INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE:

Students are required to successfully pass the CMS Clinical Skills Exam (CSE) in order to be eligible for award of the MD degree.

When this exam was first conceptualized, it was the one objective data point that ensured that all students could perform a History and Physical Exam and present the information in an organized, problem focused note. In the past 10 years, the USMLE Step 2 CS (Clinical Skills) Exam has become a rigorous third party exam that tests many of the same concepts. One advantage to Step 2 CS is that it is administered by a third party which removes any concerns related to the exam’s objectivity that may arise from an internal exam. In addition, passing the USMLE Step 2 CS is a required component of the Board Certification process and, for most residency programs, a prerequisite to begin residency training.

Based on previous years’ success on Step 2 CS, there is a strong correlation between how students perform on the CMS CSE and how they perform on USMLE Step 2 CS. In addition, the CMS internal exam remains an important snapshot of how students are performing by the end of their third year and whether they need additional support during their M4 year to become successful physicians.

CANCELATION:

N/A

SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY:

This policy applies to all Chicago Medical School (CMS) students in the allopathic medicine program.
TITLE: Clinical Skills Exam Policy

POLICY STATEMENTS:

Students must sit for the CMS Clinical Skills Exam (CSE) prior to advancing to the M4 year. If a student receives a failing score on the first CSE attempt, the student must remediate and pass another assessment of clinical skills.

Students must pass the CMS Clinical Skills Exam (CSE) in order to graduate.

DEFINITIONS:

USMLE: United States Medical Licensing Examination

A passing score on the Clinical Skills Exam (CSE) is 65% on Overall Clinical Reasoning (History, Physical and Note sections) and 70% on Communication Skills (as of 6/2019). Please note that the CSE is subject to change the minimum passing score annually.

PROCEDURES:

1) Students must take the CSE for the first time by the end of their M3 year.
2) CSE exam arrangements are coordinated by staff in the CMS Office of Student Affairs and Education and the RFUMS Department of Healthcare Simulation.
3) Students receive their score on the CSE within six weeks of completing the exam.
4) Students who do not pass the CSE will be required to remediate and pass another assessment of clinical skills prior to graduation.
5) Remediation may include, but is not limited to, reviewing written notes, working with Standardized Patients, seeing patients in clinic with faculty, and developing a plan for success on USMLE Step 2 CS.
6) The Education Director for Clinical Skills, Director of Clinical Skills Remediation, or designee will determine the remediation plan and method for repeat assessment.
7) Students who cannot demonstrate satisfactory clinical skills after remediation and repeat assessment may be referred to the Student Evaluation, Promotions, and Awards Committee (SEPAC) for consideration for dismissal.

POINTS OF CONTACT:

Education Director, Clinical Skills
Director of Clinical Skills Remediation

REFERENCES AND RELATED POLICIES:

SEPAC Policies and Procedures
Academic Catalog - Requirements for the MD Degree