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§163.1. Definitions.

The following words and terms, (concerning General Definitions) when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) Acceptable approved medical school--A medical school or college located in the United States or Canada that has been accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association Bureau of Professional Education.

(2) Acceptable unapproved medical school--A school or college located outside the United States or Canada that:

(A) is substantially equivalent to a Texas medical school; and

(B) has not been disapproved by a state physician licensing or education agency.

(i) If another state's physician licensing agency or education agency has determined that a medical degree conferred by a medical school is not the equivalent of an accredited or authorized degree or has otherwise disapproved the medical school, the board will not recognize the medical school as an acceptable unapproved medical school, unless:

(I) the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board has determined that a degree conferred by the medical school is the equivalent of an accredited or authorized degree through the review process described by §61.3021, Texas Education Code; or

(II) the applicant can provide evidence that the determination or disapproval by the other state was unfounded.

(ii) A fraudulent or substandard medical school operating outside the United States or Canada shall not be an acceptable unapproved medical school. "Fraudulent or substandard," as used in this subsection, has the meaning assigned by §61.302, Texas Education Code. If the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board certifies that it has determined, through the review process described by §61.3021, Texas Education Code, that a medical degree conferred by a medical school is not the equivalent of an accredited or authorized degree, the board will not recognize the medical school as an acceptable unapproved medical school.

(iii) This section shall not affect any person who received a license from the board prior to a determination by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board through the review process described by §31.3021, Texas Education Code.

(3) Affiliated hospital--Affiliation status of a hospital with a medical school as defined by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education and documented by the medical school in its application for accreditation.

(4) Applicant--One who files an application as defined in this section.

(5) Application--An application is all documents and information necessary to complete an applicant's request for licensure including the following:

(A) forms furnished by the board, completed by the applicant:

(i) all forms and addenda requiring a written response must be typed, printed in ink, or completed online;

(ii) photographs must meet United States Government passport standards;

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(B) all documents required under §163.5 of this title (relating to Licensure Documentation); and

(C) the required fee.

(6) Board--Texas Medical Board.

(7) Continuous--12 month periods of uninterrupted postgraduate training with no absences greater than 21 days, unless such absences have been approved by the training program.

(8) Good professional character--An applicant for licensure must not be in violation of or have committed any act described in the Medical Practice Act, TEX. OCC. CODE ANN. §§164.051 - 164.053.

(9) One-year training program--A program that is one continuous year of postgraduate training approved by the board that is:

(A) accepted for certification by a specialty board that is a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties or the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists; or

(B) accredited by one of the following:

(i) the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, or its predecessor;

(ii) the American Osteopathic Association;

(iii) the Committee on Accreditation of Preregistration Physician Training Programs, Federation of Provincial Medical Licensing Authorities of Canada;

(iv) the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada; or

(v) the College of Family Physicians of Canada; or

(C) a postresidency program, usually called a fellowship, performed in the U.S. or Canada and approved by the board for additional training in a medical specialty or subspecialty.

(10) Sixty (60) semester hours of college courses--60 semester hours of college courses other than in medical school that are acceptable to The University of Texas at Austin for credit on a bachelor of arts degree or a bachelor of science degree; the entire primary, secondary, and premedical education required in the country of medical school graduation, if the medical school is located outside the United States or Canada; or substantially equivalent courses as determined by the board.

(11) Substantially equivalent to a Texas medical school--A medical school or college shall be considered to be substantially equivalent to a Texas medical school under the following conditions:

(A) An acceptable approved medical school shall be considered to be substantially equivalent to a Texas medical school. A medical school operating within the United States or Canada that is not an acceptable approved medical school shall not be considered to be substantially equivalent to a Texas medical school.

(B) A medical school operating outside the United States or Canada may be determined to be substantially equivalent to a Texas medical school if the medical school is designed to select and educate medical students and provide students with the opportunity to acquire a sound basic medical education through training in basic sciences and clinical sciences. The school should provide information about the school's program of advancement of knowledge through research; the school's development of programs of graduate medical education to produce practitioners, teachers, and researchers; and, the school's program to provide opportunity for postgraduate and continuing medical education, for the board's consideration. In addition, to be determined substantially equivalent to a

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Texas medical school, the medical school's characteristics shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(i) The facilities for basic sciences and clinical training (i.e., laboratories, hospitals, library, etc.) shall be adequate to ensure opportunity for proper education.

(ii) The admissions standards shall ensure that the medical school has a pool of applicants sufficiently large and possessing United States national level qualifications to fill its entering class. Medical schools must select students who possess the intelligence, integrity, and personal and emotional characteristics necessary for them to become effective physicians.

