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## TONIGHT'S MEETING

- Welcome to Texas A&M Pre-Medical Society! Tonight's Speaker is Dr. Danielle Jones. She is an OB/GYN at Baylor Scott & White Hospital in College Station.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- In order to officially become a member (and earn points), you **MUST** fill out a membership form and pay dues! Dues are \$45 for the semester or \$65 for the full year. Dues can be paid by cash, check, or through online credit card payment.
- **VOLUNTEERING:** You must be a member to volunteer and are required to wear your Pre-Med Society shirt, long pants, and closed toed shoes. Sign up to volunteer on our website!
- **MCAT Prep Course Scholarship** recipients will be announced February 21st! We also have **MCAT Prep discounts** for all members of Pre-Med Society so talk to our VP, Liam, for more info!
- We are playing volleyball intramurals this semester! Our next game is **Monday, February 24th, at 9:30 pm**. Talk to an officer if you are interested in joining the team.
- **The Big Event**, the largest single day service project in the country, is **March 28th**. Pre-Med Society will be participating and we would love for you to volunteer with us! You can sign up on our website or using the following link: <https://bigeventonline.tamu.edu/signup/index/joiningroup/code/4A002-02728>. The access code for the Pre-Med Society group is 4A002-02728. Sign up before March 1st to participate!

## POINT OPPORTUNITIES

Pre-Med meeting Attendance	3 Points
ECHO Meeting Attendance	2 Points
Wearing Pre-Med shirt at any meeting	1 Point
Intramural Game Attendance	2 Points
Social Event Attendance	3 Points
One Hour of Volunteering	1 Point

## MEMBERSHIP

Exemplary	100 Points
Distinguished	75 Points
Honored	50 Points
Member	<50 Points

The points system is used to determine our members' participation within the society. The various echelons of awarded membership allow one to truly benefit from all the society has to offer and to capitalize on this involvement during the medical school application process.

## Member of the Week

Our member of the week is  
*Francisco Melesio!*

Congratulations! We really appreciate all you do to be involved in Pre-Med Society!



## THE CADUCEUS

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me thinking  
about my  
dream job

me studying for  
my dream job



**Practice MCAT Question**

Which type of lethal, inheritable allele is most likely to persist in a population?

- A.) Dominant
- B.) Codominant
- C.) Recessive
- D.) Incompletely dominant

*Answer at the bottom of the next page*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
16	17	18 Pre-Med Meeting 7-8pm	19 Phoebe's Home Volunteering 5-7pm	20	21 St. Joseph's Volunteering 2-4pm	22
23	24	25 ECHO Meeting 7-8pm	26 Phoebe's Home Volunteering 5-7pm	27	28 St. Joseph's Volunteering 2-4pm	29 <i>Last day to sign up for BIG EVENT!</i>
1 <i>Start of March</i>	2 <i>Profit Share @ Raising Cane's</i>	3 Pre-Med Meeting 7-8pm	4 Phoebe's Home 5-7pm	5	6 St. Joseph's Volunteering 2-4pm	7
8	9 <i>Spring Break</i>	10 <i>Spring Break</i>	11 <i>Spring Break</i>	12 <i>Spring Break</i>	13 <i>Spring Break</i>	14
15	16	17 Pre-Med Meeting 7-8pm	18 Phoebe's Home 5-7pm	19	20 St. Joseph's Volunteering 2-4pm	21

**MHMR Volunteering**

Available daily Monday through Friday anytime from **10 am—2 pm**

NOTE: Volunteering opportunities are meant for members to attend as they please. We will offer rides to Phoebe's Home and St. Joseph's.

