

REGULATIONS FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE BASIC SCIENCE REVIEW COURSE 2023/2024

- 1. Course Coordinator:** Assoc. Prof. Joanna Budna-Tukan, PhD
- 2. Dates:** Schedule according to the timetable provided by the Dean's Office.
Note: The timeframes of the course will remain unchanged; however, some modifications regarding the blocks are possible. All changes will be communicated prior to the commencement of the course.
- 3.** The course is conducted in collaboration with KAPLAN Inc.
- 4.** Live On-Campus and Live Online lectures (hybrid format) will be conducted by KAPLAN Staff.
- 5. The course comprises three parts:**
 - a. Live On-Campus lectures – Basic Sciences Module A (as per the provided schedule),
 - b. Live Online lectures – Basic Sciences Module B (as per the provided schedule),
 - c. Access to preclinical/Step 1 resources will be provided for a duration of 12 months.
- 6. Placement within the Curriculum:** The course is an integral component of the 3rd year of the Medicine Program (3MD) and 2nd year of the IOS Medicine Program [2(3)MD/IOS].
- 7. Mandatory Participation:** The course is compulsory for students enrolled in the 3rd year of the Medicine Program (3MD). Additionally, students in the 2nd year of the Medicine Program who have been granted individual organization of studies [2(3)MD/IOS] are also required to participate.
- 8. Lecture Locations:** Live On-Campus lectures will be conducted in the lecture room specified by the Dean's Office. For Live Online lectures, each student will receive access and login details for the online platform, accessible on their private computers.
- 9. Attendance Monitoring:** During Live On-Campus lectures, attendance will be tracked using personal mobile phones through a check-in platform introduced by the instructor. For Live Online lectures, student attendance and activity will be monitored using daily logs generated by the system. Students are encouraged to actively participate in discussions and quizzes. The percentage of correct answers will not be monitored and will not impact the final credit.
- 10. Attendance Policy:** Students are permitted a maximum of **5 unexcused absences**. Exceeding this limit will result in the denial of course credit. In case of emergency situations, students must promptly inform both the course coordinator and the Dean's Office. This notification should be made no later than 7 working days from the commencement of the absence period. Such cases will be assessed individually.
- 11. Ethical Conduct:** In accordance with §21 of the Students' Ethics Code, any form of unethical or dishonest behavior is strictly prohibited. Students found engaging in dishonest practices, including cheating, will be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in Part VII, Chapter 2 (Disciplinary Liability of Students) of the Higher Education Law dated July 20, 2018.

REGULATIONS FOR NBME COMPREHENSIVE BASIC SCIENCE EXAMINATION AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE CLINICAL SCIENCES PORTION OF STUDIES 2023/2024

- 1. Comprehensive Basic Science Exam (CBS Exam):** The NBME Comprehensive Basic Science exam is referred to as the CBS exam.
- 2. General School Regulations:** According to Article 42 of the General School Regulations:
 - a. The CBS exam serves as the concluding examination for the basic sciences segment of studies and is mandatory.
 - b. The first attempt of the CBS exam occurs after the completion of the CBS Review Course.

- c. Results of the examination and any subsequent retakes are documented in the official academic transcript, indicating a pass/fail status.
 - d. Passing the CBS exam is a mandatory condition for the commencement of the clinical sciences portion of the studies.
- 3. Eligibility for CBS Exam:** The prerequisite for taking the CBS exam includes the successful completion of subjects for which knowledge will be assessed in the CBS exam (Behavioral Sciences, Biochemistry, Gross Anatomy, Histology Embryology & Cell Biology, Microbiology & Parasitology, Pathology, Pharmacology & Toxicology, Physiology, and Pathophysiology), along with the successful passage of the CBS Review Course provided by Kaplan Inc.
- 4. Composition of CBS Exam:** The CBS exam is a written test comprising 200 questions. The percentage breakdown of questions per topic is available on the NBME website: <https://www.nbme.org/subject-exams/comprehensive/basic-science>
- 5. Administration of CBS Exam:** The CBS exam is conducted on the OLAT platform and has a duration of 5 hours and 15 minutes, following the NBME exam regulations defined by CMEE and CITK exam center.
- 6. Total Equated Percent Correct (EPC) Score Requirement:** As per the decision of the Board of the Center for Medical Education in English:
- a. For 3MD and 2(3)MD/IOS students, a total Equated Percent Correct (EPC) Score from the CBS exam of at least 50% ($\geq 50\%$) is mandatory to initiate the clinical phase of the studies.
 - b. If the minimal required EPC threshold is not met, students have the opportunity for two exam retakes under the same regulations.
 - c. Failing the CBS exam and two retakes allows the student to apply for the CBS commission exam, granted under exceptional circumstances.
 - d. A student with concerns about the examination's fairness may submit a request for a commission examination to the Dean within 7 working days of the examination results announcement. The application should outline the noticed irregularities during the examination.
 - e. If a student fails the CBS exam and its retakes, they are not permitted to progress to the clinical phase of the studies, receiving a "half-time" status. This entails the obligation to repeat the CBS Review Course and retake the CBS exam in the following year. The specific conditions of the "half-time" year will be determined for each student on an individual basis by the Board of the Center for Medical Education in English.

