

usmle step 1 exam fee

USMLE Step 1 Exam Fee: What You Need to Know Before Registering

usmle step 1 exam fee is a crucial consideration for every medical student and international medical graduate preparing to take this essential licensing exam. Understanding the cost structure, payment process, and potential additional fees can help you budget effectively and avoid surprises. The USMLE Step 1 is a significant milestone on the path to medical licensure in the United States, and knowing the financial commitment involved is just as important as preparing academically.

Breaking Down the USMLE Step 1 Exam Fee

When you begin your journey toward taking the USMLE Step 1, one of the first logistical questions that arise is, "How much does it cost?" The exam fee is not just a simple one-time payment; it includes several components depending on your eligibility and location.

Generally, the official fee for the USMLE Step 1 exam is set by the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) and the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB). As of the latest updates, the base registration fee for USMLE Step 1 is approximately \$660 for applicants testing within the United States. However, this fee can increase based on your testing location and additional services.

Fees for International Test Takers

For international medical graduates (IMGs) or those taking the exam outside the U.S. and Canada, the fee structure includes an additional international test delivery surcharge. This means that if you plan to sit for the Step 1 exam in places like the Middle East, Asia, or Europe, your total exam fee will be higher.

Currently, the international test delivery charge adds around \$160 to the base fee, making the total cost for Step 1 closer to \$820 for those testing internationally. It's important to factor this in when budgeting, as it can significantly affect your overall expenses.

Additional Fees and Considerations

Aside from the base and international fees, there are a few more costs to consider:

- **Scheduling Fees:** When rescheduling or canceling your exam appointment, you may incur fees depending on how close you are to the exam date.
- **Score Reporting Fees:** Sending your Step 1 scores to medical schools or licensing authorities might involve additional charges.

- **Late Registration Fees:** If you miss the initial registration window and need to register late, expect to pay extra fees.

Being aware of these potential costs helps prevent unexpected financial burdens during an already stressful time.

How to Pay the USMLE Step 1 Exam Fee

Paying the USMLE Step 1 exam fee is a straightforward process but requires careful attention to detail to avoid complications. The primary platform for registration and payment is the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) for IMGs and the NBME for U.S. medical students.

Payment Methods Accepted

Most applicants pay their exam fees online via credit or debit cards. The platforms typically accept major cards such as Visa, MasterCard, and American Express. Some regional payment methods or wire transfers may be accepted depending on your country and registration portal.

Tips for Smooth Payment

- **Double-check your payment details:** Ensure your card information is correct and that your bank allows international transactions if applicable.
- **Keep a receipt or confirmation:** After payment, always save the confirmation email or receipt, as it's your proof of payment.
- **Plan for currency exchange rates:** International candidates should keep in mind that currency conversions may slightly alter the amount charged.

Financial Planning: Budgeting for the USMLE Step 1 Exam

The USMLE Step 1 exam fee is just one piece of the financial puzzle. Preparing for this exam also involves costs related to study materials, prep courses, and sometimes travel and accommodation if your testing center is far away.

Budgeting Beyond the Exam Fee

Consider the following expenses as part of your overall Step 1 budget:

- **Study Resources:** Books, question banks, and video lectures can range from a few hundred to over a thousand dollars.
- **Prep Courses:** Many candidates invest in formal prep courses, which can be costly but may improve performance.
- **Travel and Accommodation:** Depending on your location, you might need to travel to a testing center, adding to your expenses.

Proper financial planning includes setting aside funds for retaking the exam if necessary, as the USMLE Step 1 can be attempted multiple times but requires paying the fee each time.

Financial Aid and Discounts

For some students, the cost of the USMLE Step 1 exam fee and associated expenses can be a significant barrier. While there isn't a widespread scholarship program for the exam itself, certain organizations and schools may offer assistance or loans to help cover these costs.

Additionally, some countries have agreements or programs to support their medical graduates in taking licensing exams abroad. It's worth researching if you qualify for any such aid.

Why Understanding the USMLE Step 1 Exam Fee Matters

Knowing the full scope of the USMLE Step 1 exam fee, including all associated costs, is essential for several reasons. First, it allows you to prepare financially and avoid last-minute stress. Second, it helps you plan your exam date and registration timeline to minimize extra fees like late registration or rescheduling charges.

Moreover, understanding the fee structure and payment process ensures you can navigate the registration system confidently, reducing errors that could delay your test date.

