

MICHIGAN MEDICAL DOCTOR LICENSING GUIDE

- 1. How the Profession Is Organized in Michigan**
- 2. Eligibility for Licensing**
- 3. Tests**
- 4. Time and Costs**
- 5. Other Careers and Credentials**
- 6. Beyond Licensing**
- 7. Important Links**

1. HOW THE PROFESSION IS ORGANIZED IN MICHIGAN

OVERVIEW

This guide looks at things that you as a foreign-educated medical doctor must do to become eligible for licensing as a medical doctor in Michigan. At the same time, it includes some background and tips to give you an idea of the variety of opportunities available as you work to rebuild your career.

REGULATION OF MEDICAL DOCTORS IN MICHIGAN

As a medical doctor, you must be licensed to practice medicine in the State of Michigan. The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) regulates the profession. They give Michigan licenses to first time licensees and to medical doctors who are eligible to practice in other states (by endorsement).

The United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) is the qualifying examination for a Michigan medical doctor license. However, this is the last step in a longer process of education and examinations that international medical doctors must complete to practice in the state.

This guide assumes you are an international medical doctor who is beginning to build your career in the U.S. Therefore, the guide will include steps that come before the final state licensing process, including: ECFMG Certification, exams, and completion of a 2-year post graduate clinical training program.

2. ELIGIBILITY FOR LICENSING

This section explains important steps you must complete before you can be licensed to practice medicine in Michigan. The steps to licensing are as follows:

- I. Complete your Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) certification.

To be eligible for certification by ECFMG, an international medical graduate (IMG) must meet the following requirements.

International medical students/graduates must submit an Application for ECFMG Certification before they can apply to ECFMG for examination. The Application for ECFMG Certification consists of questions that require applicants to confirm their identity, contact information, and graduation from or enrollment in a medical school that is listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools (World Directory) as meeting eligibility requirements for its students and graduates to apply to ECFMG for ECFMG Certification and examination. As part of the application, international medical students/graduates must also confirm their understanding of the purpose of ECFMG Certification and release certain legal claims.

To meet the examination requirements for ECFMG Certification, an IMG must:

1. Satisfy the medical science examination requirement. USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) are the exams currently administered that satisfy this requirement.

USMLE Step 1 exam fee \$600

USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge exam fee \$600

2. Satisfy the clinical skills requirement. USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) is the exam currently administered that satisfies this requirement.

USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills exam fee \$1,275

There are time limits for completing the examinations for ECFMG Certification. For detailed information, including information on time limits and using a passing performance on former exams to satisfy these requirements, see Examinations for ECFMG Certification in the ECFMG Information Booklet.

To meet the medical education credential requirements for ECFMG Certification, an IMG must:

- Be a graduate of a medical school listed in the World Directory as meeting eligibility requirements for its students and graduates to apply to ECFMG for ECFMG Certification and examination. The World Directory is available at www.wdoms.org. For those medical schools that meet ECFMG eligibility requirements, there will be an ECFMG note on the Sponsor Notes tab of

the schools' World Directory listing. If there is no ECFMG note on your medical school's Sponsor Notes tab, you are not eligible to apply to ECFMG for ECFMG Certification or examination. The IMG's graduation year must be included in the ECFMG note on the Sponsor Notes tab of the school's World Directory listing.

- Have been awarded credit for at least four credit years (academic years for which credit has been given toward completion of the medical curriculum) by a medical school that is listed in the World Directory as meeting eligibility requirements for its students and graduates to apply to ECFMG for ECFMG Certification and examination. There are restrictions on credits transferred to the medical school that awards an IMG's medical diploma that can be used to meet this requirement.
- Document the completion of all requirements for, and receipt of, the final medical diploma. ECFMG must also receive copies of the IMG's final medical school transcript and, if required, transcripts to document credits that were transferred to the medical school that awarded the IMG's medical diploma.

Additionally, ECFMG must obtain primary-source verification of the IMG's medical diploma and transcript(s).

