours.

Step 2 CS is a one-day exam that consists of simulated clinical encounters. The Step 2 CS testing session lasts approximately eight hours.

For detailed information on test lengths and formats, see *Preparing for the Test* in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information*. You should also review the USMLE sample test materials available for each exam.

Sample Test Materials

The USMLE Orientation Materials CD contains sample test materials for all Steps and Step Components. When your registration is complete, ECFMG will send you the CD by postal mail. The sample test materials on the CD are also available on the USMLE website.

The sample Step 1/Step 2 CK test materials on the CD will help you become familiar with the types of questions and exam software that you will encounter on the date of your exam. It is **recommended** that you practice with the exam software before taking the exam. If you do not have extensive experience with

computers, you may be concerned about taking a computer-based exam. The NBME has conducted field trials to determine the effect of prior computer experience on examinee performance on computer-based exams. These field trials show that experience with computers generally does not affect how examinees score on computer-based, multiple-choice exams. Additional information on examination content and test formats for Step 1/Step 2 CK is available on the USMLE website.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The NBME has developed new software for the computer-based components of the USMLE (Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 3). In 2005, the NBME software, known as FRED™, began to replace the Prometric software, which had been used to deliver these examinations. If you plan to take Step 1, Step 2 CK, or Step 3, refer to the ECFMG and USMLE websites for important information on the sample test materials you should use to prepare. Sample test materials using the FRED test delivery software are available on the USMLE Orientation Materials CD and on the USMLE website. Sample test materials using the Prometric test delivery software are available on the USMLE website and from ECFMG, upon request.

For Step 2 CS, the CD includes the *Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) Content Description and General Information* booklet, a practice patient note program that is similar to the one you will use if you choose to type your post-encounter patient notes, and samples of handwritten patient notes. It also includes two orientation videos.

Step 1/Step 2 CK Practice Session at a Prometric Test Center

If you have received your scheduling permit for Step 1 or Step 2 CK, you can register to take a practice session for this exam at a Prometric test center. You must pay a fee to Prometric for this service. **The materials used for the practice sessions at Prometric test centers are the USMLE sample test materials. No new material will be presented during the Prometric practice sessions.**

IMPORTANT NOTE: Although the transition to the FRED test delivery software is scheduled to be completed during 2005, the sample materials available during the practice sessions at Prometric test centers for all Steps will continue to use the Prometric test delivery software until further notice. If you wish to practice with the FRED software, you should use the sample materials available on the USMLE Orientation Materials CD or access the FRED sample materials on the USMLE website.

If you would like to take a practice session at a Prometric test center, you must register for the practice session to obtain a practice session scheduling permit. You can register for a practice session on the USMLE website. Information on the fee for the practice sessions is also available on this site. If you do not have access to the Internet, you can call ECFMG at (215) 386-5900 for assistance.

When you register for a practice session, you will be asked for the Scheduling Number and Candidate Identification Number from your Step 1 or Step 2 CK scheduling permit. Once you are registered for a practice session, your practice session scheduling permit will be sent to you.

Taking the Exam

Step 1/Step 2 CK

You should arrive at the Prometric test center thirty minutes before your scheduled start time. **If you arrive late, you may not be allowed to take the exam. If you arrive more than thirty minutes late or do not have both the scheduling permit and acceptable identification, you will not be allowed to take the exam.** If you are not allowed to take the exam for these reasons, you will need to reschedule your testing appointment and pay Prometric a rescheduling fee. Your rescheduled testing appointment must fall within your assigned eligibility period.

You must bring **both** your original scheduling permit and acceptable identification (see page 32). If your name of record with ECFMG is changed or your eligibility period is extended while you are registered for Step 1/ Step 2 CK, NBME will mail a new scheduling permit reflecting this change to you. You must bring this new scheduling permit to the test center. Name changes must be received **and processed** by ECFMG no later than seven business days before your testing appointment, or you will not be able to test.

If you need directions to the test center, visit the Prometric website at www.prometric.com or contact Prometric in advance of your test date. If you are testing in the United States/Canada, call the test center using the telephone number provided when you scheduled your appointment. If you are testing outside the United States/ Canada, contact the Regional Registration Center for your testing region using the contact information on your scheduling permit.

For detailed information on procedures upon arrival and throughout the testing day, see *Testing* in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information*.

Step 2 CS

The time you should arrive will be listed on the confirmation notice you will receive after scheduling your testing appointment. If you arrive during the on-site orientation, you may be allowed to test; however, you will be required to sign a Late Admission Form. If you arrive after the on-site orientation, you will not be allowed to test. You will have to reschedule your testing appointment and pay the rescheduling fee.

You must bring your scheduling permit and acceptable identification (see page 32). If you lose your scheduling permit or your name of record with ECFMG is changed while you are registered for Step 2 CS, you can reprint your scheduling permit by accessing IWA on the ECFMG website. Name changes must be received **and processed** by ECFMG no later than seven business days before your testing appointment, or you will not be able to test.

You should also bring your confirmation notice to the test center. You can reprint your confirmation notice by following the instructions on your scheduling permit for accessing Step 2 CS Scheduling.

Travel information for each test center is available on the USMLE website.

For detailed information on procedures upon arrival and throughout the testing day, refer to the USMLE *Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) Content Description and General Information* booklet (available on the USMLE CD and USMLE website) and *Testing* in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information*.

Travel Status

Applicants traveling to the United States to take an exam are responsible for making the necessary travel and accommodation arrangements. If you are neither a U.S. citizen nor U.S. lawful permanent resident, you are responsible for obtaining required travel documents. These documents may include a visa to enter the United States. The requirements of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. embassies and consulates regarding issuance of visas and travel to and from the United States are subject to change. You should review current requirements before applying for a visa. For additional information, visit the DHS website at www.dhs.gov and the U.S. Department of State website at www.travel.state.gov/visa.

Step 2 CS is administered only in the United States. Upon request, ECFMG provides Step 2 CS applicants with a letter that may assist during the process of applying for a visa. The letter indicates that the applicant is registered for Step 2 CS, one of the exams required for ECFMG Certification. The letter also indicates that the applicant is required to travel to the United States to take the exam and provides the date by which the applicant must complete the exam. You can request this letter when you apply for Step 2 CS. ECFMG will send the letter to you via postal mail after completion of the registration process. If you are unable to obtain the appropriate visa to enter the United States to take Step 2 CS, you may request a full refund of the exam fee. See *Refunds* on page 14.

If you are traveling from a distant location, you should consider arriving a day or two before the examination in order to be rested.

Acceptable Identification

Your name as it appears on your scheduling permit and your form(s) of identification must match **exactly**. Since your name on the scheduling permit appears in the Latin alphabet (in “English language letters”) the name on your identification must also appear in the Latin alphabet. The spelling of the name on your scheduling permit must match **exactly** the spelling of the name on the form(s) of identification you present at the test center. If the names do not match as described above, you will not be allowed to take the exam. Refer to *Name of Applicant* on page 10.

The form of identification you present must be one of the forms of **unexpired**, government-issued identification listed below that contains your **name in the Latin alphabet**, your **signature**, and your **photograph**. The following forms of identification are acceptable, only if they meet all of these requirements:

- Passport;
- Driver’s license;
- National identity card; or
- Other form of **unexpired**, government-issued identification that meets all of these requirements.

If your unexpired, government-issued form of identification contains your name in the Latin alphabet and your photograph but not your signature, you can use another form of unexpired identification that contains your signature, such as a student/employee identification card or a credit card, to **supplement** your photo-bearing, government-issued identification.

If you do not have acceptable identification, as described above, that contains your name in the Latin alphabet, you can apply for an ECFMG Identification Card (EIC). You may use a valid EIC in place of one of the forms of identification listed above to gain admittance to the test center on the date of your exam. To receive an EIC, you must complete an *ECFMG Identification Card Request Form* (Form 180) for each exam for which you are applying and submit the form(s) to ECFMG with your exam application. If you apply on line, refer to *Applying for Examination* on page 19 for information on submitting Form 180 to ECFMG. To obtain complete information and Form 180, visit the Publications page of the ECFMG website. Each EIC is valid for one testing appointment only and will be collected at the test center at the end of your testing appointment.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The purpose of the EIC is to provide acceptable identification for examinees who do not have identification that contains their name in the Latin alphabet. Do not request an EIC if you already have identification that meets all of the requirements listed above. Exam applications accompanied by an EIC request form will require additional processing time. Requesting an EIC may delay the processing of your exam application up to four weeks beyond the normal processing time.