Planning Your USMLE Step 1 Journey

When you factor in the exam fee early in your preparation, you can align your study schedule with your financial readiness. For example, if you know the fee is due months before your target test date, you can allocate funds accordingly.

Being proactive about these financial aspects also helps you focus more on studying effectively rather than worrying about payment logistics.

Final Thoughts on the USMLE Step 1 Exam Fee

While the USMLE Step 1 exam fee may seem like a straightforward figure, it's actually part of a broader financial landscape that every candidate must navigate. From the base fee to international surcharges and additional costs like scheduling changes, being informed is your best strategy.

Taking the time to understand these fees, plan your payments carefully, and budget for related expenses will make your USMLE Step 1 journey smoother and less stressful. After all, the exam is a critical step toward your medical career, and managing the financial side effectively is an important part of your overall success.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the current fee for the USMLE Step 1 exam?

As of 2024, the USMLE Step 1 exam fee is approximately \$660 for examinees testing in the United States and Canada. Fees may vary for international testing centers.

Are there additional fees besides the USMLE Step 1 exam fee?

Yes, additional fees may include a scheduling permit fee, international test delivery surcharge for testing outside the US and Canada, and rescheduling or cancellation fees.

How can I pay the USMLE Step 1 exam fee?

The USMLE Step 1 exam fee can be paid online using credit or debit cards through the official USMLE registration portal.

Is the USMLE Step 1 exam fee refundable if I cancel my test?

The USMLE Step 1 exam fee is generally non-refundable. However, if you cancel or reschedule within the allowed timeframe, partial refunds or fee adjustments may apply depending on the policies.

Do international test takers pay a different USMLE Step 1 exam fee?

International test takers pay the standard exam fee plus an international test delivery surcharge, which varies by country.

Has the USMLE Step 1 exam fee changed recently?

The USMLE Step 1 exam fee is periodically reviewed and updated. Candidates should check the official USMLE website for the most current fee information before registering.

Are there any fee waivers available for the USMLE Step 1 exam?

The USMLE program does not offer fee waivers, but some medical schools or organizations may provide financial assistance for exam fees.

When do I have to pay the USMLE Step 1 exam fee?

The exam fee must be paid at the time of application and scheduling through the official registration system to secure your test date.

Can I pay the USMLE Step 1 exam fee in installments?

No, the USMLE Step 1 exam fee must be paid in full at the time of registration; installment payments are not accepted.

Where can I find the most accurate and updated information about the USMLE Step 1 exam fee?

The most accurate and updated information about the USMLE Step 1 exam fee is available on the official USMLE website (usmle.org) under the Step 1 section.

Additional Resources

USMLE Step 1 Exam Fee: An In-Depth Analysis of Costs and Considerations

usmle step 1 exam fee is a critical factor for medical students and international medical graduates planning to take the United States Medical Licensing Examination. Understanding the fee structure, associated costs, and payment policies is essential for candidates preparing their budgets and timelines. The USMLE Step 1 exam is a pivotal milestone in the journey toward medical licensure in the United States, and the expenses involved can vary depending on several variables, including testing location and additional service fees.

Overview of USMLE Step 1 Exam Fee Structure

The USMLE Step 1 exam fee is set by the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) and the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB), the organizations responsible for administering the exam. As of 2024, the base fee for the USMLE Step 1 exam is approximately \$660 for examinees testing within the United States, Canada, or its territories. For international test-takers, the cost increases to around \$985, reflecting additional administrative and logistical expenses.

The fee structure is designed to cover the development, administration, and scoring of the exam, which is a computer-based test focusing on foundational medical sciences knowledge. The price difference between domestic and international candidates is significant and reflects the broader costs involved in managing overseas testing centers and international logistics.

Additional Fees and Charges

Candidates should also be aware that the USMLE Step 1 exam fee is not the only financial consideration. There are several ancillary fees that may apply, including:

- **Scheduling Fee:** Generally included in the initial registration, but rescheduling or changing test centers can incur extra charges.
- **Rescheduling Fees:** If a candidate needs to change their exam date, fees can range from \$70 to \$150 depending on timing and location.
- **Score Reporting Fees:** While one standard score report to licensing authorities or residency programs is typically included, additional score reports may cost \$25 to \$50 each.
- **International Testing Fees:** For those outside the US, additional surcharges may apply due to currency exchange rates or local administrative fees.