(iii) The curriculum shall meet the requirements for an unapproved medical school as set forth in the "Curriculum Definitions for Course Areas Prescribed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for Determining Eligibility of International Medical Graduates for Texas Medical Licensure," as adopted by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, as follows:

(I) The basic sciences curriculum shall include the contemporary content of those expanded disciplines that have been traditionally titled gross anatomy, biochemistry, biology, physiology, microbiology, immunology, pathology, pharmacology, and neuroscience.

(II) The fundamental clinical subjects, which shall be offered in the form of required patient-related clerkships, are internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry, family practice, and surgery.

(iv) The curriculum shall be of at least 130 weeks in duration.

(v) There must be integrated institutional responsibility for the overall design, management and evaluation of a coherent and coordinated curriculum.

(vi) For schools that have geographically separated programs, the principal academic officer of each geographically remote site must coordinate the curriculum with an academic officer of the medical school responsible for organizing the educational program.

(12) Texas Medical Jurisprudence Examination (JP exam)--The ethics examination developed by the board.

(13) **Two** ~~Three~~-year training program-- **Two** ~~Three~~ continuous years of postgraduate training in the United States or Canada, progressive in nature and acceptable for specialty board certification in one specialty area that is:

(A) accredited by one of the following:

(i) the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education;

(ii) the American Osteopathic Association;

(iii) the Committee on Accreditation of Preregistration Physician Training Programs, Federation of Provincial Medical Licensing Authorities of Canada;

(iv) the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada;

(v) the College of Family Physicians of Canada; or

(vi) all programs approved by the board after August 25, 1984; or

(B) a board-approved program for which a Faculty Temporary Permit was issued; or

(C) a postresidency program, usually called a fellowship, for additional training in a medical specialty or subspecialty, approved by the board.

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§163.2. Full Texas Medical License.

(a) Graduates of medical schools in the United States or Canada. To be eligible for full licensure, an applicant who is a graduate from a school in the United States or Canada must:

- (1) be 21 years of age;
- (2) be of good professional character as defined under §163.1(8) of this title (relating to Definitions);
- (3) have completed 60 semester hours of college courses as defined under §163.1(10) of this title;
- (4) be a graduate of an acceptable approved medical school as defined under §163.1(1) [163.1(2)] of this title;
- (5) have successfully completed a one-year training program of graduate medical training in the United States or Canada as defined under §163.1(9) of this title;
- (6) submit evidence of passing an examination accepted by the board for licensure as defined under §163.6(a) of this title (relating to Examinations Accepted for Licensure); and
- (7) pass the Texas Medical Jurisprudence Examination.

(b) Graduates of medical schools outside the United States or Canada. To be eligible for full licensure, an applicant who is a graduate from a school outside the United States or Canada must:

- (1) be 21 years of age;
- (2) be of good professional character as defined under §163.1(8) of this title;
- (3) have completed 60 semester hours of college courses as defined under §163.1(10) of this title;
- (4) be a graduate of:
 - (A) an acceptable unapproved medical school as defined under §163.1(2) of this title; or
 - (B) any medical school and hold a certificate from a specialty board that is a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties or the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists.
- (5) have ~~either:~~

~~(A) successfully completed a two [three]-year training program of graduate medical training in the United States or Canada as defined under §163.1(13) of this title; or~~

~~(B) successfully completed at least two years of graduate medical training in the United States or Canada that was approved by the board [and at least one year of graduate medical training outside the United States or Canada that was approved for advanced standing by the American Board of Medical Specialties or the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists];~~

- (6) submit evidence of passing an examination accepted by the board for licensure as defined under §163.6 of this title;
- (7) pass the Texas Medical Jurisprudence Examination;
- (8) possess a valid certificate issued by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG);
- (9) have the ability to communicate in the English language; and
- (10) have supplied all additional information that the board may require concerning the applicant's medical school.

(c) Fifth Pathway Program. To be eligible for licensure, an applicant who has completed a Fifth Pathway Program must:

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- (1) be at least 21 years of age;
- (2) be of good professional character as defined under §163.1(8) of this title;
- (3) have completed 60 semester hours of college courses as defined under §163.1(10) of this title;
- (4) have completed all of the didactic work, but not graduated from a foreign medical school and meet the requirements subparagraph (A) or (B) of this paragraph.
- (A) The medical school's curriculum meets the requirements for an acceptable unapproved medical school as determined by a committee of experts selected by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; or
- (B) Either:
- (i) the medical school's curriculum is substantially equivalent to a Texas medical school as defined under §163.1(11) of this title and has not been disapproved by another state physician licensing agency unless the applicant can provide evidence that the disapproval was unfounded, or:
- (ii) the applicant must:
- (I) have passed the basic sciences portion of an acceptable examination listed in §163.6(a) of this title within two attempts;
- (II) have not been the subject of disciplinary action by any other state, the uniformed services of the United States, or the applicant's peers in a local, regional, state, or national professional medical association or staff of a hospital;
- (III) have, on a full-time basis, actively diagnosed or treated persons or have been on the active teaching faculty of an acceptable approved medical school for three of the last four years preceding receipt of an Application for licensure, which may include post-graduate training (The term "full-time basis" shall have the same meaning provided in §163.11(b) of this title (relating to Active Practice of Medicine)); and
- (IV) hold a certificate from a specialty board that is a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties or the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists.
- (5) have successfully completed a **two** ~~three~~-year training program of graduate medical education in the United States or Canada **as defined under §163.1(13) of this title;** ~~[that was approved by the board on the date the training was completed]~~
- (6) submit evidence of passing an examination, that is acceptable to the board for licensure;
- (7) pass the Texas Medical Jurisprudence Examination;
- (8) submit a sworn affidavit that no proceedings, past or current, have been instituted against the applicant before any state medical board, provincial medical board, in any military jurisdiction or federal facility;
- (9) have attained a passing score on the ECFMG examination;
- (10) have the ability to communicate in the English language;
- (11) have attained a satisfactory score on a qualifying examination and have completed one academic year of supervised clinical training for foreign medical students as defined by the American Medical Association Council on Medical Education (Fifth Pathway Program) in a United States medical school; and

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(12) have supplied all additional information that the board may require, concerning the applicant's medical school, before approving the applicant.

(d) Alternative License Procedure for Military Spouse.

(1) An applicant who is the spouse of a member of the armed forces of the United States assigned to a military unit headquartered in Texas may be eligible for alternative demonstrations of competency for certain licensure requirements. Unless specifically allowed in this subsection, an applicant must meet the requirements for licensure as specified in this chapter.

(2) To be eligible, an applicant must be the spouse of a person serving on active duty as a member of the armed forces of the United States and meet one of the following requirements:

(i) holds an active unrestricted medical license issued by another state that has licensing requirements that are substantially equivalent to the requirements for a Texas medical license; or

(ii) within the five years preceding the application date held a medical license in this state that expired and was cancelled for nonpayment while the applicant lived in another state for at least six months.

(3) Applications for licensure from applicants qualifying under §163.2(e)(2) shall be expedited by the board's licensure division as if they meet the provisions of §163.13.

(4) Alternative Demonstrations of Competency Allowed. Applicants qualifying under §163.2(e)(2):

(i) are not required to comply with §163.7, Ten Year Rule; and

(ii) in demonstrating compliance with §163.11(a), Active Practice of Medicine, must only provide sufficient documentation to the board that the applicant has, on a full-time basis, actively diagnosed or treated persons or has been on the active teaching faculty of an acceptable approved medical school, within one of the last three years preceding receipt of an Application for licensure.

§163.4. Procedural Rules for Licensure Applicants.

(a) All applicants for licensure:

(1) if appropriate, are encouraged to use the Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS) offered by the Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States (FSMB) to verify medical education, postgraduate training, licensure examination history, board action history and identity;

(2) whose applications have been filed with the board in excess of one year will be considered expired. Any fee previously submitted with that application shall be forfeited unless otherwise provided by §175.5 of this title (relating to Payment of Fees or Penalties). Any further request for licensure will require submission of a new application and inclusion of the current licensure fee. An extension to an application may be granted under certain circumstances, including:

(A) Delay by board staff in processing an application;

(B) Application requires Licensure Committee review after completion of all other processing and will expire prior to the next scheduled meeting;

(C) Licensure Committee requires an applicant to meet specific additional requirements for licensure and the application will expire prior to deadline established by the Committee;

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(D) Applicant requires a reasonable, limited additional period of time to obtain documentation after completing all other requirements and demonstrating diligence in attempting to provide the required documentation;

(E) Applicant is delayed due to unanticipated military assignments, medical reasons, or catastrophic events.

(3) who in any way submit a false or misleading statement, document, or certificate in an application may be required to appear before the board. It will be at the discretion of the board whether or not the applicant will be issued a Texas license;

(4) on whom adverse information is received by the board may be required to appear before the board. It will be at the discretion of the board whether or not the applicant will be issued a Texas license;

(5) shall be required to comply with the board's rules and regulations which are in effect at the time the application form and fee are filed with the board;

(6) may be required to sit for additional oral, written, mental or physical examinations that, in the opinion of the board, are necessary to determine competency and ability of the applicant;

(7) must have the application for licensure complete in every detail 20 days prior to the board meeting in which they are considered for licensure. Applicants with complete applications may qualify for a Temporary License prior to being considered by the board for licensure, as required by §172.11 of this title (relating to Temporary Licensure--Regular); and

(8) that receive any medical or osteopathic medical education in the United States must have obtained such education while enrolled as a full-time or visiting student at a medical school that is accredited by an accrediting body officially recognized by the United States Department of Education as the accrediting body for medical education leading to the doctor of medicine degree or the doctor of osteopathy degree in the United States. This subsection does not apply to postgraduate medical education or training. An applicant who is unable to comply with this requirement must demonstrate that the applicant either:

(A) received such medical education in a hospital or teaching institution sponsoring or participating in a program of graduate medical education accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, the American Osteopathic Association, or the board in the same subject as the medical or osteopathic medical education if the hospital or teaching institution has an agreement with the applicant's school; or

(B) is specialty board certified by a board approved by the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists or the American Board of Medical Specialties.