Scoring and Score Reporting

Minimum Passing Scores

For ECFMG Certification, you must obtain at least the USMLE-recommended pass outcome for each required Step or Step Component. The USMLE-recommended minimum passing level is reviewed periodically and may be adjusted at any time. Notice of such adjustments will be posted on the USMLE website. (See *Minimum Passing Scores* in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information*.)

Reporting of Scores

Once your result is available, ECFMG will mail it to your ECFMG address of record. Results for Step 1/ Step 2 CK are typically available in time to mail your report within three to four weeks after your test date. Results for Step 2 CS are typically available within eight weeks of your test date. However, delays are possible for various reasons. In selecting your test date and inquiring about results, you should allow at least eight weeks after your test date to receive your score report. You can check the status of your score report on-line using OASIS. To avoid misinterpretation and to protect the privacy of examinees, ECFMG will not provide scores or pass/fail outcomes by telephone, fax, or e-mail to anyone, including examinees.

Please note that the reporting of scores may be delayed if additional data and/or analyses are required to assure the validity of the test scores. Additionally, ECFMG reserves the right to reverify with the medical school the eligibility of medical school students who are registered for examination. If ECFMG requests reverification of your student status with your medical school, ECFMG will release your score report only after reverification of your status has been received by ECFMG.

If you do not receive your score report or you receive a damaged score report, you may request a duplicate score report. Send your written request to ECFMG by mail (see *General Inquiries* on page *ii*) or by fax to (215) 386-6327. Your request must include your name, your USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number, the exam (Step 1, Step 2 CK, etc.), the exam administration date, your address, and your signature. ECFMG will honor requests for duplicate scores received up to ninety days after the score report release date. If more than ninety days have passed since your score report was released, scores will be reported to you only in the form of a USMLE transcript.

Step 1/Step 2 CK

Score reports for Step 1 and Step 2 CK include a pass/fail designation, numerical scores, and graphical performance profiles, which summarize areas of strength and weakness to aid in self-assessment. These profiles are developed as assessment tools for the benefit of examinees only and are not reported or verified to third parties.

Except as otherwise specified below, to receive a score for Step 1/Step 2 CK, you must begin **every block of the test**. If you do not begin every block, no final results are reported, and the “incomplete examination” attempt appears on your USMLE transcript.

If your examination is incomplete, you may request that a score be calculated and reported, with all missed test items scored as incorrect. This score is likely to be lower than the score you would have achieved had you completed all sections of the examination. If you decide to request calculation and reporting of your score, the score will appear on your USMLE transcript as though it were complete. It will remain the permanent score for the examination administration. If your exam is incomplete, you will be notified in writing by NBME. You will have forty-five days from the date of this notification to request the exam to be scored as described above.

Step 2 CS

Performance on Step 2 CS is reported as pass or fail, with no numerical score. Examinees who fail receive graphical performance profiles, which reflect the relative strengths and weaknesses of the examinee's performance. These profiles are developed as assessment tools for the benefit of examinees only and are not reported or verified to third parties.

For Step 2 CS, if you do not begin every case, your performance may be assessed on those cases completed. If this assessment would result in a passing outcome no matter how poorly you may have performed on the missed case(s), then a "pass" will be reported. If this assessment would result in a failing outcome no matter how good your performance on the missed case(s), then a "fail" will be reported. Otherwise, the attempt may be recorded as an "incomplete examination."

Additional information on scoring and score reporting for all Steps and Step Components is available in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information*.

Score Rechecks

For Step 1/Step 2 CK, standard quality assurance procedures ensure that the scores reported for you accurately reflect the responses recorded by the computer.

For Step 2 CS, score rechecks first involve retrieval of the ratings you received from the standardized patients and from the physician note raters. These values are then resummed and reconverted into final scores in order to confirm that the reported pass/fail outcome was accurate. There is no rerating of your encounters or of your patient notes; videos of encounters are not reviewed. Videos are used for general quality control and for training purposes and are only retained for a limited period of time.

Patient notes are carefully reviewed, in some instances by multiple physicians, before scores are released. As part of the quality control procedures for initial scoring, examinees who fail Step 2 CS solely on the basis of the Integrated Clinical Encounter subcomponent and who are performing at a level that is near the minimum passing point, have their patient notes rated by multiple physician note raters. Therefore, patient notes are not reviewed again when a recheck is requested.

For all Steps and Step Components, a change in your score or in your pass/fail outcome based on a recheck is an extremely remote possibility. However, a request for a recheck will be honored if you submit a *Request for Recheck of USMLE™ Step 1, Step 2 CK, or Step 2 CS Score* (Form 265) and the fee for this service to ECFMG. Form 265 and additional information are available on the Publications page of the ECFMG website and from ECFMG, upon request. Your request must be received at ECFMG no later than ninety days after your score report release date.

USMLE Transcripts

To request official copies of your USMLE scores, you must contact the appropriate registration entity. You must contact the Federation of State Medical Boards if: you are registered for or have taken Step 3, and/or you want to send your transcript to a medical licensing authority. In all other cases, submit your transcript request to ECFMG by sending a completed *Request for Official USMLE™ Transcript* (Form 172) and the appropriate fee to ECFMG. Form 172 and additional information are available on the Publications page of the ECFMG website and from ECFMG, upon request. You can check the status of your USMLE transcript request on-line using OASIS. For a description of the information provided in USMLE transcripts, see *Official USMLE Transcripts and Providing Scores to Third Parties* in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information*.

If you apply to residency programs through the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS), you may request electronic transmittal of your USMLE transcript to these programs. For additional information, refer to the ERAS applicant information available on the ECFMG website at www.ecfm.org/eras. Information on the status of requests for electronic transmittal of USMLE transcripts via ERAS is not available through OASIS.

CSA Performance History

If you took the former ECFMG CSA, your USMLE transcript will indicate only that you have CSA examination history. It will not provide any additional information on your attempt(s) on the CSA. To request official copies of your CSA performance history, you must complete a *Request for an Official ECFMG® CSA® History Chart* (Form 297) and submit it to ECFMG with the appropriate fee. Form 297 is available on the Publications page of the ECFMG website and from ECFMG, upon request. For each attempt on the ECFMG CSA, the Official ECFMG CSA History Chart includes the month and year of the administration and the result of your performance. For additional information, refer to the instructions that accompany Form 297.

Testing Conditions, Validity of Scores, and Irregular Behavior

Testing Conditions

Policies and procedures to govern the administration of the exams have been established to ensure that no examinee or group of examinees receives unfair advantage on the exam, inadvertently or otherwise. If the integrity of the examination process is jeopardized, the USMLE parent organizations reserve the right to invalidate all or any part of an exam. If information indicates that continued testing would jeopardize the security of the examination materials or the integrity of scores derived from the exam, the USMLE parent organizations reserve the right to suspend or cancel test administration. Refer to *Testing* in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information*.

Validity of Scores

To ensure the integrity of the examination system, the validity of scores reported for USMLE Steps is assured by every means available to the USMLE program. The performance of all examinees is monitored and may be analyzed statistically to detect aberrancies that may result in a classification of scores as indeterminate. To designate a score as indeterminate means that the score achieved may not represent a valid measure of the examinee's knowledge or competence as sampled by the exam, based upon statistical analyses or otherwise. To ensure the meaningfulness of ECFMG Certification, a score that has been classified as indeterminate will not be reported. Refer to *Validity of Scores* in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information*.

Irregular Behavior

Irregular behavior includes any action by applicants, examinees, potential applicants, or others when solicited by an applicant and/or examinee, that subverts or attempts to subvert the examination process. All USMLE exams are monitored through use of audio and video monitors, recording equipment and by test center staff. Failure to adhere to the instructions of test center staff during the exam may result in a determination of irregular behavior and permanent annotation of your USMLE record and transcripts. If you are observed engaging in a possible violation of test administration rules or other forms of irregular behavior during an exam, you will not necessarily be told of the observation by a proctor at the time of the exam. See *Irregular Behavior* in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information*.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Postings and discussion of examination content and/or answers on the Internet are violations of the USMLE Rules of Conduct. If there is evidence that you have violated this or any other test administration rule, actions may be taken under the USMLE policies and procedures on irregular behavior. If you are found to have engaged in irregular behavior, your score report and USMLE transcripts will include this finding, and you may also be barred from taking the USMLE in the future. See *Testing Regulations and Rules of Conduct* and *Irregular Behavior* in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information*.