Being mindful of these potential extra costs is essential for thorough financial planning.

Comparing USMLE Step 1 Fees with Other Medical Licensing Exams

When evaluating the USMLE Step 1 exam fee, it is insightful to compare it with fees for similar medical licensing exams globally. For instance, the Medical Council of Canada Evaluating Examination (MCCEE) charges approximately CAD \$1,230 (around USD \$940), which is higher than the USMLE domestic fee but comparable to international USMLE fees. Similarly, the Professional and Linguistic Assessments Board (PLAB) test for the UK medical licensing process costs roughly £240 (around USD \$310), significantly less than the USMLE Step 1.

This comparison highlights that while the USMLE Step 1 exam fee may seem substantial, it is within the expected range for high-stakes medical licensing exams internationally. However, the cost can be a barrier for many candidates, especially those from lower-income countries or those without institutional financial support.

Payment Methods and Policies

The USMLE exam fee can be paid online through the official USMLE registration portals, such as the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) or the NBME website. Accepted payment methods typically include major credit and debit cards, with limited options for wire transfers or checks.

It is important to note that USMLE fees are generally non-refundable. Candidates who miss their scheduled exam date without proper notification may forfeit the full fee. Additionally, partial refunds are rarely granted,

emphasizing the need for careful planning and adherence to scheduling deadlines.

Financial Impact and Support for Examinees

The financial burden of the USMLE Step 1 exam fee extends beyond the initial cost. Many candidates invest considerable resources into preparatory materials, courses, and practice exams, which can add thousands of dollars to the overall expense of pursuing medical licensure. This cumulative cost can affect candidates' educational choices and timelines.

Recognizing these challenges, some institutions and organizations offer financial assistance or scholarships to support medical students facing economic hardships. Additionally, some medical schools incorporate USMLE preparation into their curricula or provide subsidized resources to alleviate costs.

Strategies to Manage USMLE Step 1 Exam Costs

Considering the financial implications, candidates often adopt strategies to optimize their expenditures related to the USMLE Step 1 exam fee:

1. **Early Registration:** Registering early may help avoid last-minute fees and provide more flexible scheduling options.
2. **Careful Scheduling:** Minimizing rescheduling or test center changes reduces additional fees.
3. **Utilizing Institutional Resources:** Leveraging school-provided materials and study groups can reduce the need for costly external prep courses.
4. **Budgeting for Additional Expenses:** Planning for travel, accommodation, and study materials alongside the exam fee is crucial.

Such approaches can ease the financial strain and contribute to a more focused and effective exam preparation period.

Conclusion: Navigating the Financial Landscape of the USMLE Step 1 Exam

Understanding the nuances of the USMLE Step 1 exam fee is vital for prospective test-takers aiming to navigate the complex process of medical licensure in the United States. The fee itself is a substantial component of the overall cost, particularly for international candidates, but it represents just one aspect of the financial considerations involved. By conducting thorough research, planning carefully, and exploring available financial support systems, candidates can better manage the economic demands associated with this critical step in their medical careers.

Usmle Step 1 Exam Fee

usmle step 1 exam fee: International Medical Graduates in the United States Hassaan Tohid, Howard Maibach, 2021-01-04 Thousands of international medical graduates come to the United States to start their career as physicians. Many of them, however, are not aware of the challenges and problems that they may encounter along the way. These difficulties can range from the language and cultural barriers to a lack of confidence and self-esteem. Many students are also unaware of the other career options besides getting into a clinical residency program. As a result of these issues, a great number of foreign medical students remain unmatched into the National Resident Matching Program. Not matching can be devastating for these graduates, both financially and medically. Students often suffer from psychological effects like major depression and generalized anxiety disorder. This book outlines the potential problems faced by these graduates and their possible solutions. Each chapter collects research evidence, interviews and surveys to gather information to work on each possible problem one by one and describes a solution in great detail. Comprised of thirty chapters, each chapter is broken down into smaller sub-sections to investigate the main theme in depth. Issues addressed include the different types of international medical graduates and their lives in the United States, differences in the education system and healthcare system, the triangle of residency, language and cultural barriers, lack of professional contacts, confidence, self-image and self-esteem issues, and restriction to specific fields and career paths. Written by experts in the field, *International Medical Graduates in the United States* is a first of its kind text that addresses the biggest issues faced by foreign medical graduates in today's world.