- II. Successfully complete 2 years postgraduate clinical training in a program approved by the board in a board-approved hospital or institution.

All active postgraduate clinical training programs accredited by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME), the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAH) or the National Joint Committee on Accreditation of Preregistration Physician Training Programs of the Canadian Medical Association are approved by the board. All hospitals accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAH) are board approved.

All medical schools accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) are approved by the Board.

If you have been accepted into a residency program in the state of Michigan, you must apply for an educational limited license (http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Med_New_Relic_2_514052_7.pdf) which allows you to practice under the supervision of a graduate medical program in an approved training program under the supervision of a medical doctor.

Fees: \$170 total for both educational limited license and controlled substance license

The educational limited license is linked to the hospital where your training will be given and is not portable. You cannot legally practice medicine outside of your training program until you apply for a full license. The earliest you can apply is after your second year of residency in a program that is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). You can renew your educational limited license five times so you can practice up to 6 years with an educational limited license.

III. Pass Step 3 of the USMLE examination.

The Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) determines exam eligibility for Step 3 of the USMLE examination www.fsmb.org. In order to be eligible to take Step 3, you must:

- Possess an MD or equivalent degree. (For recent graduates, apply only after the date of graduation on your diploma.)
- Pass USMLE Step 1, Step 2 CK and Step 2 CS
- If a graduate of a medical school outside of the US or Canada, obtain ECFMG certification or successfully complete a Fifth Pathway program. (Apply only after the issue date on your ECFMG or Fifth Pathway certificate.)

Fees: \$830

IV. Apply for a Michigan Medical Doctor License

Once you have completed Steps I, II and III, you may apply for a Michigan Medical Doctor license (http://www.michigan.gov/documents/lara/Med_New_Reloc_2_514052_7.pdf)

Fees: \$150 for full license and additional \$85 for controlled substance license

3. TESTS

Michigan requires all United States Medical Licensure Exams (USMLEs Steps 1 through 3) for an MD to become licensed in Michigan. It does not require additional tests.

Your main point of contact for exams for Step 1 and Step 2 will be USMLE and the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG). Step 3, which

comes after you have started your residency, is administered by the FSMB. All USMLE Exams except the Step 2 Clinical Skills test are given at Prometric test centers in the U.S. and abroad.

USMLE STEP 1

Examinees testing before May 9, 2016:

Step 1 is a one-day examination. The testing day includes 308 multiple-choice items divided into 7 blocks of 44 items; 60 minutes are allotted for completion of each block of test items. On the test day, examinees have a minimum of 45 minutes of break time and a 15- minute optional tutorial. The amount of time available for breaks may be increased by finishing a block of test items or the optional tutorial before the allotted time expires.

Examinees testing on or after May 9, 2016:

Step 1 is a one-day examination. It is divided into seven 60-minute blocks and administered in one 8-hour testing session. The number of questions per block on a given examination form will vary, but will not exceed 40. The total number of items on the overall examination form will not exceed 280.

Sections focusing on individual organ systems are subdivided according to normal and abnormal processes, including principles of therapy. Each Step 1 examination covers content related to the following traditionally defined disciplines:

- anatomy
- behavioral sciences
- biochemistry
- biostatistics and epidemiology
- microbiology
- pathology
- pharmacology
- physiology

The Step 1 examination also covers content related to the following interdisciplinary areas:

- genetics
- aging
- immunology
- nutrition
- molecular and cell biology

Fees: \$600

USMLE STEP 2: CLINICAL KNOWLEDGE (CK)

Step 2 CK is a one-day examination. The test items are divided into blocks, and test item formats may vary within each block.

The number of items in a block will be displayed at the beginning of each block. This number will vary among blocks, but will not exceed 44 items. The total number of items on the overall examination form will not exceed 355 items. Regardless of the number of items, 60 minutes are allotted for the completion of each block.