(b) Applicants for a license must subscribe to an oath in writing. The written oath is part of the application.

(c) An applicant is not eligible for a license if:

(1) the applicant holds a medical license that is currently restricted for cause, canceled for cause, suspended for cause, or revoked by a state of the United States, a province of Canada, or a uniformed service of the United States;

(2) an investigation or a proceeding is instituted against the applicant for the restriction, cancellation, suspension, or revocation of the applicant's medical license in a state of the United States, a province of Canada, or a uniformed service of the United States; or

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(3) a prosecution is pending against the applicant in any state, federal, or Canadian court for any offense that under the laws of this state is a felony or a misdemeanor that involves moral turpitude.

(d) If the Executive Director determines that the applicant clearly meets all licensing requirements, the Executive Director or a person designated by the Executive Director, may issue a license to the applicant, to be effective on the date issued without formal board approval, as authorized by §155.002(b) of the Act.

(e) If the Executive Director determines that the applicant does not clearly meet all licensing requirements, a license may be issued only upon action by the board following a recommendation by the Licensure Committee, in accordance with §155.007 of the Act (relating to Application Process) and §187.13 of this title (relating to Informal Board Proceedings Relating to Licensure Eligibility).

(f) If the Executive Director determines that the applicant is ineligible for licensure based on one or more of the statutory or regulatory provisions listed in paragraphs (1) - (5) of this subsection, the applicant may appeal that decision to the Licensure Committee before completing other licensure requirements for a determination by the Committee solely regarding issues raised by the determination of ineligibility. If the Committee overrules the determination of the Executive Director, the applicant may then provide additional information to complete the application, which must be analyzed by board staff and approved before a license may be issued. Grounds for ineligibility under this subsection include noncompliance with the following:

(1) Section 155.003(a)(1) of the Act that requires the applicant to be 21 years of age;

(2) Section 155.003(b) and (c) of the Act that require that medical or osteopathic medical education received by an applicant must be accredited by an accrediting body officially recognized by the United States Department of Education, or meet certain other requirements, as more fully set forth in §§163.4(a)(8), 163.5(b)(11), 163.5(c)(2)(C), 163.5(c)(2)(D), and 163.1(11)(B)(iii) and (iv) of this chapter;

(3) Sections 155.051 - 155.0511, and 155.056 of the Act that relates to required licensure examinations and examination attempts;

(4) Section 163.7 of this chapter (relating to the Ten Year Rule); and

(5) Section 163.6(e) of this chapter (relating to Examinations Accepted for Licensure) that requires passage of the Jurisprudence Examination.

§163.5. Licensure Documentation.

(a) On request of board staff, an applicant must appear for a personal interview at the board offices and present original documents to a representative of the board for inspection. Original documents may include, but are not limited to, those listed in subsections (b) - (e) of this section.

(b) Documentation required of all applicants for licensure.

(1) Birth Certificate/Proof of Age. Each applicant for licensure must provide a copy of a valid passport or birth certificate and translation if necessary to prove that the applicant is at least 21 years of age. In instances where such documentation is not available, the applicant must provide copies of other suitable alternate documentation.

(2) Name Change. Any applicant who submits documentation showing a name other than the name under which the applicant has applied must present copies of marriage licenses, divorce decrees, or court orders stating the name change. In cases where the applicant's name has been

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changed by naturalization, the applicant should send the original naturalization certificate by certified mail to the board office for inspection.

(3) Examination Scores. Each applicant for licensure must have a certified transcript of grades submitted directly from the appropriate testing service to the board for all examinations accepted by the board for licensure.

(4) Dean's Certification. Each applicant for licensure must have a certificate of graduation submitted directly from the medical school on a form provided to the applicant by the board. The applicant shall attach a recent photograph, meeting United States Government passport standards, to the form before submitting to the medical school. The school shall have the Dean of the medical school or designated appointee sign the form attesting to the information on the form and placing the school seal over the photograph.

(5) Evaluations. All applicants must provide evaluations completed by an appropriate supervisor, on a form provided by the board, of their professional affiliations for the past five years or since graduation from medical school, whichever is the shorter period.

(6) Medical School Transcript. On request of board staff, an applicant must have his or her medical school submit a transcript of courses taken and grades obtained.

(7) National Practitioner Data Bank/Health Integrity and Protection Data Bank (NPDB-HIPDB). Each applicant must contact the NPDB-HIPDB and have a report of action submitted directly to the board on the applicant's behalf.

