



# The Power Vested On Usmle Step 2 CK Score After The Pass Or Fail System

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## Objective

1. How to have a good step 2 CK score
2. An Impressive step 2 CK Score
3. The advantages of a good step 2 CK score.

## Summary

With the conversion of reporting of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1 scores to pass/fail it is now imperative for candidates to have a good step 2 score. Programs rely more on numerical USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) scores in assessing the eligibility of applicants.

## Introduction

On January 1, 2022, a new scoring system was institutionalized for Step 1 reporting system. Being the only objective method for residency distinction based on academic performance, Step 2 CK score has become an important metric that residency directors now use to quickly evaluate and filter the number of program applicants. This new system of assessing applicants' performance based on numerical score is still the same, the only difference is transition from step 1 score to step 2 score.

## Methods

Methodology: In developing this poster, a meticulous search strategy was conducted using PubMed and other official websites that facilitated the retrieval of diverse and reliable data. The keywords were a combination of the following: "USMLE", "Step-2 CK", "Score."

Discussion; To have a good step 2 CK score depends on the following factors

1. How efficient and effective your study plans are
2. Appropriate exam resources such as UWORLD question bank, First aid, Amboss
3. NBME self-assessments to track your progress and continuous evaluation.
4. Time bound preparation
5. Dedication
6. Having Study partners of like mind
7. Flexibility with study discussion timings
8. Good sleep hygiene

## Results

What is an impressive step 2 Ck score; Data provided by the National Board of Medical Examiners, which administers the USMLE, indicate that the average score for Step 2 CK for U.S. medical graduates' and IMGs hovers just above 240. Although, it's been 242 to 243 over the past few years. The 25th percentile is around 232, while the 75th percentile is near 256.

The implication of these percentiles is that if your score is at or below 232, you're in the bottom 1/4 of test takers, while if you score at or above 256, you're in the top 1/4. If you score 243, you're right in the middle of the pack.

The 2020 report by the National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) showed a mean (average) Step 2 CK score of 246.9 for students who matched to their first-choice specialty.

### Advantages of an impressive step 2 Ck score.

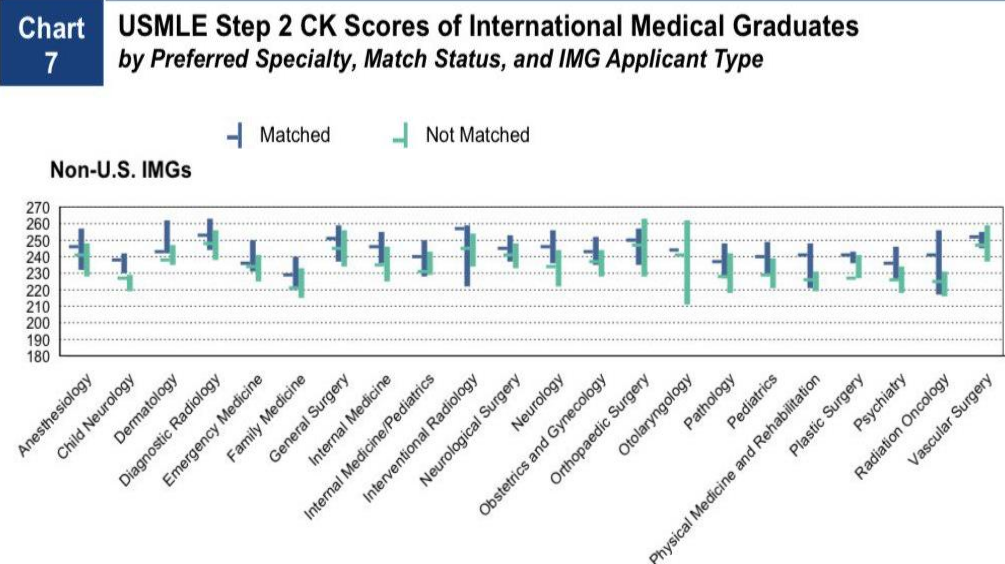
1. Higher scores are associated with higher probability of applicant ranking.
2. It will increase your chances of getting more interviews
3. It will increase your confidence level during your interviews.

## Conclusion

This poster addresses that adequate preparation for USMLE step 2 CK examination can lead to getting the desired score provided a candidate is ready to put in the hard work that is required. A great Step 2 CK score is important, but it's just one part of your overall residency application. However, its significance in your application is still the alpha factor.

## References

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**Figure 1.** USMLE Step 2 CK score of IMGs by preferred specialty/NRMP