usmle step 1 exam fee: USMLE -- United States Medical Licensing Examination ... Bulletin of Information Federation of State Medical Boards of the United States, 1997

usmle step 1 exam fee: The Best Test Preparation for the USMLE Step 3 Rose S. Fife, John Min, Douglas Monasebian, Gopi Rana-Mukkavilli, Vartan Tarakchyan, T. M. Worner, 2003-09 Prep for the USMLE the right way with REA. Our newly revised study guide provides thorough preparation for medical licensure. Features over 2,100 exam-style questions that include coverage of specialty and subspecialty topics. High-yield information is presented in a well-written, easily accessible format for residents with limited time for studying. This exam is designed to assess whether medical-school graduates can apply the medical knowledge and understanding of biomedical and clinical science considered essential to practice medicine in various clinical settings without supervision. Emphasis placed on management in outpatient, inpatient and ambulatory settings. Follow up your study with REA's powerhouse test-taking strategies and techniques that get you ready for test day. REA's CD-ROM software offers full-length, timed, computerized exams that give you the closest thing to experiencing a live exam at a testing center. For Windows.

usmle step 1 exam fee: MediCert Medical Licensure Q-Book Pasquale De Marco, Aspiring medical professionals, heed the call to embark on a transformative journey towards medical licensure with MediCert Medical Licensure Q-Book! This comprehensive guidebook, meticulously crafted by Pasquale De Marco, a luminary in the field of medical education, equips you with the knowledge, skills, and strategies to conquer the USMLE Step 2, a pivotal exam that stands as a gateway to your dream career. Within these pages, you will discover an arsenal of over 850 high-yield exam-style questions, carefully designed to mirror the actual exam's content and format. These questions delve into the depths of medical knowledge, encompassing various disciplines, ensuring that you are thoroughly prepared for the rigors of the USMLE Step 2. But MediCert Medical Licensure Q-Book goes beyond mere question-and-answer drills. It provides an in-depth review of essential medical concepts, elucidated with clarity and precision. Complex topics are made accessible, empowering you to grasp the intricacies of medical science and apply your knowledge effectively in clinical settings. Recognizing the importance of strategic preparation, Pasquale De Marco unveils a treasure trove of test-taking strategies honed over years of experience. These invaluable techniques provide a roadmap to approaching the USMLE Step 2 with confidence and

poise, maximizing your chances of achieving a stellar score. Furthermore, MediCert Medical Licensure Q-Book acknowledges the emotional and psychological challenges that accompany high-stakes exams. It offers invaluable guidance on managing stress, maintaining focus, and cultivating a positive mindset. With its holistic approach, this book empowers you to not only conquer the USMLE Step 2 but also to thrive in the face of adversity. Whether you are a medical student preparing for the USMLE Step 2 or a graduate seeking to enhance your medical knowledge, MediCert Medical Licensure Q-Book is your indispensable companion. Its user-friendly format, engaging writing style, and wealth of resources will transform your preparation journey into an enriching and rewarding experience. Invest in your medical education with MediCert Medical Licensure Q-Book and unlock the gateway to a fulfilling career in medicine. Embrace the opportunity to learn, grow, and excel as you embark on this momentous odyssey towards becoming a skilled and compassionate healthcare provider. If you like this book, write a review!

usmle step 1 exam fee: Competitive Edge: An International Medical Graduate's Guide to Securing A Residency Position Obieze Nwanna-Nzewunwa, 2023-09-23 Dr. Obieze

Nwanna-Nzewunwa is a US-trained general surgeon and cardiothoracic surgery fellow with a Masters degree in Global Health Science (University of California, San Francisco) and a medical degree from the University of Nigeria. As an international Medical Graduate, Dr. Nwanna-Nzewunwa understands the challenges faced by aspiring medical professionals firsthand. Having successfully navigated the competitive USMLEs, residency, and fellowship MATCH processes himself, he is dedicated to mentoring and guiding students and graduates on their own journeys. His valuable insights and guidance make him a trusted resource for those seeking to secure their dream residencies and excel in the medical field. With his book, Competitive Edge, Dr. Nwanna-Nzewunwa offers a comprehensive guide to help medical students and graduates succeed in the highly competitive residency application process. Drawing from his own experiences and expertise, he equips readers with the knowledge and tools necessary to navigate the complexities of the USMLEs, residency applications, and fellowship MATCH processes. Driven by a genuine desire to see aspiring medical professionals thrive, Dr. Nwanna-Nzewunwa's mentorship and guidance pave the way for success in the medical field.

