



## Change In NBME CCSE Eligibility Policy

### *For Clinical Sciences students in starting clinical rotations on or after 9/1/24*

As part of our commitment to ensuring all students are thoroughly prepared for the United States Medical Licensing Examinations® (USMLE) Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK), RUSM is announcing important updates regarding exam eligibility and requirements for the National Board of Medical Examiners® (NBME) Comprehensive Clinical Science Exam (CCSE).

#### *Eligibility for NBME CCSE effective September 1, 2024:*

- **For students starting their first clerkship on or after September 1, 2024:** RUSM Students are eligible to sit for the NBME CCSE either:
  - 1) After successfully completing 24 weeks of core clerkships **AND** scoring a minimum grade of “B” in the corresponding NBME Subject Clerkship Exams (SCEs)**OR**
  - 2) After passing all core clerkships, completing a cATL advising session **AND** asynchronous NBME CCSE review.
- **For students who had started their first core clerkship prior to September 1, 2024:** RUSM is resuming the original NBME CCSE pre-pandemic policy as of September 1, 2024. RUSM students in clinical rotations on or before September 1, 2024, and plan to sit for their first attempt on NBME CCSE on or after September 1, 2024, will be required to pass four (4) NBME SCEs to sit for the NBME CCSE. Please refer to the Return to Policy announcement.

#### *Timeframe for NBME CCSE effective September 1, 2024:*

- **For students starting their first clerkship on or after September 1, 2024:** Students are encouraged to assess their individual readiness to sit for the CCSE when scheduling the exam. All students are required to sit for their first attempt on the NBME CCSE no later than 90 days from passing all six (6) NBME SCEs. This 90-day period includes students completing their cATL advising session and asynchronous NBME CCSE review. Failure to sit by this deadline will count as a failed attempt and the student will be charged an exam fee of \$149USD. This fee is subject to change.
- **For students who had started their first core clerkship prior to September 1, 2024:** Students are required to sit for their first attempt on the NBME CCSE within 90 days from passing all six (6) NBME SCEs. Failure to sit by this deadline will count as a failed attempt and the student will be charged an exam fee of \$149USD. This fee is subject to change.

Please note that NBME CCSE exams are scheduled no earlier than 45 days in advance of the start of the two-week exam window. Students must meet the eligibility criteria before submitting a request to schedule. To schedule the NBME CCSE, please send a request to [ExamAdministration@RossU.edu](mailto:ExamAdministration@RossU.edu).

#### *NBME CCSE Failures & “No Shows” effective September 1, 2024:*

- **For students starting their first core clerkship on or after September 1, 2024:** Students have up to three (3) attempts to achieve the minimum passing score (MPS) of 216 on the CCSE.
  - Students who fail to sit for the NBME CCSE or do not achieve the MPS after two attempts will be referred to the Clinical Student Promotions Committee (CSPC) and may be required to participate in mandatory Clinical Academy for Teaching and Learning (cATL) advising and tutoring activities, as well as other requirements, prior to a third attempt.
  - A student who fails on the third attempt will be referred to the Clinical Student Promotions Committee (CSPC) for additional review to determine progression status on USMLE Step 2 CK. The CSPC, at its discretion, may allow the student to continue, with additional testing and/or academic advising or recommend the student for Administrative Withdrawal.



- **For students who had started their first core clerkship prior to September 1, 2024:** Students have up to three (3) consecutive attempts to pass the NBME CCSE with the MPS set at 214. RUSM will grant an automatic fourth attempt to students who meet the following criteria:
  - Students who sat for their first attempt on NBME CCSE exam prior to August 1, 2022: Failed any of the three attempts, before or after August 1, 2022, with a score between 196 and 210 until August 1, 2022, or starting August 1, 2022, between 196 and 213.
  - Students who sit for their first attempt on the NBME CCSE on or after August 1, 2022: Failed on an attempt with a score between 201 and 213 on any of the three attempts.

***NBME CCSE Retakes effective September 1, 2024:***

- For NBME CCSE retakes, students may sit for their next attempt 60 days after the date of the previous attempt. However, the deadline to sit for the retake is 120 days from the date of the previous attempt.
- Students who fail to cancel/reschedule within the time frame indicated by the Office of the Registrar will be charged an exam fee. The current fee schedule for NBME exams is available on the NBME site: <https://www.nbme.org/assessment-products/assess-learn/subject-exams>.
- Failure to sit by this deadline will count as a failed attempt and the student will be charged an exam fee of \$149 USD. This fee is subject to change.
- Please refer to the *Retake Fee on Required NBME Exams* policy regarding incurred expenses by the student on any NBME retake exam.

These tailored benchmarks support our overarching academic goals and ensures students are equipped with the necessary competencies for successful medical practice. We understand preparing for these exams is a rigorous process, and we are committed to supporting you every step of the way.

Please utilize the resources available through our academic and student support services (e.g., ATL, RUSM Library and provided study resources, Wellness and Counseling, Student Care Advisors, etc.) to help you prepare effectively for the CBSE, SCEs, CCSE, and USMLE Step 1 and 2 exams.

Should you have any questions or need further clarification regarding this new requirement, do not hesitate to contact the Student Affairs office or your academic advisor.

Sincerely,

**Kenneth J. Feldman, EdD, FACHE**

Senior Associate Dean, Academic and Student Affairs