Check your volunteering requirements! (orientation/application/vaccines)

**DUES AND MERCHANDISE**

\$45 membership dues for one **semester**

\$65 membership dues for the **full year**

*Dues include a New T-Shirt*

New T-Shirts - **\$15**

Old T-Shirts - **\$5**

Athletic Shirts - **\$12**

Hats - **\$15**

Fleeces - **\$50**

**UPCOMING OPSA WORKSHOPS**

ECHO Healthcare Symposium

- February 25th, 10:00am—2:00pm

First Year Informational

- February 27th, 5:30pm—6:30pm

Health Professions Essay Reviews

- April 27th, 2—4pm
- April 28th, 2—4pm

Application Workshops

- April 23rd, 2—3pm

# USMLE Step 1 Pass/Fail Winners and Losers

On February 12, 2020, the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) announced that the **USMLE Step 1 will transition to a pass/fail exam** in January 2022 at the earliest. This move comes amidst increasing pressure on the NBME regarding its financial conflicts of interest, as well as the tangible sense among medical school deans that students were neglecting coursework in favor of cramming for this hugely important exam. This policy has already led to dramatic reactions from all corners of the medical community. Program directors overwhelmingly reported Step 1 as the most important factor in deciding candidates to interview, and will now need to search for other metrics in order to evaluate residency applications. Although specifics regarding the transition have yet to be announced, here are some of the likely winners and losers from this policy.

## **Winner: Step 2 CK (and its test-preparation industry)**

### **Loser: Student anxiety levels**

Without a numerical Step 1 score, program directors will naturally lean to the only remaining standardized metric: Step 2 CK. Rather than easing student anxiety, this change puts a tremendous amount of pressure on students to excel on Step 2 CK. Previously, students who did poorly on Step 1 had a “second chance” to show their test-taking ability by improving on Step 2 CK. Now, they only have one shot to prove themselves to residency programs. A new arms-race of Step 2 CK preparation resources will begin.

## **Winner: Students from top-ranked medical schools**

### **Loser: International medical graduates and DO students**

Program directors also placed high emphasis on letters of recommendation, Medical School Performance Evaluation (essentially a summary of clinical grades), and research. Students at top-ranked schools have more access to well-known faculty and research opportunities compared to students from other schools. Since clinical grading systems differ among all medical schools, USMLE scores were theoretically used as “objective” metrics that could aid in comparing candidates from different medical schools around the world. The absence of Step 1 scores will exacerbate the advantages that students from top-tier schools enjoy.

## **Winner: Proponents of “holistic application review”**

### **Loser: Staff responsible for screening residency applications**

A common criticism of Step 1 was that program directors used it as a “crutch” to filter applications based on a seemingly objective cutoff. Programs will now need to find other, hopefully holistic methods of screening residency applicants. While this sounds great in theory, it is tremendously difficult to implement in practice. It is not uncommon for programs to receive >100 applications for a single residency position. To screen all of these applications without a score cutoff, programs will likely need to invest in more staff, or increase the workloads of already-drowning faculty members and residents.

## **Winner: Clinical education in medical school**

### **Loser: Basic science education in medical school**

Without the pressure of a Step 1 score, many students will not feel that it is necessary to learn basic science facts that have seemingly little relevance to clinical medicine. The increased focus on Step 2 CK may incentivize students to deepen their clinical knowledge. Proponents of the basic sciences may lament this change given that the newest discoveries in clinical medicine often originate in basic science, and one may never know when a pearl of basic science knowledge could impact clinical care in a novel way. It remains to be seen how medical schools will adjust their curricula to this new reality. Many schools have transitioned to a systems-based curriculum already, so that basic and clinical sciences are integrated. Perhaps more schools will follow suit.

## **Conclusion**

Changing Step 1 to a pass/fail exam may be one of the biggest shifts in medical education in the past three decades. Residency programs will likely lean on Step 2 CK as a filtering mechanism, triggering a cascade of changes in other areas of the residency application process. Only time will tell whether these changes will improve or worsen the state of medical education.

Article by Aamir Hussain, an Internal Medicine Resident

Article Source: KevinMD.com

<https://www.kevinmd.com/blog/2020/02/usmle-step-1-pass-fail-winners-and-losers.html>

MCAT Question Answer: C