usmle step 1 exam fee: First Aid for the USMLE Step 1 2024 Tao Le, Vikas Bhushan, Connie Qiu, Anup Chalise, Panagiotis Kaparaliotis, 2024-04-05 The time-tested, most popular board prep resource—updated to reflect the newest Step 1 exam First Aid for the USMLE Step 1 is a veritable blueprint for preparing for this critical exam, revealing all the content you will encounter on test day. This unmatched text is written by carefully chosen students who excelled on the Step 1 exam and reviewed by top faculty—ensuring the content is relevant, high-yield, and accurate. The book is organized and formatted in ways that help you easily hone in on the most important content. This new edition of First Aid for the USMLE Step 1 is filled with 1,000 color clinical images, including more depicting diverse patients; 1,300+ high-yield facts and mnemonics, organized into basic principles and organ system; and invaluable test-taking advice. There's a reason for the longstanding success of First Aid for the USMLE Step 1. Once you open the 2024 edition, you'll instantly understand why it's a resource you can't be without!

usmle step 1 exam fee: U. S. Medical Licensure Statistics and Current Licensure Requirements American Medical Association, 1998-07 This annual resource presents current information and statistics related to medical licensure in the US. Drawn from primary sources -- state licensing agencies and boards of medical examiners -- it provides key statistics on examination pass/fail percentages, state-by-state licensing requirements, and training programs and fees. Appendices list the officers of boards of medical and osteopathic examiners, and include a directory of the Federation of Medical Licensing Authorities of Canada.

usmle step 1 exam fee: The Weight of the White Coat Glenda M. Flores, 2025-04-29 Little has been written about Latina/o physicians as students, people, or workers in a high-skill occupation in the United States. The Weight of the White Coat traces the life stages that Latina/o physicians follow and the social mechanisms that shape their careers, from the role of the family to different

educational trajectories and even the practice of medicine. Glenda M. Flores turns a careful eye to this diverse pan-ethnic group in an elite profession, observing how demographic characteristics such as gender and ethnicity act like cumulative weights in their coat pockets, producing hindrances for some and elevating others as they provide care in poor and wealthy communities. Here, the high occupational status of Latina/o doctors offers a unique lens for examining the varied experiences of physicianhood and the still unsettled contours of Latinidad.

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How to Fight Opposition with Bible Verses teaches you the awesome Bible verses you can pray, say as Christian affirmations and use for your Christian meditation sessions as well as several other things you can do to fight for those opposing your progress.

usmle step 1 exam fee: The Teaching Portfolio Peter Seldin, J. Elizabeth Miller, Clement A. Seldin, 2010-08-30 Praise for The Teaching Portfolio This new edition of a classic text has added invaluable, immediately useful material. It's a must-read for faculty, department chairs, and academic administrators. Irene W. D. Hecht, director, Department Leadership Programs, American Council on Education This book offers a wealth of wisdom and materials. It contains essential knowledge, salient advice, and an immediately useful model for faculty engaged in promotion or tenure. Raymond L. Calabrese, professor of educational administration, The Ohio State University The Teaching Portfolio provides the guidelines and models that faculty need to prepare quality portfolios, plus the standards and practices required to evaluate them. Linda B. Nilson, director, Office of Teaching Effectiveness and Innovation, Clemson University Focused on reflection, sound assessment, and collaboration, this inspiring and practical book should be read by every graduate student, faculty member, and administrator. John Zubizarreta, professor of English, Columbia College All the expanded and new sections of this book add real value, but administrators and review committees will clearly benefit from the new section on how to evaluate portfolios with a validated template. Barbara Hornum, director, Center for Academic Excellence, Drexel University This book is practical, insightful, and immediately useful. It's an essential resource for faculty seeking promotion/tenure or who want to improve their teaching. Michele Stocker-Barkley, faculty, Department of Psychology, Kishwaukee Community College The Teaching Portfolio has much to say to teachers of all ranks, disciplines, and institutions. It offers a rich compendium of practical guidelines, examples, and resources. Mary Deane Sorcinelli, Associate Provost for Faculty Development, University of Massachusetts Amherst Teaching portfolios help our Board on Rank and Tenure really understand the quality and value of individual teaching contributions. Martha L. Wharton, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity, Loyola University, Maryland

usmle step 1 exam fee: How to Fight Being Single with Bible Verses Miriam Kinai, 2012-04-25 How to Fight Being Single with Bible Verses teaches you the awesome Bible verses you can pray, say as Christian affirmations and use for your Christian meditation as well as several other things you can do to fight for your wedding ring.