Reexamination and Reapplication

For the purpose of ECFMG Certification, there is no limit on the number of times you can take a Step or Step Component you have not passed. If you pass a Step or Step Component, you may not retake it, and you will have seven years to pass the other Step(s) or Step Component(s) required for ECFMG Certification. If you do not pass all required USMLE Step(s) and Step Component(s) within a maximum of seven years, your earliest USMLE passing performance will no longer be valid for the purpose of ECFMG Certification. See *Time Limit for Completing Examination Requirements* on page 16. In this event, you may request an exception to retake the previously-passed exam that is no longer valid. See *Retakes* in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information*.

IMPORTANT NOTE: These policies apply only to ECFMG Certification. The USMLE program has made specific recommendations to state medical licensing authorities regarding the time to complete all three Steps and the number of attempts allowed to pass each Step or Step Component. See *Time Limit and Number of Attempts Allowed to Complete All Steps and Retakes* in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information*. Additionally, applicants who retake a previously-passed Step or Step Component to comply with a time limit should understand the implications for Step 3 eligibility of a failing performance on a retake. See *Official Performance of Record for Examinees Retaking a Previously Passed Step* in the *USMLE Bulletin of Information*. You should also contact the FSMB or the medical licensing authority of the jurisdiction where you plan to apply for licensure, since licensure requirements vary among jurisdictions.

If you **fail or do not complete** a Step or Step Component, you may retake it, but you must reapply, including payment of the appropriate fee(s). You may not retake a Step or Step Component within sixty days of your last attempt. If you reapply for Step 1/Step 2 CK, you must select an eligibility period that **begins** at least sixty days after your last attempt. If you reapply for Step 2 CS, the eligibility period assigned to you will be adjusted, if required, so that it does not begin during the sixty-day period after your last attempt. Additionally, you cannot take the same Step or Step Component more than three times in any twelve-month period.

EXAMPLE: An applicant takes Step 1 on March 27 and fails. Since the sixty-day waiting period ends on May 27, the applicant may select any eligibility period that begins after May 27. The earliest eligibility period that can be selected by or assigned to this applicant is June-July-August.

EXAMPLE: An applicant takes and fails Step 2 CS on September 15, January 20, and March 25. The applicant reapplies and is registered in May. Although the applicant is registered in May, she is assigned a twelve-month eligibility period that begins on September 16.

If you **do not take an exam during your assigned eligibility period**, you must reapply, including payment of the appropriate fee(s), if you wish to take the exam. **In this event ECFMG cannot process a subsequent application for this exam until two weeks after the end of the eligibility period for the exam you did not take.**

MEDICAL EDUCATION CREDENTIALS

An international medical graduate must have had at least four credit years (academic years for which credit has been given toward completion of the medical curriculum) in attendance at a medical school that is listed in the *International Medical Education Directory (IMED)* of the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER). The physician's graduation year must be included in the medical school's *IMED* listing. The FAIMER *IMED* contains information supplied by countries about their medical schools. FAIMER is not an accrediting agency.

NOTE REGARDING INELIGIBLE PRACTITIONERS: Graduates not eligible for admission to the exams or for ECFMG Certification include, but are not limited to: Graduates licensed only in stomatology, ayurvedic or homeopathic medicine, or those awarded only the diploma of Physician-Epidemiologist-Hygienist, Physician-Biochemist, Physician-Cyberneticist, Physician-Biophysicist, Licensed Medical Practitioner, or Assistant Medical Practitioner.

To meet the medical education credential requirements for ECFMG Certification, applicants must provide the required medical education credentials, which include the **final medical diploma** and **final medical school transcript**.

Applicants for ECFMG Certification must document the completion of all requirements for, and receipt of, the final medical diploma. ECFMG verifies every applicant's medical school diploma with the appropriate officials of the medical school that issued the diploma. When ECFMG sends your medical diploma to your medical school for verification, ECFMG will request the medical school to include your final medical school transcript when the school returns the verification of your medical diploma to ECFMG. An applicant's credentials are not considered complete until ECFMG receives verification of the medical diploma and final medical school transcript directly from the medical school.

Provision of Credentials and Translations

Credentials for ECFMG Certification

You may not submit your credentials to ECFMG until you have been assigned a USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number. You must include your full name and USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number on the **front** of all credentials and the **back** of photographs before sending them to ECFMG.

If you are submitting medical education credentials to ECFMG separately from an exam application, you must send the credentials to the following address:

Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG)
3624 Market St., 4th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104-2685
USA

ECFMG processes credentials as soon as possible after they are received. However, processing times may vary throughout the year. When your credentials have been processed, ECFMG will notify you. You can also check the status of your credentials by accessing OASIS on the ECFMG website.

Final Medical Diploma

ECFMG requires all medical school graduates to submit copies of their final medical diploma.

You must send two photocopies of your final medical school diploma to ECFMG. The exact name of the final medical diploma you must provide is listed in the *Reference Guide for Medical Education Credentials* on pages 53-57. The *Reference Guide* lists these medical credential qualifications by country of medical school. Although this *Reference Guide* is based upon information that was current at the time of publication, this information is subject to change.

The photocopies of your medical diploma **must be 216 mm x 279 mm (8½ in x 11 in)**. **If these documents are larger than 216 mm x 279 mm (8½ in x 11 in), you must send reduced photocopies that are 216 mm x 279 mm (8½ in x 11 in)**. You must send the copies of your diploma to ECFMG by mail or courier service. ECFMG does **not** accept these documents by fax or e-mail. You must send one full-face color photograph with the copies of your medical diploma. The photograph that you send must be **current**; it must have been taken within six months of the date that you send it. A photocopy of a photograph is not acceptable.

You must submit the copies of the final medical diploma in the original language, containing the issue date and all of the appropriate signatures of the medical school and/or university officials. Documents that are not in English must be accompanied by an official English translation. ECFMG will not accept copies of a medical diploma that is not in English without an official English translation. Likewise, ECFMG will not accept an English translation of a diploma without copies of the original language document from which the English translation was prepared. (See *English Translations* on page 40.)

Do not submit professional evaluations of your final medical school diploma. ECFMG does not accept such evaluations in lieu of your final medical school diploma.

You must also complete and submit with your medical diploma the *ECFMG Medical Education Credentials Submission Form* (Form 344) and *Medical School Release Request* (Form 345). These forms are available on the Publications page of the ECFMG website and from ECFMG, upon request.

Final Medical School Transcript

When ECFMG sends your medical diploma to your medical school for verification, ECFMG will request the medical school to include your final medical school transcript when the school returns the verification of your medical diploma to ECFMG.

If ECFMG is unable to obtain your final medical school transcript directly from your medical school, ECFMG will contact you and request that you submit to ECFMG copies of your final medical school transcript. If ECFMG has previously verified your medical diploma with your medical school but not the final medical school transcript, you must send copies of the final medical school transcript to ECFMG. ECFMG will then send a copy of the final medical school transcript to the medical school for verification.

If ECFMG requests that you send your final medical school transcript or if ECFMG has previously verified your medical diploma but not the medical school transcript, you must send two photocopies of your final medical school transcript to ECFMG.

The photocopies of your medical school transcript **must be 216 mm x 279 mm (8½ in x 11 in)**. **If these documents are larger than 216 mm x 279 mm (8½ in x 11 in), you must send reduced photocopies that are 216 mm x 279 mm (8½ in x 11 in)**. You must send the copies of your transcript to ECFMG by mail or courier service. ECFMG does not accept these documents by fax or e-mail.

You must send one full-face color photograph with the copies of your final medical school transcript. The photograph that you send must be **current**; it must have been taken within six months of the date that you send it. A photocopy of a photograph is not acceptable.

You must submit the copies of the final medical school transcript in the original language. Documents that are not in English must be accompanied by an official English translation. ECFMG will not accept copies of a medical school transcript that is not in English without an official English translation. Likewise, ECFMG will not accept an English translation of a transcript without copies of the original language document from which the English translation was prepared. (See *English Translations* on page 40.)

Do not submit professional evaluations of your final medical school transcript. ECFMG does not accept such evaluations in lieu of your final medical school transcript.