(8) Graduate Training Verification. On request of board staff, an applicant must have any of the training programs in which they have participated in submit verification on a form provided by the board. The evaluation must show the beginning and ending dates of the program and state that the program was successfully completed.

(9) Specialty Board Certification. Each applicant who has obtained certification by a board that is a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties or the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists must submit a copy of the certificate issued by the member showing board certification.

(10) Medical License Verifications. On request of board staff, an applicant must have any state in which he or she has ever been licensed, regardless of the current status of the license, submit directly to this board a letter verifying the status of the license and a description of any sanctions or pending disciplinary matters.

(11) U.S. medical education. Applicants must demonstrate that any medical school education that was completed in the United States in satisfaction of their core basic and clinical science courses as established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Liaison Council on Medical Education, and/or the American Osteopathic Association, and in satisfaction of the 130 weeks of required medical education was accredited by an accrediting body officially recognized by the United States Department of Education as the accrediting body for medical education leading to the doctor of medicine degree or the doctor of osteopathy degree. An applicant who is unable to comply with these requirements may in the alternative demonstrate that the applicant:

(A) received such medical education in a hospital or teaching institution sponsoring or participating in a program of graduate medical education accredited by the Accrediting Council for Graduate Medical Education, the American Osteopathic Association, or approved by the board under §171.4 of this title (relating to Board-Approved Postgraduate Fellowship Training Programs)

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in the same subject as the medical or osteopathic medical education if the hospital or teaching institution has an agreement with the applicant's school; or

(B) is specialty board certified by a board approved by the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists or the American Board of Medical Specialties.

(c) Applicants for licensure who are graduates of medical schools outside the United States or Canada must furnish all appropriate documentation listed in this subsection, as well as that listed in subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

(1) Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) Status Report. Each applicant must submit an ECFMG status report.

(2) Unique Documentation. The board may request documentation unique to an individual unapproved medical school and additional documentation as needed to verify completion of medical education that is substantially equivalent to a Texas medical school education. This may include but is not limited to:

- (A) a copy of the applicant's ECFMG file;
- (B) a copy of other states' licensing files;
- (C) copies of the applicant's clinical clerkship evaluations; and
- (D) a copy of the applicant's medical school file.

(3) Clinical Clerkship Affidavit. A form, supplied by the board, to be completed by the applicant, is required listing each clinical clerkship that was completed as part of an applicant's medical education. The form will require the name of the clerkship, where the clerkship was located (name and location of hospital) and dates of the clerkship.

(4) "Substantially equivalent" documentation. An applicant who is a graduate of a medical school that is located outside the United States and Canada must present satisfactory proof to the board that each medical school attended was substantially equivalent to a Texas medical school at the time of attendance as defined under §163.1(11) of this title. This may include but is not limited to:

(A) a Foreign Educational Credentials Evaluation from the Office of International Education Services of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) or an International Credential Evaluation from the Foreign Credential Service of America (FCSA), or another similar entity as approved by the board;

(B) a board questionnaire, to be completed by the medical school and returned directly to board;

(C) a copy of the medical school's catalog;

(D) verification from the country's educational agency confirming the validity of school and licensure of applicant;

(E) proof of written agreements between the medical school and all hospitals that are not located in the same country as the medical school, where medical education was obtained;

(F) proof that the faculty members of the medical school had written contracts with the school if they taught a course outside the country where the medical school was located;

(G) proof that the medical education courses taught in the United States complied with the higher education laws of the state in which the courses were taught;

(H) proof that the faculty members of the medical school who taught courses in the United States were on the faculty of the program of graduate medical education when the courses were taught; and

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(l) proof that all education completed in the United States or Canada was while the applicant was enrolled as a visiting student as evidenced by a letter of verification from the U.S. or Canadian medical school.

(5) Medical Diploma. On request of board staff, an applicant must submit a copy of his or her medical diploma, and translation if necessary.

(d) Applicants may be required to submit other documentation, which may include the following:

(1) Translations. Any document that is in a language other than the English language will need to have a certified translation prepared and a copy of the translation will have to be submitted along with the translated document.

(A) An official translation from the medical school (or appropriate agency) attached to the foreign language transcript or other document is acceptable.

(B) If a foreign document is received without a translation, the board will send the applicant a copy of the document to be translated and returned to the board.

(C) Documents must be translated by a translation agency that is a member of the American Translations Association or a United States college or university official.

(D) The translation must be on the translator's letterhead, and the translator must verify that it is a "true word for word translation" to the best of his/her knowledge, and that he/she is fluent in the language translated, and is qualified to translate the document.

(E) The translation must be signed in the presence of a notary public and then notarized. The translator's name must be printed below his/her signature. The notary public must use this phrase: "Subscribed and Sworn to this _____ day of _____, 20____." The notary must then sign and date the translation, and affix his/her Notary Seal to the document.

