School of Medicine
High-Stakes Exam Expectations for Students in All Phases of the Curriculum

—This information applies to Legacy Curriculum students.—

The term high-stakes exams is used to denote all summative assessments, which are those assessments that evaluate student learning against intended course outcomes at the conclusion of instruction. Within the preclinical curriculum, the term includes all events for which the activity type is listed as "Exam.” Within the clinical curriculum, the term includes NBME Shelf Exams.

- Students are required to take all examinations at the originally specified time. A student may be excused from this rule for extenuating circumstances at the discretion of the associate dean for student affairs (ADSA). Examples of extenuating circumstances include personal illness and personal or family emergency. Doctor appointments of a routine nature or personal obligations such as weddings, birthday celebrations, or other planned personal or family commitments are generally not considered to be extenuating circumstances for which students can be exempted from the regularly scheduled exam date.

- All makeup exam requests go through the ADSA. The ADSA then submits the approved request to the Office of Medical Student Education (OMSE), and the OMSE will then transfer and track the requests granted. Course directors should refer all makeup exam requests to the ADSA.

- Students who are unable to attend a scheduled examination should promptly contact the ADSA. Students should also notify the course director(s); in cases related to personal illness, students should also contact Student Health Services. The OMSE handles all exam rescheduling, and examinations will only be rescheduled after approval by the ADSA. The timing of the rescheduled examination will be determined by the OMSE in collaboration with the course director(s).

- Students are expected to be punctual and should be assembled in the designated exam area before the official start time of the exam. Tardiness will not be excused except in extenuating circumstances. For purposes of the exam, “tardiness” will be defined by the course director or exam proctor. The course director will set expectations and determine consequences for exam tardiness.

- Students are expected to place all personal items, including muted cell phones, in designated areas.

- Students are expected to follow all proctor instructions.

- Students must not share study materials, exchange information, or collaborate or communicate with others during the exam.

- After taking the exam, students must not share information about the exam with anyone who has not yet taken it.