



QUILLEN COLLEGE *of* MEDICINE

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Policy Name: **QCOM Exam Administration Policy**

Policy Replaces a Previous Policy (this includes change in policy name): Yes/ No

If so, list name of previous policy (include policy number if different):

Policy Number (issued by the Office of Academic Affairs upon final approval): **MSEC-0515-11**

Policy Owner (Individual, Department, or Committee/Chair): **Ramsey McGowen, PhD / MSEC Chair (2013-2019)**
Ivy Click, EdD / MSEC Chair (2020-)

Committees, Departments, or Individuals Responsible for Implementation: **M1/M2/M3 Course and Clerkship
Directors**

Original Approval Date and Who Approved by: **5/19/2015 – Ramsey McGowen, PhD / MSEC Chair**

Effective Date(s): **5/19/2015; 2019-20 AY; 7/16/2019; 8/20/2019; 1/11/2024**

Revision Date(s) (include a brief description) and Who Approved by (made by Policy Owner and/or Policy Advisory Committee):

7/16/2019 – updated exam day procedures / Ramsey McGowen, PhD/MSEC Chair

8/20/2019 – updated test “TBR” to “institutional governing policy” / Ramsey McGowen, PhD/MSEC Chair

Administrative Edits (briefly describe) by Staff and/or the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and Date (these revisions do not require voting/approval by the policy owner):

5/13/2019 – updated student demonstration of academic achievement to remove reference to letter grade (refer to Pass/Fail Grading System 2019-20)

8/26/2019 – updated to include course/clerkship director where applicable and discretion authority identified

11/8/2021 – staff update of EAD to Vice Dean for Academic Affairs

Exemption(s) to Policy (date, by what committee or individual, and brief description):

LCME Required Policy: Yes/ No

If yes, please list the Element(s) Affiliated with this Policy (include Element number/name/statement):

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All policies will be reviewed by the Policy Advisory Committee every three years unless an earlier review is identified.

Date of Review: 1/11/2024

Revisions Made: Yes/ No If yes, list revisions made:

1. Clarification of review of student committee memberships after each semester to see if any student should be asked to withdraw from committee due to academic difficulties.
2. Language regarding time allotment of exams changed from a specified time to being dependent upon exam type.
3. Included the exam proctor as being able to delay exam start time and/or admitting a student to exam after the exam has started.
4. Other minor changes.

Revisions Require Approval by Policy Owner: Yes/ No

Policy Statement:

Students are expected to take exams on the dates scheduled. The examination schedule for years one and two is published by the beginning of each semester. Third year exam dates are published at the beginning of each academic year.

Purpose of Policy:

To provide a uniform policy across courses and clerkships for the administration of Quillen College of Medicine exams. Certain unavoidable circumstances may require modification of exam dates for individual students. In such circumstances, the exam schedule may be modified to allow administration at a different time if the change is approved by the course/clerkship director and the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, prior to the exam date. The *Permission Form for Modification of Examination Schedule* is to be used to document this approval and becomes part of this policy. See attached form.

Scope of Policy (applies to):

All students enrolled in the Quillen College of Medicine MD program.

Policy Activities:

Examples of valid reasons for requesting rescheduling an exam:

- Family emergency (death of an immediate family member, having to be out of town for a serious health issue of an immediate family member, etc.) The institutional governing policy defines Immediate Family Members as: 1) spouse; 2) child, step-child; 3) parent, step-parent, foster parent, parent-in-law; 4) sibling(s); 5) grandparents and grandchildren and: 6) other members of the family who reside within the home.
- Serious medical issues that are out of the student's control (pre-term labor, flu, hospitalization)
- Major family activities scheduled **prior** to exam schedule release. (e.g., a sibling's wedding). If this occurs, the student is to contact the course director immediately upon publication of the exam schedule.
- Attendance at conferences by formally elected student representatives (procedure for approval of extracurricular activities detailed in this policy)

Examples of invalid reasons for asking for an exam to be rescheduled:

- Convenience
- Minor family events (a bridal shower), vacations
- Family/Personal events that were scheduled after the exam schedule was published and could have been avoided if the student had paid attention to the schedule
- Elective surgery
- A volunteer activity, e.g., secondary school presentation.
- An elective professional developmental activity, e.g., a meeting to learn more about a

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particular specialty.

Extracurricular activities conflicting with examination schedule:

Occasionally, student participation in an extracurricular professional activity/event representing Quillen may conflict with an exam date. Exam rescheduling may be appropriate when such conflicts arise and will be determined on a case by case basis.

Staff and administrators are to consult the exam schedule for all of the student's courses before offering travel support. This includes elected students representing Quillen College of Medicine at conferences. If an activity conflicts with a scheduled exam, the section administrator offering the travel support will meet with the course director/clerkship director in advance to discuss the academic standing of any student being considered for the trip.

Prior to making a commitment to participate in an activity, the student must meet with the course director/ clerkship director of the course/clerkship during which the activity occurs. The student must demonstrate that the exam date modification will not adversely affect his/her academic achievement. In general, students shall demonstrate prior successful academic achievement. The Associate or Assistant Dean of Student Affairs will review student committee membership after each semester to determine if any student should be asked to withdraw from a committee due to academic difficulty.