usmle step 1 exam fee: Relevant Examinations with Answers for Medical Microbiology and Immunology William W. Yotis, PhD, 2021-12-27 • Subject-by-subject review for focused attention where you need it most • The most recent comprehensive question and answer review of medical microbiology and immunology • 904 well written, informative questions with complete answers • USMLE Step 1 question styles, including single-best answers and clinical vignettes • Illustrated questions that build skills in interpreting graphics, and tabular data • Explanations of both right and wrong answers for enhanced learning and understanding • A useful book for medical microbiology and immunology examination preparation

usmle step 1 exam fee: LOSE THE BOARD EXAM, SCREW YOUR LIFE Pasquale De Marco, 2025-03-03 Are you a medical student aspiring to excel in the USMLE Step 1 exam and pave the way for a flourishing career in medicine? Look no further! This comprehensive guide is your ultimate companion on this challenging journey. Inside these pages, you'll find a wealth of knowledge and expert guidance to help you master the USMLE Step 1 exam. With clear explanations, concise summaries, and up-to-date information, this book covers all the essential topics you need to know,

including anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, microbiology, pathology, and clinical medicine. But this book is more than just a collection of facts. It also provides invaluable insights into the exam's format, structure, and scoring system. With this understanding, you'll be able to approach the exam strategically and allocate your study time wisely. In addition to providing comprehensive content coverage, this book is packed with practical strategies and tips to help you optimize your preparation. Learn how to create an effective study schedule, select the right resources, manage your time effectively, overcome test anxiety, and maintain a healthy lifestyle during this demanding period. With its engaging writing style, abundance of practice questions, and detailed answer explanations, this book is designed to make learning enjoyable and efficient. Whether you're just starting your medical school journey or are in the thick of preparing for the USMLE Step 1 exam, this book is your essential companion. Don't let the fear of the USMLE Step 1 exam hold you back from achieving your dreams. With this comprehensive guide by your side, you have everything you need to conquer the exam and embark on your journey to becoming an exceptional physician. If you like this book, write a review!

usmle step 1 exam fee: Med School Confidential Robert H. Miller, 2025-09-23 Med School Confidential from Robert H. Miller and Daniel M. Bissell uses the same chronological format and mentor-based system that have made Law School Confidential and Business School Confidential such treasured and popular guides. It takes the reader step-by-step through the entire med school process--from thinking about, applying to, and choosing a medical school and program, through the four-year curriculum, internships, residencies, and fellowships, to choosing a specialty and finding the perfect job. With a foreword by Chair of the Admissions Committee at Dartmouth Medical School Harold M. Friedman, M.D., Med School Confidential provides what no other book currently does: a comprehensive, chronological account of the full medical school experience.

usmle step 1 exam fee: Immigration Practice - 15th Edition Robert C. Divine, 2014-06-01 Immigration Practice guides readers through all aspects of immigration law in one volume, complete with over 3,000 footnote citations to the wide range of statutes, regulations, court and administrative cases, policy memos, operations instructions, agency interpretive letters, and internet sites that a lawyer needs for complete understanding of a particular problem. No other source merges the practical with commentary and analysis so helpfully. The book explains in understandable language and meaningful and dependable detail the substantive issues and the practical procedures a lawyer needs to handle a specific immigration matter, complete with checklists of forms, supporting evidence, and other strategies needed for application/petition packages. The book has unparalleled coherence, integration and consistency. * Liberally cross references to other sections in the book where related topics are discussed (because so many topics are interrelated). * Line-by-line instructions on how to complete the most commonly used forms to avoid embarrassing mistakes. * Lists the contents of packages to file with government agencies: forms and fees, detailed support letters, and other supporting evidence. * Explanations of potentially applicable visa options organized according to the attributes of the foreign national (and the employer), rather than classifications in alphabetical order, so that practitioners can make sense of options in light of the client in the office. * Comparisons and charts of attributes and procedures of such topics as nonimmigrant visa classifications, procedures to permanent residence, and standards of extreme hardship. * Citations throughout the book, and collection in the extensive CD-ROM Appendix, to primary source materials and the most useful Internet site URLs with explanation of the increasingly helpful free databases and tools available through each one. • Internet Links: Constantly increased and updated links to government web sites containing current contact information, forms, primary law sources of all types, case status information, and processing and substantive guides--all referenced by pinpoint citations in the text. See Chapter 5 explaining sources of law, Appendix C and D-1 showing web links, and the CD-ROM in the back cover providing one-click access! Readers are strongly encouraged to review and use the CD-ROM and to consider saving Appendix C, D-1, and E-1 into their hard drives or saving the links to their internet browser favorites or bookmarks for ready reference all the time. • Upgraded removal-related treatment:

significant improvements to Chapters 10, 11, and 16 by attorney who has worked for immigration courts several years. • Supreme Court decisions: effects of limited marijuana distribution offense as aggravated felony (§ 10-6(b)(1)(vi)); tax offenses as aggravated felonies (§ 10-6(b)(1)(vi)); rejection of comparable grounds rule for 212(c) eligibility (§ 10-6(b)(1)(vii)); modified categorical approach applies only to divisible statutes (§ 10-6(b)(2)(i)); non-retroactivity of Padilla decision (§ 10-6(b)(2)(vi)); rejection of the statutory counterpart rule for § 212(c) waivers (§ 11-5(f)); invalidation of the Defense of Marriage Act § 14-7(a)(2)(i); non-imputation to child of firm resettlement of parents (§ 16-4(c)). • Lower federal court decisions: concerning such issues as: recognizing a beneficiary to have standing to challenge a USCIS petition denial (§ 2-2(a)(1)(I)); reviewability of good moral character determinations and other (§ 2-2(a)(1)(I)); court order of USCIS to speed up FOIA certain responses (§ 4-2); CBP FOIA process (§ 4-2); DOL case disclosure data (§ 4-5); need to exhaust remedies under DHS TRIP to challenge inclusion on watch list (§ 10-3); CIMT crime determinations (§ 10-6(b)(1)(iii)); effect of a single firearm sale (§ 10-6(b)(1)(vi)); 212(h) waiver eligibility in regard to post-entry adjustment but not as to stand alone request (§ 10-6(b)(3)); interference with police helicopter using laser light as CIMT (§ 10-6(c)); whether post-entry adjustment is an admission for § 212(h) waivers (§ 10-6(b)(3)); whether there is an involuntariness or duress exception to the terrorism support bar (§ 10-6(c)); enforcement of I-864 financial support obligations (§ 10-6(d)(2)); mandatory bond hearing after six months of detention (§ 11-3(f)); ICE detainers found to lack authority (§ 11-3(g)); representation in immigration court at government expense for aliens with serious mental disabilities (§ 11-4(g)); stop-time and petty offense exceptions relating to cancellation of removal (§ 11-5(f)); revelation of the BIA's erroneous reliance for decades on nonexistent provisions of Mexican Constitution affecting legitimation issues (§ 12-3(d)(3)); rejection of BIA's rule against nunc pro tunc adoption orders (§ 14-7(b)(3)); invalidation of FSBPT efforts to restrict applicants from certain countries to sit for physical therapy exams (§ 15-2(c)(2)); use of impeachment evidence only to terminate asylum (16-2(b)); asylum claims of German homeschoolers, and mixed motive cases (§ 16-4(a)(3)); social group asylum claims (§ 16-4(a)(3)); expansive implications of inconsistencies in testimony (§ 16-4(a)(4)); particularly serious crimes barring asylum claims (§ 16-4(c)); special asylum procedures for unaccompanied children (§ 16-4(c)); adjustment eligibility of alien who entered without inspection and then obtained TPS (§ 16-7(a)(6)); eligibility of after-acquired spouse under Cuban Adjustment Act (§ 16-7(e)); preempted state law provisions aimed at aliens, employers, and landlords (§ 19-4(l)(3)). • BIA decisions on such issues as: what constitutes a drug trafficking crime (§ 10-6(b)(1)(iv)); implications of child pornography conviction (§ 10-6(b)(1)(vi)); possession of ammunition by a convicted felon (§ 10-6(b)(1)(vi)); availability of stand-alone § 212(h) waiver without adjustment application (§ 10-6(b)(3)); service of NTA on a minor (§ 11-3(b)); service of NTA and other safeguards for aliens with serious mental conditions (§ 11-4(g)); approval of administrative closure of removal cases (§ 11-5(d)); termination of asylum, then removal and relief in proceedings (§16-2(b)); relocation issues in asylum claims (§ 16-4(a)(3)). • Regulations, government policy memorandums, other decisions, and government web site enhancements concerning such matters as: differing government renderings of single name for certain persons (§ 1-6(a)(3)); USCIS refusal to accept stamped signatures for attorneys on G-28 (§1-6(a)(3)); USCIS use of bar codes for forms, and danger of making marginal notes on forms (§1-6(a)(3)); USCIS use of customer-completed e-Request Service inquiries (§ 2-2(a)(1)(F)); movement of all visa processing to the electronic CEAC system (§ 2-3(a)); replacement of the CBP Inspectors Field Manual with the Officer's Reference Tool and the beginning effort to replace the USCIS Adjudicators Field Manual with the online Policy Manual (§ 5-4); replacement of the paper I-94 card for air and sea entries with an automated online I-94 record (§ 7-4(b) and other sections); new section on Other Redress for Adverse Results (on visas and admissions, § 7-4(c)(14)); the radical implications of Matter of Arrabally and Yerrabelly concerning the effects of departure under advance parole (§§ 8-7(d)(2)(i) and 10-6(f)); modernization of the immigrant visa process (§ 8-8); new Provisional Unlawful Presence Waivers within the U.S. using Form I-601A (§ 10-6(f)); exception to false claim to U.S. citizenship inadmissibility if claim made before individual was age 18 (§ 10-6(g));