(2) Arrest Records. If an applicant has ever been arrested, a copy of the arrest and arrest disposition need to be requested from the arresting authority and said authority must submit copies directly to this board.

(3) Malpractice. If an applicant has ever been named in a malpractice claim filed with any medical liability carrier or if an applicant has ever been named in a malpractice suit, the applicant must do the following:

(A) have each medical liability carrier complete a form furnished by the board regarding each claim filed against the applicant's insurance;

(B) for each claim that becomes a malpractice suit, have the attorney representing the applicant in each suit submit a letter directly to the board explaining the allegation, dates of the allegation, and current status of the suit. If the suit has been closed, the attorney must state the disposition of the suit, and if any money was paid, the amount of the settlement. The letter should include supporting court records. If such letter is not available, the applicant will be required to furnish a notarized affidavit explaining why this letter cannot be provided; and

(C) provide a statement, composed by the applicant, explaining the circumstances pertaining to patient care in defense of the allegations.

(4) Inpatient Treatment for Alcohol/Substance Disorder or Physical or Mental Illness. Each applicant who has been admitted to an inpatient facility within the last five years for the treatment of alcohol/substance disorder or mental illness (recurrent or severe major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, or any severe personality disorder), or a physical illness

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that did or could have impaired the applicant's ability to practice medicine, shall submit documentation to include items listed in subparagraphs (A) - (D) of this paragraph. An inpatient facility shall include a hospital, ambulatory surgical center, nursing home, and rehabilitation facility.

(A) an applicant's statement explaining the circumstances of the hospitalization;

(B) all records, submitted directly from the inpatient facility;

(C) a statement from the applicant's treating physician/psychotherapist as to diagnosis, prognosis, medications prescribed, and follow-up treatment recommended; and

(D) a copy of any contracts signed with any licensing authority or medical society or impaired physician's committee.

(5) Outpatient Treatment for Alcohol/Substance Disorder or Mental Illness. Each applicant who has been treated on an outpatient basis within the last five years for alcohol/substance disorder or mental illness (recurrent or severe major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, or any severe personality disorder), or a physical illness that did or could have impaired the applicant's ability to practice medicine, shall submit documentation to include, but not limited to:

(A) an applicant's statement explaining the circumstances of the outpatient treatment;

(B) a statement from the applicant's treating physician/psychotherapist as to diagnosis, prognosis, medications prescribed, and follow-up treatment recommended; and

(C) a copy of any contracts signed with any licensing authority or medical society or impaired physician's committee.

(6) DD214. A copy of the DD214, indicating separation from any branch of the United States military.

(7) Premedical School Transcript. Applicants, upon request, may be required to submit a copy of the record of their undergraduate education. Transcripts must show courses taken and grades obtained. If determined that the documentation submitted by the applicant is not sufficient to show proof of the completion of 60 semester hours of college courses other than in medical school or education required for country of graduation, the applicant may be requested to contact the Office of Admissions at The University of Texas at Austin for course work verification.

(8) Fingerprint Card. Upon request, applicants must complete a fingerprint card and return to the board as part of the application.

(9) Additional Documentation. Additional documentation as is deemed necessary to facilitate the investigation of any application for medical licensure.

(e) The board may, in unusual circumstances, allow substitute documents where proof of exhaustive efforts on the applicant's part to secure the required documents is presented. These exceptions are reviewed by the board's executive director on a case-by-case basis.

§163.6. Examinations Accepted for Licensure.

(a) Licensing Examinations Accepted by the Board for Licensure. The following examinations are acceptable for licensure:

(1) United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE), or its successor, with a score of 75 or better, or a passing grade if applicable, on each step;

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(2) COMLEX-USA, or its successor, with a score of 75 or better, or a passing grade if applicable, on each step;

(3) Federation Licensing Examination (FLEX), on or after July 1, 1985, passage of both components with a score of 75 or better on each component;

(4) Federation Licensing Examination (FLEX), before July 1, 1985, with a FLEX weighted average of 75 or better in one sitting;

(5) National Board of Medical Examiners Examination (NBME) or its successor;

(6) National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners Examination (NBOME) or its successor;

(7) Medical Council of Canada Examination (LMCC) or its successor;

(8) State board licensing examination, passed before January 1, 1977, (with the exception of Virgin Islands, Guam, Tennessee Osteopathic Board or Puerto Rico then the exams must be passed before July 1, 1963); or

(9) One of the following examination combinations with a score of 75 or better on each part, level, component, or step;

(A) FLEX I plus USMLE 3;

(B) USMLE 1 and USMLE 2 (including passage of the clinical skills component if applicable), plus FLEX II;

(C) NBME I or USMLE 1, plus NBME II or USMLE 2 (including passage of the clinical skills component if applicable), plus NBME III or USMLE 3;

(D) NBME I or USMLE 1, plus NBME II or USMLE 2 (including passage of the clinical skills component if applicable), plus FLEX II;

(E) The NBOME Part I or COMLEX Level I and NBOME Part II or COMLEX Level II and NBOME Part III or COMLEX Level III.