On the test day, examinees have a minimum of 45 minutes of break time and a 15- minute optional tutorial. The amount of time available for breaks may be increased by finishing a block of test items or the optional tutorial before the allotted time expires.

Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (Step 2 CK) consists of multiple-choice questions prepared by examination committees composed of faculty members, teachers, investigators, and clinicians with recognized prominence in their respective fields. Committee members are selected to provide broad representation from the academic, practice, and licensing communities across the United States and Canada.

Test questions focus on the principles of clinical science that are deemed important for the practice of medicine under supervision in postgraduate training.

Fees: \$600

USMLE STEP 2: CLINICAL SKILLS (CS)

Step 2 of the USMLE assesses the ability of examinees to apply medical knowledge, skills, and understanding of clinical science essential for the provision of patient care under supervision, and includes emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention. Step 2 ensures that due attention is devoted to the principles of clinical sciences and basic patient- centered skills that provide the foundation for the safe and effective practice of medicine.

Step 2 CS uses standardized patients to test medical students and graduates on their ability to gather information from patients, perform physical examinations, and communicate their findings to patients and colleagues.

Step 2 CS administration includes twelve patient encounters. These include a very small number of nonscored patient encounters, which are added for pilot testing new cases and other research purposes. Such cases are not counted in determining your score. 15 minutes is allowed for each encounter.

Announcements will tell you when to begin the patient encounter, when there are 5 minutes remaining, and when the patient encounter is over. In some cases you may complete the patient encounter in fewer than 15 minutes. If so, you may leave the examination room early, but you are not permitted to re-enter. Be certain that you have obtained all necessary information before leaving the examination room. Re-entering an examination room after leaving will be considered misconduct. Continuing to engage the patient after the announcement to stop has been made may be considered irregular behavior, will be reported to the USMLE, and could jeopardize your continued participation in the USMLE program.

Fees: \$1,275

USMLE STEP 3

Step 3 is a two-day examination. The first day of testing includes 233 multiple-choice items divided into 6 blocks of 38-40 items; 60 minutes are allotted for completion of each block of test items. Items with an associated pharmaceutical advertisement or scientific abstract are included in each of these multiple-choice blocks. There are approximately 7 hours in the test session on the first day, including 45 minutes of break time and a 5-minute optional tutorial. Note that the amount of time available for breaks may be increased by finishing a block of test items or the optional tutorial before the allotted time expires.

There are approximately 9 hours in the test session on the second day. This day of testing includes a 5-minute optional tutorial followed by 180 multiple-choice items, divided into 6 blocks of 30 items; 45 minutes are allotted for completion of each block of test items. The second day also includes a 7-minute CCS tutorial. This is followed by 13 case simulations, each of which is allotted a maximum of 10 or 20 minutes of real time. A minimum of 45 minutes is available for break time. There is an optional survey at the end of the second day, which can be completed if time allows.

Day 1

Step 3 Foundations of Independent Practice (FIP)

This test day focuses on assessment of knowledge of basic medical and scientific principles essential for effective health care. Content areas covered include

application of foundational sciences; understanding of biostatistics and epidemiology/population health, and interpretation of the medical literature; and application of social sciences, including communication and interpersonal skills, medical ethics, systems-based practice, and patient safety.

The test day also includes content assessing knowledge of diagnosis and management, particularly focused on knowledge of history and physical examination, diagnosis, and use of diagnostic studies. This test day consists solely of multiple-choice questions and includes some of the newer item formats, such as those based on scientific abstracts and pharmaceutical advertisements.

Day 2

Step 3 Advanced Clinical Medicine (ACM)

This test day focuses on assessment of the ability to apply comprehensive knowledge of health and disease in the context of patient management and the evolving manifestation of disease over time. Content areas covered include assessment of knowledge of diagnosis and management, particularly focused on prognosis and outcome, health maintenance and screening, therapeutics, and medical decision making. Knowledge of history and physical examination, diagnosis, and use of diagnostic studies also is assessed. This test day includes multiple-choice questions and computer-based case simulations.