EOIR Online representative registration system (§ 11-3(e)); ICE Parental Interests Directive and ICE eBOND online bonding process (§ 11-3(f)); ICE non-renewal of 287(f) agreements (§ 11-3(g)); Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (§ 11-3(h)(3)); ICE recognition and implementation of statute allowing post-removal challenges (§11-8(b)); new USCIS Policy Manual provisions on naturalization eligibility and process, including residence, selective service, § 319(b) special rules, and other issues, and new N-400 form and instructions (Chapter 12); Government-side implementation of the Supreme Court's recognition of same-sex marriage (various chapters); exceptional circumstances allowing foreign-country filing of I-130 petitions where no USCIS office is located (§ 14-5(a)); implications of a withdrawn I-140 (§ 15-1(h)); various policy developments concerning EB-5 investors (§ 15-2(f)); numerous BALCA cases and DOL positions affecting the PERM labor certification process and the publication of data about applications (§ 15-3); updated Affirmative Asylum Procedures Manual (§ 16-3(a)); USCIS memo on exceptional circumstances for failure to appear at asylum interview (§ 16-3(a)(1)(iii)); litigation settlement agreements to share asylum officer interview notes in FOIA (§ 16-3(a)(2)), concerning asylum applicant work authorization process and Clock (§ 16-3(c)), and failure to appear at I-730 interview (§ 16-3(f)); bundling of related L-1 petitions (§ 17-3(b)(4)(i)); presumed L-1 visa validity for maximum reciprocity duration but sometimes more limited stays from CBP (§ 17-3(b)(7)); filing I-129 petition for Canadian TN, and duration of Mexican TN separate from visa validity (§ 17-4(c)(2)(ii)); H-1B and H-2A flip-flopping administrative and congressional positions (§ 17-4(d) and 17-5(e)(1)); B-1 in lieu of H in effect but under review (§ 18-3(1)(2)(B)); accreditation requirements for F-1 language training programs (§ 18-4(d)(1)); cessation of CBP stamping of I-20 forms (§ 18-4(d)(3)); use of electronic ELIS system for certain changes of status (§ 18-4(d)(4)); new cap gap and STEM OPT extension policies (§ 18-4(d)(9)(iii)); possible need for separate waivers for different J experiences subject to § 212(e) (§ 18-5(b)(2)(ix)); revisions to M-274 Handbook for Employers for I-9, USCIS I-9 Central web site, and IRS tightening of ITIN application process (§ 19-4(b)); ICE policies about auditing electronically generated I-9 forms (§ 19-4(h)); OCAHO reductions of ICE I-9 fines on employers (§ 19-4(j)); ICE definition of technical and procedural errors subject to correction under good faith rules (§ 19-4(j)); USCIS revision of E-Verify MOU and new notice to workers about TNC resolution, expansion of E-Verify photo tool, and lock out of suspect SSNs from E-Verify (§ 19-4(l)(1)).

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