Note: Beginning in late February of 2022, the CBS exam score reports will include an equated percent correct (EPC) score. Learn more about this update on the NBME website: <https://www.nbme.org/assessment-products/assess-learn/subject-exams/comprehensive>. Each exam will be summarized with a score report. You can see an interactive, annotated sample score report under this link: <https://indd.adobe.com/view/a8b8c554-25aa-49aa-b3a3-4619be405644>.

- 7. Extra Points for CBS Exam:** Students have the opportunity to earn additional points added to their CBS total EPC score. Points are awarded for grades of 5.0, 4.5, and 4.0 obtained from the exams of the following subjects: Behavioral Sciences, Biochemistry, Gross Anatomy, Histology Embryology & Cell Biology, Microbiology & Parasitology, Pathology, Pharmacology & Toxicology, Physiology, and Pathophysiology.
- For each 5.0 grade, 2% is added to the student's total EPC score.
 - For each 4.5 grade, 1% is added to the student's total EPC score.
 - For each 4.0 grade, 0.5% is added to the student's total EPC score.

Note: Only grades from the 1st sitting of respective subjects are recognized and calculated.

Note: The maximum extra percentage added to the results of the CBS exam sittings (the 1st attempt and retakes) cannot exceed 5%.

8. **CBS Exam Scheduling:** Students are obligated to participate in the CBS exam on the designated day set by the Dean's Office.
9. **Examination Attendance and Absence:** According to General School Regulations (Art. 43) failure to take an exam within the agreed-upon period must be justified no later than within 7 working days. An unexcused absence results in the forfeiture of the right to take the exam on the scheduled date, leading to a "fail" grade. If the absence is deemed excused, the student, in consultation with the examiner, will arrange a new exam date, treated as taken on that specific date.
10. **Additional Matters and Appeals:** Issues not covered by these regulations are subject to the General School Regulations. In cases of doubt, a student has the right to appeal the course coordinator's decision to the Director of the CMEE.

CERTIFICATION FOR USMLE STEP 1 APPLICATION 2023/2024

1. **Eligibility Criteria for USMLE Step 1 Application:** According to the decision of the Board of the Center for Medical Education in English, current 3MD and 2(3)MD/IOS students must achieve a total Equated Percent Correct (EPC) score from the CBS exam that meets or exceeds the upper boundary value for the Step 1 Low-Pass range established for the national cohort of students from LCME-accredited medical schools (with the condition that this value will not surpass 70%). The Step 1 Low Pass Range will be provided by the NBME with the results of the CBS exam.

***Note:** The specified threshold is also applicable to students from advanced academic years taking the CBS exam to secure approval for their USMLE Step 1 application.*

2. **CBS Exam Retakes and USMLE Step 1 Application:** In the event of not achieving the minimal required EPC score for the USMLE Step 1 application, students are eligible for up to five retakes, subject to the same regulations (3rd, 4th, and 5th retake are paid). CBS exam scores obtained for the purpose of the USMLE Step 1 application will not be included in the official transcript of academic records.

***Note:** The 3rd, 4th, and 5th additional paid retakes are only available to students who did not receive the minimal required total EPC score for the USMLE Step 1 application but attained the minimal required total EPC score ($\geq 50\%$) for advancing to the clinical portion of the studies.*

3. **USMLE Step 1 Exam After Multiple CBS Exam Retakes:** If a student fails to achieve the minimal required total EPC score for the USMLE Step 1 application even after five CBS exam retakes, they are entitled to take the USMLE Step 1 exam after graduation.
4. **CBS Exam Sitzings for USMLE Step 1 Application:** To attain the minimal required total EPC score for the USMLE Step 1 application, students have the privilege to sit the CBS exam on the dates designated by the Dean's Office in the 2023/2024 academic year (up to 3 attempts) and on the dates set by the Dean's Office in the subsequent academic year.