



Office of
Educational Improvement

USMLE STEP 1 Exam

- Overview for Faculty

KNOWLEDGE
NOW

Objectives

- Identify the basic components of the USMLE Step 1 exam
- Detail the major domains covered by the Step 1 exam
- Recognize the disciplinary and interdisciplinary content covered in the Step 1 exam
- Understand the importance of integration of Basic Science content to normal and abnormal case-scenario applications

Overview of USMLE Step 1 Exam

- Understand and apply concepts of the basic sciences to the practice of medicine.
 - Emphasis on principles and mechanisms underlying disease and methods of therapy.
 - Integrated content outline that organizes basic science materials along two dimensions: system and processes.
- **One-day examination:** divided into seven 60-minute blocks and administered in one 8-hour testing session.
 - Number of questions per block will not exceed 40.
 - Total number of questions overall will not exceed 280.

Discipline content covered in Step 1

- Anatomy
- Behavioral Sciences
- Biochemistry
- Biostatistics and epidemiology
- Microbiology
- Pathology
- Pharmacology
- Physiology

Interdisciplinary content covered

- Genetics
- Aging
- Immunology
- Nutrition
- Molecular and cell biology

USMLE Step 1 Test Specifications

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➤ **18 major domains** categorize concepts and principles across organ systems and other knowledge processes.

System	Range
General Principles of Foundational Science	15 – 20 %
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Immune System▪ Blood & Lymphoreticular System▪ Behavioral Health▪ Nervous System & Special Senses▪ Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue▪ Musculoskeletal System▪ Cardiovascular System▪ Respiratory System▪ Gastrointestinal System▪ Renal & Urinary System▪ Pregnancy, Childbirth & the Puerperium▪ Female Reproductive & Breast▪ Male Reproductive▪ Endocrine System	60 – 70 %
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Multisystem Processes & Disorders▪ Biostatistics & Epidemiology▪ Population Health▪ Social Sciences	15 – 20 %

USMLE Step 1 Test Specifications, cont.

- Individual organ systems are subdivided according to **normal and abnormal** processes, including principles of therapy.

Process	Range
Normal Processes	10 – 15 %
Abnormal Processes	55 – 60%
Principles of Therapeutics	15 – 20 %
Other	10 – 15 %

USMLE Step 1 Specifications: Physician Task/Competencies

Principles of Basic Science are INTEGRATED with patient care and other competencies

Competency	Range
Medical Knowledge/Scientific Concepts	55 – 65 %
Patient Care: Diagnosis <ul style="list-style-type: none">• History/Physical Examination• Laboratory/Diagnostic Studies• Diagnosis• Prognosis/Outcome	20 – 30 %
Patient Care: Management <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health Maintenance/Disease Prevention• Pharmacotherapy	15 – 20 %
Communication Professionalism	2 – 5 %
Practice-based Learning & Improvement	4 – 8 %

Content Description

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Questions are multiple-choice designed to measure ability to apply basic science knowledge.

Most questions require the student to:

- **interpret** graphic and tabular material
 - **identify** gross and microscopic pathologic and normal specimens
 - **solve** problems through application of basic science principles.
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- Patient-centered vignettes are associated with one question, followed by four or more response options.

For more information, visit the USMLE website: <http://www.usmle.org/step-1/>

Or, contact the Office of Educational Improvement: ACAD_OEI@mcw.edu