

IRREGULAR BEHAVIOR CAN END YOUR MEDICAL CAREER: KNOW THE POLICIES!

Engaging in irregular behavior can end your medical career before it starts. ECFMG takes irregular behavior seriously, and you should too. When you submit the Application for ECFMG Certification, you confirm that you have read and understood the [*Policies and Procedures Regarding Irregular Behavior*](#). Make sure you really do read and understand the policies!

WHAT IS IRREGULAR BEHAVIOR?

Irregular behavior includes any action or attempted action that could subvert the examination, certification, or other processes, programs, or services of ECFMG. Some examples of irregular behavior are:

1. Submitting fraudulent credentials to ECFMG, such as a fake diploma
2. Requesting multiple ECFMG/USMLE® Identification Numbers in an attempt to retake exams that had low or failing scores, or to create a new ECFMG record for yourself
3. Providing false information to ECFMG on an application, such as:
 - Indicating that you are a medical school student when you have been withdrawn or dismissed from medical school
 - Indicating you are a medical school graduate when you are not
 - Failing to include information on previous medical schools you have attended
 - Failing to include transfer credits
4. Representing yourself as ECFMG-certified when you are not

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It's your responsibility to know the policies governing ECFMG Certification. The best place to find them is the [ECFMG Information Booklet](#).

ECFMG isn't the only organization you will encounter on your journey to graduate medical education in the United States that has policies and standards governing behavior. It is up to you to become familiar with the relevant policies for each process and organization.

- Preparing to take USMLE? Make sure you read the [USMLE Bulletin of Information](#) and watch the [USMLE Security Video](#).
- Applying to U.S. residency programs through the Association of American Medical College's (AAMC's) Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS®)? Familiarize yourself with the [AAMC ERAS Integrity Promotion Education Program](#).
- Planning to participate in the National Resident Matching Program® (NRMP®) Main Residency Match®? Read the [NRMP Match Participation Agreement for Applicants](#).

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES?

Whether you engage in irregular behavior knowingly or simply because you are unaware of ECFMG's policies, the consequences are the same, and they are serious.

If ECFMG determines that you engaged in irregular behavior,

ECFMG WILL:

- Permanently annotate your ECFMG record
- Notify key organizations, such as the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME)
- Annotate any reports about you that it sends to other organizations, such as U.S. residency programs and hospitals

ECFMG MAY:

- Bar you from ECFMG Certification, which makes you ineligible for USMLE examinations as a step toward ECFMG Certification
- Revoke your ECFMG Certificate if you have already been issued one

The consequences of irregular behavior can have a lasting impact and could derail your medical career. The [ECFMG Information Booklet](#) and [Policies and Procedures Regarding Irregular Behavior](#) are designed to provide clarity. If you have any questions about irregular behavior, please contact ECFMG. Remember, it's ultimately your responsibility to read, understand, and adhere to all of ECFMG's policies and procedures.