Name on Medical Diploma and Medical School Transcript

The name on your medical diploma and medical school transcript must match **exactly** the name in your ECFMG record. If the names do not match exactly, you must submit legal documentation that **verifies** the name on your medical diploma/transcript is (or was) your name. The legal documentation must show your name exactly as it appears on your medical diploma/transcript. (See *Name of Applicant* and *Changing or Verifying Your Name* on pages 10 and 11.)

An example of a discrepancy between the name in your ECFMG record and the name on your medical diploma/transcript would be if your ECFMG record lists your married name, but your medical diploma/transcript lists your maiden name.

Other examples of a discrepancy include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Use of initials for the first name or last name (surname) on the medical diploma/transcript

EXAMPLE: “Mary Smith” in your ECFMG record, but “M. Smith” or “Mary S.” on your medical diploma/transcript.

- Difference in the sequence of names

EXAMPLE: “John James Clark” in your ECFMG record, but “James John Clark” or “Clark James John” on your medical diploma/transcript.

- Hyphenations and separations in names

EXAMPLE: “Alice Al Quigley” in your ECFMG record, but “Alice Al-Quigley” or “Alice Alquigley” on your medical diploma/transcript.

Credentials for Exam Registration

If you are a medical school **graduate**, you must send the two copies of your medical diploma and the current color photograph with your application for examination (if you have not submitted your diploma and photograph to ECFMG previously). If your medical diploma has not yet been issued, you must send with the application a current color photograph and a letter signed by your Medical School Dean, Vice Dean, or Registrar that confirms you graduated from medical school, have met all requirements to receive your medical diploma, and states the date (month and year) that your medical diploma will be issued. You must then send the photocopies of your diploma to ECFMG as soon as the diploma is issued. You must also complete and submit with your medical diploma the ECFMG *Medical Education Credentials Submission Form* (Form 344) and *Medical School Release Request* (Form 345). These forms are available on the Publications page of the ECFMG website. (See *Credentials for ECFMG Certification* on page 37.)

If you apply **on-line**, refer to *Applying for Examination* on page 19 for instructions on how to submit these items to ECFMG.

If you graduated from medical school and do not submit your medical diploma or a letter from your medical school, as described above, and this documentation has not been received previously by ECFMG, your application will be rejected.

If the name on your diploma does not match the name in your ECFMG record and you do not submit acceptable legal documentation, your application will be rejected. (See *Name of Applicant and Changing or Verifying Your Name* on pages 10 and 11.)

If you are a medical school **student**, you should send the copies of your medical diploma and current photograph to ECFMG as soon as you graduate and receive these documents. (See *Credentials for ECFMG Certification* on page 37.)

If your credentials are complete, you are generally not required to resend these documents when you apply for subsequent exams. After receiving your medical diploma, ECFMG will notify you and advise if additional credentials are required.

You can check the status of your medical education credentials on-line using OASIS. If you have questions or concerns about your credentials, you can contact ECFMG by e-mail at credentials@ecfm.org or by telephone or fax (see *General Inquiries* on page *ii*).

English Translations

Any document submitted to ECFMG that is not in English must be accompanied by an English translation, prepared by and certified to be correct by a government official (for example, a Consular Officer), medical school official (for example, a Dean or Registrar), or a professional translation service.

The translation must appear on official stationery and must bear the original signature and title of the government or medical school official or representative of the translation service. If the translation service is a private company, the letterhead stationery must identify the company as a translation service.

The translation must be a word-for-word translation of the original language document. An abstract or summary translation of the document is not acceptable.

An English language certificate issued by the medical school that is not a word-for-word English language version of the degree, transcript, or other document in the original language is not acceptable as a translation. English translations that do not meet the requirements above will not be accepted. Examples of unacceptable translations include, but are not limited to:

- translations prepared by a notary who is not a government or medical school official or representative of a professional translation service,
- a translation that was not signed by the translator or official or representative of the translation service, and
- a translation that is not a word-for-word translation of the original language document.

Additionally, applicants are not permitted to translate their own documents.

ECFMG does not endorse or recommend individual translation services. However, if you are in the United States, you can locate a translation service by consulting the telephone directory under the heading of "Translation Services."

Verification of Credentials

ECFMG verifies every applicant's medical school diploma with the appropriate officials of the medical school that issued the diploma and requests the medical school to include the final medical school transcript when the school returns the verification of the medical diploma to ECFMG. You will not fulfill the ECFMG medical education credential requirements until verification of your medical diploma and final medical school transcript is received directly from your medical school and accepted by ECFMG.

In some instances, the verification process can be lengthy due to the processing time required by the institutions and prevailing postal conditions. ECFMG will notify you to advise when your diploma is sent to your medical school for verification. If ECFMG does not receive a response from your medical school within the anticipated time period, ECFMG will send subsequent verification requests to your medical school. ECFMG will notify you when it sends these subsequent requests. ECFMG will also notify you after receiving and evaluating the verification from your medical school.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Applicants are responsible for any fees associated with the verification of the final medical school diploma and final medical school transcript. If your medical school charges a fee for the verification of your diploma and/or transcript, ECFMG will advise you of the fee and the method of payment. If the transcript provided by your medical school is not in English, ECFMG will have the transcript translated into English by an independent translation service, will charge your ECFMG financial account for the translation, and will notify you of the charge. The current translation fee is \$205. See *Payment* on page 12 for information on how to make a payment to your ECFMG financial account.

Irregular Behavior

The ECFMG Medical Education Credentials Committee reviews allegations of irregular behavior. Irregular behavior includes all actions or attempted actions on the part of applicants or examinees that would or could subvert the examination, certification, or other processes of ECFMG. Examples include, but are not limited to, failing to comply with a USMLE or ECFMG policy, procedure, and/or rule; falsification of information on applications; submission of any falsified or altered document to ECFMG; or submission of any falsified or altered ECFMG document to other entities or individuals.

A finding of irregular behavior by ECFMG may be sufficient cause for ECFMG to bar you from an exam, to terminate your participation in an exam, to withhold and/or invalidate the results of an exam, to withhold a certificate, revoke a certificate, or to take other appropriate action. ECFMG may also report instances of altered or falsified documents to the USMLE Committee on Irregular Behavior, FSMB Board Action Databank, state medical licensing authorities, and directors of graduate medical education programs, or to any other organization or individual who, in the judgment of ECFMG, has a legitimate interest in such information.

In all cases when the ECFMG Committee on Medical Education Credentials has made a finding of irregular behavior, a permanent annotation will be included in the individual's ECFMG Status Report and ECFMG Certification Verification Service (CVS) Report.

Representative Examples of Irregular Behavior

Representative examples of allegations of irregular behavior and actions taken by the ECFMG Medical Education Credentials Committee include:

- **Provision of False Information on Application**

The ECFMG Medical Education Credentials Committee reviewed an allegation of irregular behavior in connection with an individual providing a false response to the ECFMG application item that asks: “Have you ever submitted an application to ECFMG for any examination, even if you did not take the examination?” The applicant answered “No” although the applicant had previously submitted an application for examination to ECFMG.

Following review, the ECFMG Medical Education Credentials Committee **took action to bar the individual from admission to all ECFMG examinations and from ECFMG Certification for a period of two years.**

- **Forged Standard ECFMG Certificate**

The ECFMG Medical Education Credentials Committee reviewed an allegation of irregular behavior in connection with an individual who submitted to a residency program a document that purported to be a Standard ECFMG Certificate. The individual involved had not met the requirements for ECFMG Certification, and no Standard ECFMG Certificate had ever been issued to him.

Following review, the ECFMG Medical Education Credentials Committee **took action to bar the individual permanently from admission to all ECFMG examinations and from ECFMG Certification.**

The Fifth Pathway Program

The following information from the American Medical Association Council on Medical Education provides an overview of the Fifth Pathway Program.

AMERICAN STUDENTS IN FOREIGN MEDICAL SCHOOLS*

The “Fifth Pathway” Statement

1. A pathway for entrance to approved programs of graduate medical education, other than those existing under previous policies, became available as of July 1, 1971 for students who have fulfilled the following conditions:
 - a. Have completed, in an accredited American college or university, undergraduate premedical work of the quality acceptable for matriculation in an accredited United States medical school, evaluated by measures such as college grade point average and scores on the Medical College Admission Test.
 - b. Have studied medicine at a medical school located outside the U.S., including Puerto Rico, and Canada that is listed in the *International Medical Education Directory (IMED)*, published by the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research.

