



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER.

Student Government Association

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
Senate Resolution 20.19

(Stating the sentiments of the Student Senate regarding elimination of the STEP 2 CS requirement for US medical graduates)

WHEREAS, the TTUHSC Student Government Association (SGA) is the recognized governing body for students at the Health Sciences Center and is tasked with the promotion, coordination, and direction of student affairs & activities affecting the Health Sciences Center student body as an entity as well as encouraging communication among the individual schools that compose the Health Sciences Center,

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) to close the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) testing centers until May 31, 2020, due to public health and safety concerns,¹

WHEREAS, various epidemiological predictions and modeling studies have suggested a protracted course of the COVID-19 pandemic requiring continued social distancing and travel limitations, even up to 18 months,² which may prolong the closure of Step 2 CS testing centers and may affect graduation requirements,

WHEREAS, once students are able to take the Step 2 CS examination in the next year, it would still require them to most likely travel via airplane to one of five metropolitan areas to interact with standardized patients who themselves are interacting with global travelers,³ which puts them and their patients at significant risk of infection without requiring a period of self-isolation,

WHEREAS, given that the Class of 2021 at most medical schools have already faced significant interruptions to their regular clinical coursework due to the COVID-19 pandemic and therefore would not benefit from further interruptions caused by Step 2 CS testing and subsequent self-quarantine,

WHEREAS, passing the Step 2 CS is a graduation requirement of most United States medical schools⁴ and a requirement for state medical licensure upon graduation as determined by the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB),⁵ despite the American Medical Association previously stating that assessments of clinical skills are “best performed using a rigorous and consistent examination administered by the medical school” and “should not be used in evaluation for licensure of graduates of Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) and American Osteopathic Association (AOA) accredited medical schools”,⁶

WHEREAS, over 19,000 medical students have signed a 2016 online petition from Harvard Medical School in support of eliminating Step 2 CS for US medical graduates due to a lack of data to support a causal link between Step 2 CS and improved patient outcomes as well as the fact that it costs over \$1 million in examination costs to identify a single student who fails the Step 2 CS,⁷

WHEREAS, the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) has already recommended to medical schools that they waive Step 2 CS as a graduation requirement for the Class of 2020, given that the LCME does not require Step 2 CS as a graduation requirement, and further recommends that medical schools instead use “internal summative assessment of student clinical skills that documents the attainment of...required objectives and/or competencies”,⁸

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Student Senate of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) asks the AAMC & LCME to encourage all medical schools to waive the USMLE Step 2 CS for the Class of 2021 and beyond, asks the NBME to consider eliminating the USMLE Step 2 CS exam entirely for US medical graduates and also to remove passing Step 2 CS as a requirement for taking the Step 3 exam, and asks the FSMB to eliminate the USMLE Step 2 CS exam as a requirement for state medical licensure for US medical graduates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be spread upon the Journal and that copies be sent to **Tedd L. Mitchell, MD**, Chancellor of the Texas Tech University System; **Lori Rice-Spearman, PhD**, Interim President of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center; **David J. Skorton, MD**, President & CEO of the AAMC; **David R. Lambert, MD**, LCME Chair; **Toni Ganzel, MD, MBA**, LCME Chair-elect; **Peter J. Katsufakis, MD, MBA**, President & CEO of the NBME; **Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO**, President & CEO of FSMB; **Lesley Wilmeth**, Assistant VP for Budget; **Austin Watts**, Editor of *The Daily Toreador*, and to the students of Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

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TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH
SCIENCES CENTER
Passed the Senate, 7 April 2020



Tobi Saliu

President, Student Senate

Read First Time: 7 April 2020
Reported from Committee:
Read Second Time: 7 April 2020

References:

- ¹<https://www.ecfmg.org/news/2020/04/03/usmle-step-2-clinical-skills-cs-testing-temporarily-suspended-beginning-monday-march-16-2020/>
- ²<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/03/modeling-study-suggests-18-months-covid-19-social-distancing-much>
- ³<https://www.csecassessments.org/test-centers/>
- ⁴<https://www.aamc.org/data-reports/curriculum-reports/interactive-data/usmle-requirements-advancement/promotion-or-graduation>
- ⁵ <https://www.fsmb.org/step-3/state-licensure/>
- ⁶ https://www.ama-assn.org/sites/ama-assn.org/files/corp/media-browser/public/mss/mss-proceedings-all_0.pdf
- ⁷ <http://endstep2cs.com/petition>
- ⁸ <https://www.aamc.org/system/files/2020-03/AAMC%20response%20to%20USMLE%20Step2CS.pdf>