For situations where several students attend the same conference (and are deemed eligible to attend the event), all students missing the exam will make up the exam at the same time and date set by the course director.

If the course utilizes ExamSoft, the course director/clerkship director will work with the ExamSoft administrator to determine the date and time of the rescheduled exam.

Exam Day Procedures:

All students must be present before the exam can be started. The option to delay the exam start time for the entire class and/or approve any students being admitted to the exam room after the exam has started will be at the discretion of the course director or exam proctor.

If a student is ill or is unable to be present for the exam due to extreme circumstances, the student must attempt to notify the course director, course coordinator, or exam proctor via phone or e-mail prior to the announced start time of the exam in order to be excused from the exam and have their exam rescheduled.

Students are to bring only their student ID card, and computer and required cords, for an electronic exam. Students may not have any other items in the seating area of the exam room. Do not make notes on the laminated green sheet or scratch paper provided prior to entering the individual CIN or start up code. Once the exam begins, students are permitted to make calculations or notes ONLY on the laminated green sheet or scratch paper provided.

Students are not allowed to exit the secure testing area with either the laminated erasable note board or green sheet, scratch paper, pens, pencils, or any material provided to work out exam questions.

Language to be Read at the Beginning of Each Exam

1. This examination is subject to the College of Medicine Honor Code.
 - a. Any breaches will be reported to the Honor Council and additional penalties may be recommended to the Dean, including expulsion.
2. Failure to adhere to the requirements outlined below will result in a grade of zero being assigned for the exam.
 - a. The following items are either to be left outside the exam room or placed in backpacks left at the designated area identified by the instructor.
 - food or drink
 - headwear, coats, or outer jackets
 - cell phones
 - paging devices
 - radios
 - calculators
 - recording/filming devices
 - iPod, iPad, or similar devices
 - reference materials (books, notes, papers)
 - watches with alarms, computer, or memory capacity

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- backpacks, briefcases, or luggage.
 - b. All electronic devices are to be turned completely off--not to a vibrate setting-- when placed in backpacks.
 - c. Disposable ear plugs may be used as long as they are not attached to cords or other devices.
 - d. Students are expected to sit in front of their computer screen to remove any temptation or appearance of irregular behaviors such as wandering eyes/looking at others work.
3. Personal breaks:
- a. Only one student may leave the exam room at a time.
 - b. No items may be removed from the exam room.
 - c. During NBME exams students will be escorted for breaks.
 - d. During Non-NBME exams:
 - i. Personal breaks will not be permitted during the first one hour of an in-house exam. Students who experience an urgent need for being excused from the room should consult the course director or exam proctor.
 - ii. Students will be required to sign in and sign out when they leave and return to the testing room.
 - iii. Students are expected to utilize the facilities closest to the exam room.
 - iv. Students must not converse with anyone, other than a course faculty member or exam proctor, either inside the exam room or outside of the exam room while the exam is being given.
 - v. Students are not to consult any resources while out of the exam room.
 - vi. Students will not be allowed to return to the exam room from breaks which exceed 10 minutes and their exam session will be terminated.
4. Should there be any major issues with the electronic exam connection remember this is still a testing environment and you need to remain silent.
5. The time allotted for each exam is dependent upon the type of exam and will be designated in the student schedule.
6. The exam will be proctored by faculty members and/or staff members.
7. Once the exam is completed students are:
- a. To leave quietly. If a laptop is utilized for the exam, it is to be taken outside the exam room before being placed in a backpack.
 - b. Not to disseminate detailed information regarding exam content to any other individual, either during or after any exam.
 - c. Not to congregate in the hallway outside the exam room out of courtesy to those still taking the exam.

Administrative Reviews/Approvals	Date Approved
<i>University Compliance (if applicable)</i>	
<i>Policy Advisory Committee (includes three-year reviews)</i>	1/11/2024
<i>Associate Dean for Accreditation Compliance (if applicable)</i>	
<i>Vice Dean for Academic Affairs</i>	1/9/2023; 1/11/2024

Policy Review and/or Revision Completed By (if applicable)	Date Policy Reviewed and/or Approved (if applies to that department, committee, or group)
<i>Office of the Dean</i>	
<i>Office of Academic Affairs</i>	April/May 2015; 5/13/2019; 7/16/2019; 8/20/2019; 8/26/2019; 7/10/2020; 11/8/2021; 1/17/2024
<i>Office of Student Affairs</i>	
<i>Department of Medical Education</i>	
<i>Medical Student Education Committee</i>	5/19/2015; 7/16/2019; 8/20/2019

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<i>Student Promotions Committee</i>	
<i>Faculty Advisory Council</i>	
<i>Administrative Council</i>	
<i>M1/M2 Course Directors</i>	July 2019; August 2019
<i>M3/M4 Clerkship/Course Directors</i>	July 2019; August 2019
<i>Student Groups/Organizations (describe):</i>	
<i>Other (describe):</i>	
<i>Medical Students</i>	August 2019
<i>QCOM Faculty</i>	August 2019
<i>QCOM Staff</i>	August 2019

Final Policy Emailed to:	Date of Email Notifications
<i>Medical Education Director for Posting on Educational Policies Website</i>	1/18/2024; 5/1/2024
<i>Policy Owner</i>	1/18/2024; 5/1/2024
<i>Admissions Office for Catalog (only new policies)</i>	1/18/2024