* Policy statement of the American Medical Association Council on Medical Education (included in Report 2 I-01), adopted June 12, 1971 and modified May 23, 1973; March 22, 1975; September 7, 1979; June 11, 1981; March 2, 2001; November 30, 2001; and June 17, 2005.

- c. Have completed all of the formal requirements for a diploma of the foreign medical school except internship and/or social service. Those who have completed all of the formal graduation requirements, including internship and/or social service, and are, consequently, eligible to apply for ECFMG certification, are not eligible for the Fifth Pathway.
2. Students who have completed the academic curriculum at a foreign medical school and who have fulfilled the above conditions may be offered the opportunity to substitute an academic year of supervised clinical training for the internship/social service required by the foreign medical school. The supervised training should consist of the clinical education provided in the third year of a U.S. medical school or in appropriate clinical subinternships. The supervised clinical training must be provided by faculty of a program in medical education accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education and should be conducted in its affiliated hospitals, so as to assure that individuals who complete Fifth Pathway programs are reasonably comparable to the school's regularly-graduated students. The medical school should insure that resources are adequate for the conduct of the Fifth Pathway program, without jeopardizing its other academic programs. Fifth Pathway education should be provided only with the written approval of the dean or other appropriate official of the medical school.
3. Students must pass Step 1 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) in order to be eligible for admission to a Fifth Pathway program.
4. Students must successfully complete clinical training, on the judgment of the medical school's faculty based on a final evaluation comparable to that used to judge regularly-enrolled students. With the approval of the faculty, and upon passing Step 2 of the USMLE, Fifth Pathway students are eligible to enter the first year of approved graduate medical education, without completing the social service and/or internship required by the foreign country and without obtaining ECFMG certification.
5. Fifth Pathway certificates must be provided only with the approval of the dean or other medical school official and must be recorded with the registrar. The medical school must notify the American Medical Association that a student has successfully completed the Fifth Pathway program.
6. The Council on Medical Education recommends that all state medical licensing boards consider for licensure all candidates who have successfully completed a Fifth Pathway program on the same basis as they consider candidates who have received ECFMG certification.

Currently, New York Medical College and Ponce School of Medicine provide Fifth Pathway education. Interested applicants should contact the programs directly for complete information:

Office of Fifth Pathway
 New York Medical College
 Valhalla, NY 10595 USA
 TEL: (914) 594-3651
www.nymc.edu/depthome/fifth.asp

Ponce School of Medicine
 PO Box 7004
 Ponce, PR 00732 USA
 TEL: (787) 840-2575
www.psm.edu

Participants in Fifth Pathway programs who have not completed the internship and/or social service requirement for graduation at the non-U.S. medical school are **not** eligible for ECFMG Certification. However, these individuals may apply to ECFMG to take USMLE Step 1 and Step 2. The following additional requirements apply to Fifth Pathway participants who apply to ECFMG for examination.

Students Attending Medical Schools in Mexico

In order to apply to ECFMG for USMLE Step 1, Step 2 CK, or Step 2 CS, there is an additional requirement if you are a student officially enrolled in a medical school in Mexico and you intend to complete a Fifth Pathway program in lieu of: completing the internship and social service requirements, receiving the *Titulo de Medico Cirujano*, and fulfilling the medical education credential requirements for ECFMG Certification. If all of these conditions apply to you and you wish to apply to ECFMG for examination, you must notify ECFMG no later than the beginning of your last year of medical school that you intend to complete a Fifth Pathway program. If you submit your first exam application to ECFMG during your last year of medical school or later, you must notify ECFMG at the time of application.

You must submit a letter:

- stating that you intend to complete a Fifth Pathway program,
- specifying which Fifth Pathway program (New York Medical College or the Ponce School of Medicine) you plan to attend, and
- confirming that you are aware of the eligibility requirements for admission to the Fifth Pathway program and that you have fulfilled these requirements, or have fulfilled the requirements but have not yet passed USMLE Step 1.

You must sign and date this letter. A letter from your medical school stating that you intend to complete a Fifth Pathway program will not be accepted.

Students Attending Other Medical Schools

Students attending medical schools in other countries should contact ECFMG for information on applying for examination as a Fifth Pathway candidate.

ENTRY INTO GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES

An Overview for International Medical Graduates

To enter programs of graduate medical education in the United States that are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), international medical graduates must hold a Standard ECFMG Certificate without expired examination dates, if applicable. (See *Validity of Examinations for Entry into Graduate Medical Education* on page 8.) However, for international medical graduates, obtaining ECFMG Certification is just one of the steps required to enter such programs. The purpose of this section is to provide an introduction to the steps typically involved in entering graduate medical education in the United States.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The information that follows is intended as a general introduction. It is not intended to be a complete list of all requirements. Additionally, some information may not be relevant for all applicants. While this overview is believed to be accurate as of this writing, ECFMG assumes no responsibility or liability therefore. In each case, you should contact the particular institution, organization, program, or state licensing authority for specific requirements.

Residency Training Programs

Residency programs, usually referred to as “residencies,” provide graduate medical education at training institutions, such as universities, medical schools, and hospitals. Residencies are offered in the medical specialties recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties® (ABMS).

ACGME Accreditation

The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) is the body that accredits U.S. graduate medical education programs. The ACGME has established general requirements for all residencies as well as special requirements for each medical specialty. The ACGME accredits individual programs, not institutions. Refer to the current edition of the *Graduate Medical Education Directory* (see below) for a complete list of ACGME-accredited residency programs.

The *Graduate Medical Education Directory*

The *Graduate Medical Education Directory (GMED)*, published by the American Medical Association (AMA), is recognized as the official list of ACGME-accredited graduate medical education programs. In addition to describing the general and special requirements for each medical specialty, including the duration and scope of education, *GMED* lists all accredited residency programs by specialty. The entry for each program includes: the name and location of the residency program, the size of the program, the official program number, and contact information for the residency program director.

This publication may be available to you in your medical school’s library. You can purchase this publication by visiting the AMA website at www.ama-assn.org or by contacting the American Medical Association, Order Dept., PO Box 930876, Atlanta, GA 31193-0876 USA; Telephone: (800) 621-8335. Mention product number OP416705.

Number and Availability of Residency Positions

There are no formal restrictions, overall or by program, limiting the number of international medical graduates that enter ACGME-accredited residency programs. However, certain specialties and programs within those specialties vary in their competitiveness.

The number of positions available in any given year depends on a variety of factors, including the amount of funding available to the program and the program's staffing needs. In recent years, approximately 6,000 international medical graduates have entered U.S. programs in Post Graduate Year 1 (PGY 1) positions annually. For the 2003-2004 academic year, approximately 6,600 international medical graduates entered U.S. PGY 1 positions.

ECFMG plays no role in determining the number or mix of residency positions that are offered by residency programs or in selecting applicants to fill these positions. All decisions regarding the selection of applicants, including whether an interview is granted, whether and where an applicant is ranked for the purpose of the NRMP, and whether a contract is actually offered, are made by the directors of the residency programs.

Selecting Residency Programs

Before you can begin the application process, you must select one or more medical specialties. Selecting a medical specialty is best done with the help of advisors. It may be helpful to consult physicians practicing in the specialties you are considering. You should also consider the degree to which a given specialty would be professionally satisfying. For each specialty, it may be useful to research the overall number of positions available, the degree of competition typically experienced in obtaining a position, and the experience of prior international medical graduates, particularly graduates of **your** medical school, in obtaining residency positions. Detailed information on the number of positions, by specialty, offered and filled by the NRMP is available on the NRMP website at www.nrmp.org.

After you have selected a specialty or specialties, you must decide to which programs within those specialties you will apply. There is no limit on the number of programs to which you can apply. Factors that you may wish to consider in selecting programs include the location of individual programs, their hospital affiliations, accreditation, and the performance of their graduates.

ECFMG Certification

You must hold a Standard ECFMG Certificate without expired examination dates, if applicable, **before** entering an ACGME-accredited residency program. (See *Validity of Examinations for Entry into Graduate Medical Education* on page 8.)

