

POLICY STATEMENT
TENNESSEE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

DEMONSTRATED COMPETENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES
APPLYING FOR A TEMPORARY LICENSE

The Board of Medical Examiners (“Board”) may issue a temporary license of limited duration to an international medical school graduate with demonstrated competency. A temporary license may be issued by the Board in its discretion as special circumstances may require. Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-6-207(g).

In order to qualify for an unrestricted medical license in Tennessee, applicants must be graduates of a Board-approved international medical school and must provide evidence of satisfactory completion of a three (3) year residency program approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The residency program must be at least three (3) years in length and constitute a single discipline. Please see the One Discipline Policy regarding Adequacy of Residency Training Programs for International Medical School Graduates for how this is determined.

If an applicant has graduated from an unapproved international medical school, but is able to demonstrate satisfactory completion of an ACCME-accredited three (3) year residency program in a single discipline, he or she may demonstrate competency by either passing step 3 of the USMLE within two (2) years of graduating from medical school, or by passing step 3 of the USMLE on the first attempt. For either of these demonstrations of competency, the first two steps of the USMLE must have been passed before the applicant sits for step 3, and the applicant must be a candidate to become board certified by an American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) specialty board within two (2) years from the date of the application. Proof of such candidacy may be submitted in the form of a letter from the ABMS board.

An applicant who is able to demonstrate competency in this manner may be issued a temporary license at the Board’s discretion. Such temporary license will be for a limited duration for the purpose of becoming certified by an ABMS specialty board.

If an applicant has graduated from a Board-approved international medical school, but is unable to demonstrate satisfactory completion of an ACCME-accredited residency program consisting of at least three (3) years which constitute a single discipline, the applicant may demonstrate competency by having completed at least 2 years of an ACGME-accredited residency program and having only one year remaining. The Board recognizes that the ACGME accredits some residency training programs in which the participant is given credit for three years of residency training in a single program after completing residencies in different specialties. Whatever the

length of the program, whether the final year is in the same specialty, the applicant must have no more than one year remaining in order to demonstrate competency.

An applicant who is able to demonstrate competency in this manner may be issued a temporary license at the Board's discretion for the completion of their remaining residency year. Such temporary license will be for a limited duration for the purpose of completing the remaining year of the residency program or for the purpose of becoming certified by an American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) specialty board.

Adopted by the Board of Medical Examiners on this 23rd day of January, 2019.