Fees: \$830

4. TIME AND COSTS

Successful licensing as a Medical Doctor in Michigan depends on many factors.

Just some of these include:

- The completeness of your educational and professional records
- Your performance on several tests
- Your ability to complete a 2 year postgraduate clinical training program.

We provide two sample scenarios below to show some outcomes that immigrant professionals may experience when they seek a Medical Doctor license in Michigan. Please do not consider them as minimum or maximum scenarios, only as two reference points out of many. Your experience will vary.

Two Hypothetical Scenarios for MD Licensing:

Step	More Efficient Scenario <i>Approximate Time and Cost</i>	Less Efficient Scenario <i>Approximate Time and Cost</i>
1. ECFMG Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have been using a study course and preparing full-time for a year for the USMLE exams when you begin the ECFMG Certification process. Using online tools, you and your medical school are able to build your file in 3 months. You take Step 1 and 2 CK, passing both in 9 months with good scores. You take Step 2 CS in Los Angeles 6 months later and have minimal travel and accommodations. 2 1/2 years + \$5,400 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problems with your documents and with proper translations take you 6 months to resolve and are expensive. You must pay others in your country to visit institutions for you. You study for your exams while working full-time. After 1 year you apply for the step 1 exam and open your ECFMG file. Your file is complete in 6 more months but you fail step 1 on the first try. You take another year to prepare and pass, but your grade is not exceptional. You successfully pass your other exams and receive ECFMG certification within the next year. You take step 2 CS in Houston 1 year later and must pay for travel and accommodations. You pass on the first try. 4 1/2 years + \$7,150
2. Find Residency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It takes you just one year to research residency programs and find an acceptable match, because you are willing to relocate and invest great effort in marketing your skills. You travel to several sites for interviews. 2 years + \$3,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have difficulties with the match and go through the application process several times You succeed after you become more flexible in acceptable residencies You travel to several sites for interviews each year you go through the match process. 4 years + \$7,000
3. Postgraduate Training Verification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your Michigan residency program is a big help to you as you prepare your application. It takes 1 month to prepare your application and 1 month to be approved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You do your application with very little help and have difficulties with some of the paperwork. You turn in your fingerprints last and must wait 4 months for them to be processed.

Step	More Efficient Scenario <i>Approximate Time and Cost</i>	Less Efficient Scenario <i>Approximate Time and Cost</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 months + \$600 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your application is complete after 5 months and it takes 2 months to approve it. 7 months + \$800
4. USMLE Step 3 and Michigan Physician License	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You pass the USMLE Step 3 exam after your first year of residency. You apply for your license as soon as you are eligible (after 2 years of residency) and you are approved 6 months later. 1 year + \$830 USMLE Step 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You pass the USMLE step 3 exam after your first year of residency. You apply for your license as soon as you are eligible (after 2 years of residency) and you are approved 6 months later 1 year + \$830 USMLE Step 3
	<p>More Efficient Total <i>About 5 1/2 years + \$10,980 (plus 1-5 years to finish your residency)</i></p>	<p>Less Efficient Total <i>About 10 years + \$16,390 (plus 1-5 years to finish your residency)</i></p>

5. OTHER CAREERS AND CREDENTIALS

LOWER-LEVEL JOB OPPORTUNITIES

You may want to consider whether taking a lower-level job in healthcare in the short-term can help you meet longer-term goals of licensing as an MD. Working in healthcare in a different capacity and with fewer responsibilities may offer you some advantages:

- Your employer may pay for some costs associated with licensing
- You can focus more energy on studying
- You will have a chance to adapt to the U.S. healthcare system and workplace culture in a lower-pressure environment
- An opportunity to network with U.S. healthcare professionals, which may prove more useful when gathering Letters of Recommendation for your application

You may immediately qualify for several hospital staff positions which require little or no additional training, such as Certified Nurse Assistant or Phlebotomy Technician. Some immigrant professionals find jobs as healthcare educators, or use language skills as medical interpreters.