Although you must be ECFMG-certified by the program start date, you can apply to residency programs before you are certified by ECFMG. When you make **preliminary inquiries** with hospitals, you may use photocopies of your exam results. If you apply to residency programs using ERAS, ECFMG will automatically transmit an ECFMG Status Report to the programs to which you applied. (See *Electronic Residency Application Service* on page 47.)

You can also participate in the NRMP prior to becoming ECFMG-certified, provided you have passed all exams required for ECFMG Certification and the results of these exams are reported to the NRMP in time to participate. (See *National Resident Matching Program* on page 47.)

Prior to **entering** a program, you should provide the hospital with a copy of your Standard ECFMG Certificate. Additionally, the hospital should contact ECFMG to confirm your ECFMG certification status. (See *Confirmation of ECFMG Certification Status* on page 9.)

Applying to Graduate Medical Education Programs

Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS)

There are currently two methods of applying to U.S. residency programs: submitting an **electronic** application using the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) and submitting a **paper** application. ERAS was developed by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) to transmit residency applications and supporting documents, such as transcripts and letters of recommendation, to residency program directors over the Internet.

As the designated Dean's Office for all international medical students and graduates, ECFMG supports the ERAS application process for these applicants. ECFMG provides each applicant with a unique identification number, known as a token, which allows the applicant to access the AAMC's ERAS website to complete the ERAS application. The applicant also sends supporting documents to ECFMG for scanning and transmission. ECFMG transmits an ECFMG Status Report to all of the programs to which an IMG applies and sends an updated Status Report to programs automatically when there is a change in the applicant's ECFMG certification status. Finally, ECFMG transmits the applicant's USMLE transcript, if requested by the applicant. All documents are transmitted to the ERAS PostOffice, where they are accessible to the residency programs.

Most medical specialties participate in ERAS. For the list of specialties participating in ERAS 2006 (for residency positions beginning in July 2006), visit the AAMC ERAS website at www.aamc.org/eras. Additional specialties may participate in ERAS for residency programs beginning in July 2007. Information on participating specialties for ERAS 2007 will be posted on the AAMC ERAS website and on the ERAS home page of the ECFMG website at www.ecfm.org/eras, as it becomes available.

If you apply to programs in participating specialties, you must submit your residency applications using ERAS. If you apply to programs that do **not** participate in ERAS, you must contact the program directors for paper application materials and instructions.

To participate in ERAS, you **must** have access to the Internet. For information on ERAS, visit the AAMC ERAS website at www.aamc.org/eras. Additional information for IMGs using ERAS is available on the ECFMG website at www.ecfm.org/eras or from ECFMG, upon request.

All applicants for residency positions, regardless of the method of application, should contact residency program directors for specific requirements and deadlines. Applicants should also register with the NRMP (see below).

National Resident Matching Program (NRMP)

The National Resident Matching Program (NRMP), also known as "the Match," matches applicants with available positions in programs of graduate medical education. Applicants submit to the NRMP a list of residency programs in order of preference. The programs listed are those programs to which they have applied (via ERAS or traditional paper applications). Program directors also submit to the NRMP ranked lists of the applicants they prefer for positions in their programs. These lists are referred to as rank order lists. Once the NRMP has collected all of this information, applicants and available positions are matched by computer using a mathematical algorithm. The matches are announced in March for programs that begin in July. Both applicants and program directors agree to accept the results of the Match.

Most program directors consider the interview to be a critical part of the selection process. When compiling their rank order lists, program directors typically give preference to applicants they have interviewed. There is no guarantee that the programs to which you have applied will include you on their rank order lists. If you are ranked by programs, there is no guarantee that you will be matched to any of these programs.

You can include any or all of the programs to which you applied (via ERAS or traditional paper applications) on your rank order list, regardless of whether you have interviewed with the programs. When compiling your rank order list, you should consider which programs offer residencies that meet your expectations. Data from the NRMP for 1996-2005 indicate that your chances of being matched may increase with the number of programs that you rank. However, since it is possible to match with any program you rank, even if the program ranks low on your list, you should **not** include programs that you definitely do not want to attend.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The NRMP and ERAS are distinct, complementary programs. ERAS is a method of applying to residency programs. The NRMP is a method of matching applicants with positions in these programs. Registering for the NRMP is a separate process from applying to residency programs through ERAS. If you wish to participate in both the NRMP and ERAS, you must apply to both programs. Applying to residency programs through ERAS does not enroll you in the NRMP.

Three days prior to release of the general Match results, applicants find out whether or not they have matched to a program, although they do not learn the specific program to which they have matched. The following day, program directors are notified whether all of their positions were filled in the Match. Also, on this day, the list of unfilled programs is available to unmatched NRMP registrants on the NRMP website at www.nrmp.org.

To participate in the Match, you will need access to the Internet and an e-mail address. Participants in the Match use the Internet to register, pay fees, and submit their rank order lists to the NRMP. They also use the Internet to access information resulting from the Match, such as whether they have matched, where they have matched, and information on unfilled positions.

You must register for the Match on the NRMP website at www.nrmp.org. You must provide your USMLE/ECFMG Identification Number at the time of registration. You can register for the Match and submit your rank order list to the NRMP prior to meeting the exam requirements described below.

Students/graduates of international medical schools and Fifth Pathway programs must have passed all exams necessary for ECFMG Certification (see *Examination Requirements* on page 6), and the results must be reported to the NRMP in time to participate in the Match. The NRMP will contact ECFMG directly to confirm that you have passed the necessary exams. After the rank order list deadline, the NRMP will automatically withdraw applicants who have not passed the necessary examinations; however, applicants who are withdrawn still will have access to the list of unfilled positions that is made available during Match Week.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If you have passed exam(s) through other organizations, such as the National Board of Medical Examiners or the Federation of State Medical Boards, that may be used for ECFMG Certification, you should provide this information to ECFMG well in advance of the NRMP rank order list deadline. ECFMG will not report such exam information to the NRMP for the purpose of confirming your eligibility to participate in the Match until such exam information has been verified by ECFMG with the appropriate organization and accepted by ECFMG.

Important Dates for the 2006 Match:

August 15, 2005	Registration opens on the NRMP website
December 1, 2005	Registration deadline (registrations after this date are accepted with an additional late fee)
February 22, 2006	Late registration deadline, and Rank order list certification deadline
March 16, 2006	Results of Match announced

Tentative Dates for the 2007 Match:

August 2006	Registration opens on the NRMP website
December 2006	Registration deadline
February 2007	Late registration deadline, and Rank order list certification deadline
March 2007	Results of Match announced

For additional information, visit the NRMP website at www.nrmp.org or contact: NRMP, 2450 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20037-1127 USA; Telephone: (202) 828-0566 or toll-free (866) 617-5838; E-mail: nrmp@aamc.org.

Obtaining a Visa

International medical graduates who are neither U.S. citizens nor lawful permanent residents must obtain an appropriate visa for themselves and their dependents, if any, to participate in programs of graduate medical education or training in the United States. The most common visa employed for this purpose is the J visa (see *Exchange Visitor Sponsorship Program* on page 50).

Examination Requirements Under the *Health Professions Educational Assistance Act of 1976 (PL94-484)*

To obtain a visa to enter the United States to perform services as members of the medical profession or to receive graduate medical education, certain foreign national physicians are required under the provisions of Public Law 94-484 to pass the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) Part I and Part II exams or an exam determined to be equivalent for this purpose. The Secretary of Health and Human Services has recognized Step 1 and Step 2 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE), as well as the former Visa Qualifying Examination (VQE) and the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination in the Medical Sciences (FMGEMS), as equivalent to NBME Part I and Part II exams for the purposes of PL94-484. For additional information on visa requirements, refer to the websites of the ECFMG Exchange Visitor Sponsorship Program at www.ecfmg.org/evsp, U.S. embassies and consulates of the U.S. Department of State at <http://usembassy.state.gov>, and the immigration bureaus of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security at www.dhs.gov.

Exchange Visitor Sponsorship Program (J-1 Visa)

ECFMG is authorized by the U.S. Department of State to sponsor foreign national physicians as J-1 Exchange Visitors in programs of graduate medical education and training. The objectives of this program are to enhance international exchange in the field of medicine and to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries through the interchange of persons, knowledge, and skills.

The duration of stay for a J-1 Exchange Visitor physician is limited to the time typically required to complete the advanced medical education program. This refers to the specialty and subspecialty certification requirements published by the American Board of Medical Specialties. Participation is further limited to seven years and is reserved for those progressing in training programs.

