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OSR Survey of NBME Shelf Exam times at the end of every clerkship as of January 2008
 (OSR representatives from 43 medical schools responded)

For the required National Board subject exam at the end of every clerkship, how much time are you given for the test? (Please be specific, no rounding up or down. If your school does not give these exams from the National Board, please let me know what test your school gives you.)

| Time | School |
|-------------|---|
| 2:15 | Baylor College of Medicine |
| 2-2:10* | Brown Medical School |
| 2 | Creighton University School of Medicine |
| 2:10 | Drexel University College of Medicine |
| 2:10 | Duke University School of Medicine |
| 2:10 | Emory University School of Medicine |
| 2:30 | George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences |
| 2 | Loma Linda University School of Medicine |
| 2:10 | Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine |
| 2 | Mayo Medical School |
| 2:10 | Medical College of Wisconsin |
| 2, 2:30, 3* | Michigan State University College of Human Medicine |
| 2 | New York University School of Medicine |
| 1:50 | Northwestern University - The Feinberg School of Medicine |
| 2 | Ohio State University College of Medicine & Public Health |
| 2:10 | Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine |
| 2:10 | Saint Louis University School of Medicine |
| 2:10 | Southern Illinois University School of Medicine |
| 2:10 | State University of New York Downstate Medical Center College of Medicine |
| 2:10 | State University of New York Upstate Medical University |
| 2:40 | The University of Toledo College of Medicine |
| 2:40 | The University of Toledo College of Medicine |
| 2:10 | Tulane University School of Medicine |
| 2:10 | UCLA/Drew Medical Education Program |
| 2-3* | UMDNJ - New Jersey Medical School |
| 2 | Uniformed Services Univ of the Health Sciences F. Edward Hebert SOM |
| 2:10 | University of Alabama School of Medicine |
| 2 | University of Arkansas College of Medicine |
| 1:15? | University of California - San Francisco School of Medicine |
| 2 | University of Florida College of Medicine |
| 2:10 | University of Kentucky College of Medicine |
| 2:10 | University of Louisville School of Medicine |
| 2:10 - 3* | University of Maryland School of Medicine |
| 2:10 | University of North Dakota |
| 2:10 | University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center College of Medicine |
| 2:10 | University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston |
| 2:10 | University of Texas Medical School at San Antonio |
| 2:10 | University of Vermont College of Medicine |

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| 2:10 | University of Virginia School of Medicine |
| 2:10 | Vanderbilt University School of Medicine |
| 2:10 | Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine |
| 2:10 | Wayne State University School of Medicine |
| 2 | Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine |
| n/a | Yale University School of Medicine |

* Some schools have several different times depending on which shelf exam is given. These schools were counted more than once in the following data.

| #Schools | |
|----------|------------------------------|
| 14 | Less than 2:10 hrs |
| 26 | Test is at the 2:10 standard |
| 4 | Over 2:10 hrs |

Student comments (unsolicited)

- Yale doesn't have shelf-exams after clerkships, I don't think we have any mandatory exams at all after a clerkship.
- At UCSF we only take the surgery shelf exam. We may have been given 75 minutes, but honestly I don't remember for sure. I know that in different years they have changed the number of questions on the exam and when they do that they tweak the time allotted.
- We get 2 hours and 10 minutes exactly....and it is not enough time!!!! I don't even have time to fill out the question that asks "did you have enough time?"
- At Wright State we take the NBME exams at the end of all clerkships (except for Family Medicine) and get 2 hours for each exam. They are timed to the minute with absolutely no exceptions. Family Medicine has a computer based exam developed by the department which is also 100 questions and is given for 2 hours.
- This was discussed extensively about a year ago via e-mail and the end result was that in order to give an NBME exam, the school must agree that they will abide by the time limit imposed by the NBME (I believe it's 2 hours and 15 minutes). That is part of what makes the exam "standardized" and therefore the results more meaningful. From the information I received, if schools deviate from this time, they are in violation of the agreement they make with the NBME. I had this confirmed by my Dean who sits on an NBME committee, as there was a bit of debate amongst OSR Reps on that point.
- 2 h and 10 min.....NOT Enough
- At UK, we use NBME subject exams only during 3rd year and only for Medicine, Pediatrics, OB/Gyn and Surgery.
- For most of our shelf exams (surgery, medicine, peds) we get 2 hrs. and 10mins, and then for ob/gyn, we get 3 hrs. We take "in-house" exams for neurology and family medicine.
- We are given 1hr. 50mins. for every shelf exam regardless of the clerkship.
- In our Family Med Rotation..we have an in house exam prepared by the professors that uses the same amount of time per question as the NBME exams. I can't remember if it is exactly the same

length total, but it comes out to the same time per question... Hope this helps..

- For the 100 question tests we get 2 hours. Some tests have optional 25-question blocks, and for each additional 25-question block we get an additional half-hour.
- We only take shelves for medicine, peds & OB.
- Varies for each SHELF (between 2 hours to 3 hours). The only clerkship we don't take the National Board exam for is "Family Medicine."
- These are the time periods given for the shelf exams I have taken thus far: Internal Medicine-3 hours, Family Medicine-2 hours, Pediatrics-2 hours. The time allotted for the medicine shelf was just right, I am a slower test taker and finished just on time. Our family medicine exam is developed by our school and is not a national shelf exam. Regarding pediatrics, although I finished within the time period, an extra half-hour (even 15 minutes would have been appreciated.)
- 2 hours 10 minutes. Most programs give the standard amount of time you would be given on the Step 2 exam per question. Unfortunately, as you will find, most programs also don't prepare you for the exam.