You should be honest with your employer about your long-term plans and be sure that they have benefits such as paying for your tuition or schedule flexibility that will support your goals.

6. BEYOND LICENSING

MAINTAINING LICENSURE

Your Michigan Medical Doctor license must be renewed every three years through the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs, Bureau of Professional Licensing. Your license will expire on January 31. You are responsible for renewing your license even if you do not receive a notice from the Department. You must renew online. The cost to renew on time is \$285 for the medical license and \$225 for the controlled substance license. You will have sixty days after the expiration date in which you may continue to practice without a lapse in your license as long as you renew within that sixty-day grace period. If you do not renew during that grace period, the expiration date of your license will revert to January 31. If you continue to practice after your license has expired (lapsed), you could have disciplinary action taken against you. If your license does expire, you will be required to apply for relicensure to reactivate your license.

Every time you renew your license you must state that you have met a 150-hour Continuing Medical Education requirement or CME. You need to keep the information on file in case you are audited. There are many opportunities to earn these hours, but special rules apply. You should check the Department website for details, or consider joining a professional association that offers CME opportunities to members.

LICENSING MOBILITY (ENDORSEMENT)

The State of Michigan grants licensing to MDs either by examination (the process described in this topic) or by endorsement. A medical doctor licensed in another state, who wants to practice in Michigan, must independently meet all Michigan requirements for licensing. If you become licensed in Michigan and want to practice medicine in another state, you will need to research the legal requirements for that state.

7. IMPORTANT LINKS

MICHIGAN LICENSING

- The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs website includes general licensing information regarding practicing medicine in Michigan www.michigan.gov/healthlicense
- The Public Health Code that regulates licensing for all health professions can be read at [http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(zdzgdxnz3wbaxqcasxud5nzw\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-368-1978-15](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(zdzgdxnz3wbaxqcasxud5nzw))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-368-1978-15)
- The Public Health Code that regulates controlled substances can be read at: <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-368-1978-7>
- The administrative rules governing the practice of medicine in Michigan can be located at: http://w3.lara.state.mi.us/orr/Files/AdminCode/1313_2013-114LR_AdminCode.pdf
- Once you are licensed, you will need to attend 150 hours of Continuing Medical Education every three years as one requirement to maintain your license

Department contact information: Bureau of Professional Licensing, PO Box 30670, Lansing, Michigan 48909; Telephone Number 517-241-0650; Fax Number 517-335-2044; email bplhelp@michigan.gov

UNITED STATES MEDICAL LICENSING EXAMS (USMLE)

- Through the [Federation of State Medical Boards](#) (FSMB), register for USMLE Step 3 [here](#).
- The Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS) is an electronic portfolio of your education and residency credentials. It is a way to maintain proof of your most important credentials over time without having to return for original documentation. You may sign up for its [Physician Information Profile](#) when you register for the USMLE Step 3 in MICHIGAN. FCVS Help number: 817-868-5000 OR 888-ASK-FCVS (this number can be reached only when calling from within the US), or send an email to fcvs@fsmb.org.

ECFMG CERTIFICATION

- The [International Medical Education Directory](#) by the Foundation for Advancement of International Medical Education and Research is searchable online. It lists schools whose graduates (for specific years) are eligible to participate in the certification program
- The [Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates](#) (ECFMG) provides certification for graduates of foreign medical schools to compete for residency in the US.
- ECFMG also provides other [online services](#) and [publications](#)

- The [ECFMG Information Booklet](#) has essential information to learn more about the ECFMG Certification process.
- [ECFMG Common Fees](#)
- [Apply for USMLEs](#) through the Interactive Web Application.
- The [IMG Advisors Network](#) (IAN) is a free advising program for first-year resident IMGs.

TEST PREPARATION

- National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) offers [practice materials](#) for all USMLE computer-based tests (Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 3).
- [Descriptions and content outlines of all USMLEs](#)