Foreign national physicians seeking ECFMG sponsorship as J-1 Exchange Visitors must meet, among other requirements, a number of general requirements, which are detailed in ECFMG's application materials for J-1 visa sponsorship. At a minimum, applicants must:

- Have passed USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK (and/or an acceptable combination of the former VQE, NBME Part I and Part II, or FMGEMS). See *Examination Requirements Under PL94-484* on page 49.
- Hold a Standard ECFMG Certificate without expired examination dates, if applicable. See *Validity of Examinations for Entry into Graduate Medical Education* on page 8.
- Hold a contract or an official letter of offer for a position in a program of graduate medical education or training that is affiliated with a medical school.
- Provide a statement of need from the Ministry of Health of the country of most recent legal permanent residence. This statement must provide written assurance that the country needs specialists in the area in which the Exchange Visitor will receive training. It also serves to confirm the physician's commitment to return to that country upon completion of training in the United States (as required by §212(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act as amended). (Note: If permanent residence is in a country other than that of citizenship, the Ministry of Health letter must come from the country of most recent legal permanent residence.)

IMPORTANT NOTE: Visa requirements and procedures are subject to change. For updated information, visit the websites of the ECFMG Exchange Visitor Sponsorship Program at www.ecfm.org/evsp, U.S. embassies and consulates of the U.S. Department of State at <http://usembassy.state.gov>, and the immigration bureaus of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security at www.dhs.gov.

Application materials and additional information on the Exchange Visitor Sponsorship Program are available on the ECFMG website at www.ecfm.org/evsp and from ECFMG, upon request.

STATEMENT OF VALUES, MISSION, AND PURPOSES

Values

The values of ECFMG are expressed in its vision statement:

“Improving world health through excellence in medical education in the context of ECFMG’s core values of collaboration, professionalism and accountability.”

Mission

The charge of ECFMG is expressed in its mission statement:

“The ECFMG promotes quality health care for the public by certifying international medical graduates for entry into U.S. graduate medical education, and by participating in the evaluation and certification of other physicians and health care professionals. In conjunction with its Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research (FAIMER), and other partners, it actively seeks opportunities to promote international medical education through programmatic and research activities.”

Purposes

The purposes (goals) that actuate and accomplish ECFMG’s mission are to:

- Certify the readiness of international medical graduates for entry to graduate medical education and health care systems in the United States through an evaluation of their qualifications.
- Provide complete, timely, and accessible information to international medical graduates regarding entry to graduate medical education in the United States.
- Assess the readiness of international medical graduates to recognize the diverse social, economic and cultural needs of U.S. patients upon entry into graduate medical education.
- Identify the needs of international medical graduates to become acculturated into U.S. health care.
- Provide international access to testing and evaluation programs.
- Expand knowledge about international medical education programs and their graduates by gathering data, conducting research, and disseminating the findings.
- Improve international medical education through consultation and cooperation with medical schools and other institutions relative to program development, standard setting, and evaluation.
- Improve assessment through collaboration with other entities in the United States and abroad.
- Improve the quality of health care by providing research and consultation services to institutions that evaluate international medical graduates for entry into their country.
- Enhance effectiveness by delegating appropriate activities in international medical education to FAIMER.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

The Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) is a private, non-profit organization. ECFMG's organizational members are:

American Board of Medical Specialties

American Medical Association

Association of American Medical Colleges

Association for Hospital Medical Education

Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, Inc.

National Medical Association

Appendix 1: Reference Guide for Medical Education Credentials

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- **The information in this reference guide, although based upon the most current information available at the time of publication, is subject to change.**
- **Graduates not eligible for admission to the exams or for ECFMG Certification include, but are not limited to: Graduates licensed only in stomatology, ayurvedic or homeopathic medicine, or those awarded only the diploma of Physician-Epidemiologist-Hygienist, Physician-Biochemist, Physician-Cyberneticist, Physician-Biophysicist, Licensed Medical Practitioner, or Assistant Medical Practitioner.**

Final Medical School Transcript

When ECFMG sends your medical diploma to your medical school for verification, ECFMG will request the medical school to include your final medical school transcript when the school returns the verification of your medical diploma to ECFMG. If ECFMG is unable to obtain your final medical school transcript directly from your medical school, ECFMG will contact you and request that you submit to ECFMG copies of your final medical school transcript. See *Final Medical School Transcript* on page 38.

Final Medical School Diploma

ECFMG requires all medical school graduates to submit copies of their final medical diploma. For the exact name of the final medical diploma you must supply, refer to the country of your medical school below. See *Final Medical Diploma* on page 38 for complete information, including the items that you must submit with the copies of your diploma.

A

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Afghanistan	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Albania	Mjek I Pergjithshem diploma
Algeria	Docteur en Medicine diploma
Angola	Doctor em Medicina diploma
Antigua and Barbuda	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Argentina	Medico diploma
Armenia.....	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Aruba	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Australia.....	MBBS diploma
Austria	Medicinae Universalis Doctor diploma
Azerbaijan	Physician diploma

B

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Bahrain	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Bangladesh	MBBS diploma
Barbados	MBBS diploma
Belarus	Kvalifikacija (Physician) diploma
Belgium.....	Arts (Physician) or Doctor of Medicine diploma
Belize	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Benin.....	Docteur en Medecine diploma
Bolivia.....	Titulo en Provision Nacional de Medico Cirujano diploma
Bonaire.....	See “Netherlands Antilles”
Bosnia-Herzegovina.....	Lekar or Zdravnik diploma
Brazil.....	Medico diploma
Bulgaria.....	Master’s/Physician diploma
Burkina Faso	Doctorat d’Etat en Medecine diploma
Burundi	Doctor of Medicine diploma

C

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Cambodia	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Cameroon	Docteur en Medecine diploma
Cayman Islands	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Central African Republic	Docteur en Medecine diploma
Chad	Doctorat en Medecine diploma
Chile	Medico Cirujano diploma
China	Bachelor of Medicine in Medicine degree certificate
Colombia	Medico or Medico Cirujano diploma
Congo	Docteur en Medecine diploma
Cook Islands	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Costa Rica	Medico Cirujano diploma
Croatia	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Cuba	Doctor en Medicina diploma
Curacao	See "Netherlands Antilles"
Czech Republic	Medicinae Universae Doctor diploma

D

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Docteur en Medecine diploma
Denmark	Candidatus Medicinae diploma
Dominica	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Dominican Republic	Doctor en Medicina diploma

E

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Ecuador	Doctor en Medicina y Cirugia diploma
Egypt	MB ChB diploma
El Salvador	Doctor en Medicina diploma
Estonia	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Ethiopia	Doctor of Medicine diploma

F

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Fiji	MBBS diploma
Finland	Licenciate in Medicine diploma
France	Docteur en Medecine diploma

G

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Gabon	Doctorat d'Etat en Medecine diploma
Georgia	Physician diploma
Germany	Dritter Abschnitt certificate (Third State Exam)
Ghana	MB, ChB diploma
Greece	Ptychion Iatrikes diploma
Grenada	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Guatemala	Titulo de Medico Cirujano diploma
Guinea	Docteur en Medecine diploma
Guinea-Bissau	Doctor en Medicina diploma
Guyana	Doctor of Medicine diploma

H

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Haiti	Docteur en Medecine diploma
Honduras	Doctor en Medicina y Cirugia diploma
Hong Kong	MBBS diploma
Hungary	Orvostdoktor or MD diploma

I

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Iceland.....	Candidatus Medicinae et Chirurgiae diploma
India	MBBS diploma
Indonesia.....	Doktor diploma
Iran	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Iraq	MB, ChB diploma
Ireland	MB BCh BAO diploma
Israel.....	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Italy	Laurea in Medicina e Chirurgia diploma
Ivory Coast.....	Doctortat d'Etat en Medecine diploma

J

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Jamaica.....	MBBS diploma
Japan	Igakushi or MB diploma
Jordan.....	MBBS diploma

K

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Kazakhstan.....	Physician diploma
Kenya	MB ChB diploma
Kuwait.....	MBBS diploma
Kyrgyzstan	Physician diploma

L

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Laos.....	Docteur en Medecine diploma
Latvia.....	Physician diploma
Lebanon.....	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Liberia.....	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Libya.....	MB BCh diploma
Lithuania.....	Physician diploma

