Title
GME Policy on Completion of USMLE or COMLEX Licensing Examinations by residents and fellows.

Purpose: To ensure that residents enrolled in graduate medical education programs meet eligibility requirements to obtain medical licensure beyond the level of the Physician in Training permit.

Policy:
The GME Committee at SUNY –Downstate Medical Center believes that graduates of GMEC approved programs must be capable, by completion of their training, of performing competent and independent practice in that specialty. A medical license is necessary for independent medical practice. An essential parameter for obtaining a medical license is the satisfactory completion of the USMLE or COMLEX examinations.

Entry into PGY-1 Year
All residents in SUNY Downstate Medical Center GMEC approved programs are required to successfully complete and pass USMLE Step 1 or COMLEX Part 1 for appointment to a PGY-1 or higher position. Graduates of international medical schools must have passed both Steps 1 and Step 2 (CK and CS) of the USMLE and hold a valid ECFMG certificate or certificate indicating completion of an approved Fifth Pathway Program.

Entry into PGY-2 Year
All residents in SUNY Downstate Medical Center GMEC approved programs are required to successfully complete and pass USMLE Step 2 (CK and CS) or COMLEX Part 2 examinations by November 1st of the first post-graduate year of training. Successful completion and passing of USMLE Step 2 or COMLEX Part 2 examination is required for appointment to any advanced position, appointment to any program requiring completion of a preliminary year, to any fellowship position or to any PGY 2 or higher position. For residents or fellows already enrolled in a training program, failure to demonstrate passage within the stated timeframe will result in a notice of non-renewal of appointment to the training program which may be rescinded by the program if the resident passes the required examinations by the end of the academic year.

Entry into PGY-3 Year
All residents in SUNY Downstate Medical Center GMEC approved programs are required to successfully complete and pass USMLE Step 3 or COMLEX Part 3 examinations by November 1st in the second post-graduate year of training. Successful completion and passing of USMLE Step 3 or COMLEX Part 3 examination is required for appointment to any PGY 3 or higher position. For residents or fellows already enrolled in a training program, failure to demonstrate passage within the stated timeframe will result in a notice of non-renewal of appointment to the training program which may be rescinded by the program if the resident passes the required
examinations by the end of the academic year.

Individual residents who have received a statement of non-renewal are entitled to due process, which includes criteria established by each training program for remediation and withdrawal of the notification of non-renewal.

In addition, individual training programs reserve the right to establish more stringent written criteria as a determinant of eligibility for applicants to be selected for placement in a training program or for promotion to advanced levels by the training program.

These requirements apply to residents starting or transferring into SUNY Downstate sponsored and GME Committee approved core residency programs and residents entering into SUNY Downstate sponsored and GME Committee approved fellowship programs.

Exceptions to this policy require written request for waiver from the respective Program Director and approval by the GME Committee or DIO which shall not be unreasonably withheld.

*Originally Approved by GMEC 3/8/2006.*
Revised 08/17/2015.
*Reviewed and re-approved by GMEC: September 16, 2015.*