(b) Examination Attempt Limit.

(1) An applicant must pass each part of an examination listed in subsection (a) of this section within three attempts. An applicant who attempts more than one type of examination must pass each part of at least one examination and shall not be allowed to combine parts of different types of examination.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1) of this subsection, an applicant who, on September 1, 2005, held a Texas physician-in-training permit issued under §155.105 of the Act or had an application for that permit pending before the board must pass each part of the examination within three attempts, except that, if the applicant has passed all but one part of the examination within three attempts, the applicant may take the remaining part of the examination one additional time. However, an applicant is considered to have satisfied the requirements of this subsection if the applicant:

(A) passed all but one part of the examination approved by the board within three attempts and passed the remaining part of the examination within six attempts;

(B) is specialty board certified by a specialty board that:

(i) is a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties; or

(ii) is approved by the American Osteopathic Association; and

(iii) has completed in this state an additional two years of postgraduate medical training approved by the board.

(3) The limitation on examination attempts by an applicant under paragraph (1) of this subsection does not apply to an applicant who:

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(A) is licensed and in good standing as a physician in another state;

(B) has been licensed for at least five years;

(C) does not hold a medical license in the other state that has any restrictions, disciplinary orders, or probation; and

(D) passed all but one part of the examination approved by the board within three attempts and:

(i) passed the remaining part of the examination within one additional attempt; or

(ii) passed the remaining part of the examination within six attempts

if the applicant:

(I) is specialty board certified by a specialty board that:

(-a-) is a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties; or

(-b-) is approved by the American Osteopathic Association; and

(II) has completed in this state an additional two years of postgraduate medical training approved by the board.

(4) Attempts at a comparable part of a different type of examination shall be counted against the three attempt limit.

(c) Limit on Time to Complete Examination.

(1) An applicant must pass all parts of an examination listed in subsections (a)(1), (2), (4), (5), or (6) of this section within seven years; or,

(2) If the applicant is a graduate of a program designed to lead to both a doctor of philosophy degree and a doctor of medicine degree or doctor of osteopathy degree, the applicant may qualify by passing each part of an examination listed in subsections (a)(1), (2), (4), (5), or (6) of this section not later than the second anniversary of the date the applicant completed the required graduate medical training.

(d) The time frame to pass each part of the examination described by subsection (c)(1) of this section is extended to 10 years and the anniversary date to pass each part of the examination described by subsection (c)(2) of this section is extended to the 10th anniversary if the applicant:

(1) is specialty board certified by a specialty board that:

(A) is a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties; or

(B) is a member of the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists; or

(2) has been issued a faculty temporary license, as prescribed by board rule, and has practiced under such a license for a minimum of 12 months and, at the conclusion of the 12-month period, has been recommended to the board by the chief administrative officer and the president of the institution in which the applicant practiced under the faculty temporary license.

(e) Texas Medical Jurisprudence Examination (JP Exam).

(1) In this chapter, when applicants are required to pass the JP exam, applicants must pass the JP exam with a score of 75 or better within three attempts, unless the Board allows an additional attempt based upon a showing of good cause. An applicant who is unable to pass the JP exam within three attempts must appear before the Licensure Committee of the board to address the applicant's inability to pass the examination and to re-evaluate the applicant's eligibility for licensure. It is at the discretion of the committee to allow an applicant additional attempts to take the JP exam.

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(2) An examinee shall not be permitted to bring medical books, compendia, notes, medical journals, calculators or other help into the examination room, nor be allowed to communicate by word or sign with another examinee while the examination is in progress without permission of the presiding examiner, nor be allowed to leave the examination room except when so permitted by the presiding examiner.

(3) Irregularities during an examination such as giving or obtaining unauthorized information or aid as evidenced by observation or subsequent statistical analysis of answer sheets, shall be sufficient cause to terminate an applicant's participation in an examination, invalidate the applicant's examination results, or take other appropriate action.

(4) A person who has passed the JP Exam shall not be required to retake the Exam for another or similar license, except as a specific requirement of the board.

(5) The Board shall provide reasonable examination accommodations to applicants diagnosed with dyslexia. Satisfactory proof of an applicant's dyslexia is:

(A) proof of accommodations made by any entity which administers a national licensing examination accepted for licensure in §163.6 of this chapter ;

(B) proof of accommodations made by a specialty board recognized by the ABMS or BOS; or,

(C) documentation from a medical professional acceptable to the board regarding the applicant's condition and need for accommodations.

§163.7. Ten Year Rule.

