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**I. STEP 1**

Students studying for the USMLE Step 1 examination who are not enrolled in a full-time course at the School of Medicine will be required to sign up for independent study for up to nine weeks. A student may petition the Office of Medical Student Affairs for an extension of their independent study up to a total of 12 weeks if significant personal or family circumstances impact their study time. Students choosing to study longer will be placed on a leave of absence from the medical curriculum.

The independent study course will be graded on a pass/fail basis in accordance with the student’s passage or failure of the step examination.

The policy will be included in the Student Handbook.

**II. USMLE STEP 2 CK (Clinical Knowledge)**

Students studying for the USMLE Step 2 CK examination who are not enrolled in a full-time course at the School of Medicine will be required to sign up for independent study for up to one-half quarter (four and one-half weeks). A student may petition the Office of Medical Student Affairs for an extension of their independent study for additional time if significant personal or family circumstances impact their study time.

The independent study course will be graded on a pass/fail basis in accordance with the student’s passage or failure of the step examination. Although academic credit will be awarded, this course will not count toward the 20 weeks of elective credit required for graduation.

This policy will be included in the Student Handbook.