M

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Macedonia.....	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Madagascar	Docteur en Medecine diploma
Malawi	MBBS diploma
Malaysia.....	Doktor Perubatan diploma
Mali	Docteur en Medecine diploma
Malta	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Mauritius.....	MBBS diploma
Mexico	Titulo de Medico Cirujano diploma
Micronesia.....	Doctor of Medicine Diploma
Moldova.....	Doctor of Medicine Diploma
Mongolia.....	Physician diploma
Morocco	Docteur en Medecine diploma
Mozambique	Licenciatura em Medicina diploma
Myanmar.....	MBBS diploma

N

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Nepal	MBBS diploma
Netherlands	Arts diploma
Netherlands Antilles	Doctor of Medicine Diploma
New Zealand	MB ChB diploma
Nicaragua	Doctor en Medicina y Cirugia diploma
Niger	Docteur en Medecine diploma
Nigeria.....	MBBS diploma
North Korea	Doctor diploma
Norway.....	Candidatus Medicinae diploma

O

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Oman.....	Doctor of Medicine diploma

P

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Pakistan	MBBS diploma
Panama	Doctor en Medicina diploma
Papua New Guinea.....	MBBS diploma
Paraguay.....	Doctor en Medicina y Cirugia diploma
Peru	Titulo de Medico Cirujano diploma
Philippines	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Poland	Lekarz diploma
Portugal	Licenciatura em Medicina diploma

Q/R

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Romania	Doctor-Medic diploma
Russia.....	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Rwanda	Docteur en Medecine diploma

S

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Saba.....	See "Netherlands Antilles"
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Saint Lucia	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Saint Maarten	See "Netherlands Antilles"
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Samoa.....	Doctor of Medicine diploma or MBBS diploma
Saudi Arabia.....	MBBS diploma
Senegal.....	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Serbia	Lekar or Zdravnik diploma
Seychelles	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Sierra Leone.....	MBBS diploma
Singapore	MBBS diploma
Sint Eustatius	See "Netherlands Antilles"
Slovak Republic	Medicinae Universae Doctor diploma
Slovenia.....	Lekar or Zdravnik diploma
Solomon Islands	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Somalia	Laurea en Medicina e Chirugia diploma
South Africa	MB ChB diploma
South Korea	Hak Sa diploma
Spain	Licenciado en Medicina y Cirugia diploma
Sri Lanka.....	MBBS diploma

S (continued)

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Sudan.....	MB, BS diploma
Suriname.....	Arts diploma
Sweden.....	Lakarexamen diploma
Switzerland.....	Diplome Federal diploma
Syria.....	Doctor of Medicine diploma

T

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Taiwan.....	Bachelor of Medicine diploma
Tajikistan.....	Physician diploma
Tanzania.....	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Thailand.....	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Togo.....	Docteur en Medecine diploma
Trinidad and Tobago.....	MBBS diploma
Tunisia.....	Docteur en Medecine diploma
Turkey.....	Doctor of Medicine diploma
Turkmenistan.....	Physician diploma

U

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Uganda.....	Doctor of Medicine or MB ChB diploma
Ukraine.....	Doctor of Medicine diploma
United Arab Emirates.....	MBBS diploma
United Kingdom.....	MB ChB or MB ChB BAO diploma
Uruguay.....	Doctor en Medicina diploma
Uzbekistan.....	General Practitioner diploma

V/W

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Venezuela.....	Medico Cirujano diploma
Viet Nam.....	Doctor of Medicine diploma

X/Y/Z

<u>Country of Medical School</u>	<u>Required Credentials</u>
Yemen.....	MB ChB diploma
Zambia.....	MB ChB diploma
Zimbabwe.....	MB ChB diploma

Appendix 2: Testing Regions and International Test Delivery Surcharges for USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK

When you apply for Step 1 or Step 2 CK, you must select one of the *testing regions* (Africa, Asia, etc.) from the list below where you will take the exam. At the time of publication, test centers offering Step 1/Step 2 CK were located in the countries listed below for each testing region. However, the availability of test centers is subject to change without notice. Once your testing region has been assigned it cannot be changed. Before selecting your testing region, visit the Prometric website at www.prometric.com or contact Prometric for current information on the availability and location of test centers for Step 1 and Step 2 CK.

If you select a testing region other than the United States & Canada, you must pay the appropriate *international test delivery surcharge* from the list below for each exam for which you apply. These surcharges are **in addition** to the examination fee of \$695. (See *Fees* on page 21.) Please note that the surcharges differ depending on which testing region and exam (Step 1 or Step 2 CK) you select.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- **If you plan to test in Egypt, India, Hong Kong, Ramallah, or Tel Aviv, refer to the special notes for these locations below, to ensure that you select the correct testing region.**
- **If you plan to test in Georgia, Israel, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Syria, or Ukraine, please note that test centers in these countries are not expected to offer USMLE Step 1/Step 2 CK in calendar year 2006. Refer to the ECFMG and USMLE websites for additional information.**

AFRICA International Test Delivery Surcharges: STEP 1 – \$120/STEP 2 CK – \$130

Ghana	South Africa
Kenya	Uganda
Mauritius	Zimbabwe

(For centers in **Egypt**, select **MIDDLE EAST** testing region.)

ASIA International Test Delivery Surcharges: STEP 1 – \$120/STEP 2 CK – \$130

Bangladesh	People’s Republic of China
Malaysia	(For Hong Kong , select ASIA testing region. For centers in other available cities in the PRC, select
Nepal	CHINA testing region.)
Pakistan	Philippines
	Singapore
	Sri Lanka

(For centers in **India**, select **INDIA** testing region.)

AUSTRALIA International Test Delivery Surcharges: STEP 1 – \$120/STEP 2 CK – \$130

Australia	New Zealand
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CHINA International Test Delivery Surcharges: STEP 1 – \$120/STEP 2 CK – \$130

People’s Republic of China
 (For **Hong Kong**, select **ASIA** testing region.
 For centers in other available cities in the PRC,
 select **CHINA** testing region.)

EUROPE**International Test Delivery Surcharges: STEP 1 – \$150/STEP 2 CK – \$165**

Armenia	Italy
Croatia	Lithuania
Czech Republic	Netherlands
Finland	Portugal
France	Romania
Georgia (See <i>Important Notes</i> on page 58.)	Russian Federation (See <i>Important Notes</i> on page 58.)
Germany	Spain
Greece	Switzerland
Hungary	Turkey
Ireland	Ukraine (See <i>Important Notes</i> on page 58.)
Israel	United Kingdom

(For **Ramallah**, select **MIDDLE EAST** testing region. For **Tel Aviv**, select **EUROPE** testing region.)

INDIA**International Test Delivery Surcharges: STEP 1 – \$120/STEP 2 CK – \$130**

India

INDONESIA**International Test Delivery Surcharges: STEP 1 – \$120/STEP 2 CK – \$130**

Indonesia

JAPAN**International Test Delivery Surcharges: STEP 1 – \$290/STEP 2 CK – \$315**

Japan

KOREA**International Test Delivery Surcharges: STEP 1 – \$150/STEP 2 CK – \$165**

Korea

LATIN AMERICA**International Test Delivery Surcharges: STEP 1 – \$120/STEP 2 CK – \$130**

Argentina	Guatemala
Bolivia	Mexico
Brazil	Peru
Colombia	Venezuela
Dominican Republic	

MIDDLE EAST**International Test Delivery Surcharges: STEP 1 – \$120/STEP 2 CK – \$130**

Egypt

Israel (See *Important Notes* on page 58.)(For **Tel Aviv**, select **EUROPE** testing region. For **Ramallah**, select **MIDDLE EAST** testing

region.)

Jordan

Kuwait

Lebanon

Saudi Arabia (See *Important Notes* on page 58.)Syria (See *Important Notes* on page 58.)

United Arab Emirates

TAIWAN**International Test Delivery Surcharges: STEP 1 – \$150/STEP 2 CK – \$165**

Taiwan

THAILAND**International Test Delivery Surcharges: STEP 1 – \$120/STEP 2 CK – \$130**

Thailand

**UNITED STATES
& CANADA****International Test Delivery Surcharges: STEP 1 – \$0/STEP 2 CK – \$0**

UNITED STATES

Test centers are located in every U.S. state, as well as Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

CANADA

Test centers are located in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, and Saskatchewan.