An applicant who has not passed an examination listed in §163.6(a) of this title (relating to Examinations Accepted for Licensure) for licensure within the ten-year period prior to the filing date of the application must:

(1) present evidence of **current certification by a member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties or Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists, or by the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, obtained by passing, within the ten years prior to date of applying for licensure, a monitored:**

(i) specialty certification examination,

(ii) maintenance of certification examination, or

(iii) continuous certification examination ;

~~[current certification or recertification through the passage of a monitored examination or formal evaluation by a member board of the American Board of Medical Specialties, the Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists, or the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery that was obtained within the preceding ten years;]~~

(2) obtain through extraordinary circumstances, unique training equal to the training required for specialty certification as determined by a committee of the board and approved by the board, including but not limited to participation for at least six months in a training program approved by the board within twelve months prior to the application for licensure; or

(3) pass the Special Purpose Examination (SPEX) within the preceding ten years. The applicant must score 75 or better within three attempts.

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§163.8. Authorization to Take Professional Licensing Examination.

(a) The purpose of this section is to set forth the requirements of a medical school institution or degree program that will authorize its graduates to take the United State Medical Licensing Examination ("USMLE"), Jurisprudence Examination, or other professional licensing examination required for licensure by the board. By agreement entered into by the board (Agreement Regarding USMLE Step 3), the board has authorized the Federation of State Medical Boards ("FSMB") to verify eligibility of applicants, register approved applicants, and assure that the USMLE is administered according to stated guidelines. The Agreement provides that the board may set requirements for eligibility for applicants to take the USMLE that may be in addition to USMLE requirements.

(b) A medical school institution or degree program shall be approved by the board for purposes of authorizing graduates of the medical school institution or degree program to take a professional licensing examination required by this title if the medical school institution or degree program:

(1) is accredited by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association Bureau of Professional Education; or

(2) meets the requirements of the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) for purposes of certification of foreign medical graduates.

(c) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit the provisions of §155.0031(d), Occupations Code, requiring an applicant to provide information showing that each medical school attended is substantially equivalent to a Texas medical school.

§163.9. Only One License.

Upon the issuance of any license or permit, all previously issued licenses and permits, including postgraduate training permits, shall be considered to be terminated. A person may not have more than one license or permit at the same time, except that a license holder who is required to register periodically may hold the license and the registration permit at the same time.

§163.10. Relicensure.

(a) Application for Relicensure. If a physician's license has been automatically cancelled due to failure to submit a complete registration application and registration fee, the physician must apply for relicensure and may obtain a new license by submitting to reexamination and complying with the requirements and procedures for obtaining an original license.

(b) Existing Board Orders at Time of Cancellation.

(1) A physician who allows his or her license to be canceled following nonpayment while under an order of the board may apply for relicensure. Unless otherwise provided, the terms of the order shall be tolled for the period following cancellation.

(2) The licensee shall be required to comply with the terms of the order for either the period of time remaining on the order when the licensee had his or her license canceled for nonpayment of licensure fees or for an extended period of time as established by the board at the time of relicensure.

(3) A physician who allows his or her license to be canceled following nonpayment while under a suspension order of the board must also demonstrate that his or her return to the practice of

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medicine is in the physician's and the public's best interest as defined under Chapter 167 of this title (relating to Reinstatement and Reissuance).

(4) The board retains the discretion to add or delete terms and conditions of the tolled order upon the granting of relicensure.

§163.11. Active Practice of Medicine.

(a) All applicants for licensure shall provide sufficient documentation to the board that the applicant has, on a full-time basis, actively diagnosed or treated persons or has been on the active teaching faculty of an acceptable approved medical school, within either of the last two years preceding receipt of an Application for licensure.

(b) The term "full-time basis," for purposes of this section, shall mean at least 20 hours per week for 40 weeks duration during a given year.

(c) Applicants who do not meet the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of this section may, in the discretion of the executive director or board, be eligible for an unrestricted license or a restricted license subject to one or more of the following conditions or restrictions:

(1) current certification **by a member board of** ~~[or recertification by]~~ the American Board of Medical Specialties, Bureau of Osteopathic Specialists, or the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery obtained by passing ~~[a monitored specialty certification or recertification examination or formal evaluation]~~ within the two years prior to date of applying for licensure, **a monitored :**

(A) specialty certification examination;

(B) maintenance of certification examination; or

(C) continuous certification examination;

(2) limitation of the practice of the applicant to specified activities of medicine and/or exclusion of specified activities of medicine;

(3) remedial education, including but not limited to a mini-residency, fellowship or other structured program;

(4) such other remedial or restrictive conditions or requirements that, in the discretion of the board are necessary to ensure protection of the public and minimal competency of the applicant to safely practice medicine.

§163.13. Expedited Licensure Process.

Applications for licensure shall be expedited by the board's licensure division provided the applicant submits an affidavit stating that:

(1) the applicant intends to practice in a rural community as determined by the Office of Rural Health Initiatives; or

(2) the applicant intends to practice medicine in a medically underserved area or health professional shortage area designated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services that has a shortage of physicians.