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## INTRODUCTION

- In February 2020, the USMLE announced the scoring requirements for the Step 1 exam would change to pass/fail, forgoing their original numerical score reporting. Following this first iteration of the changed scoring system, the NBME reported a decrease in the pass rate from **96% in 2021 to 93% in 2022**.<sup>1</sup>
- There has been no nationwide initiative to study this failure rate. There have been some speculations on the factors that contributed to the failure rates, including the pandemic, decreased dedicated period, and student complacency. We must collect data on this phenomenon so that administration can implement changes to prevent this from happening with future cohorts of students.

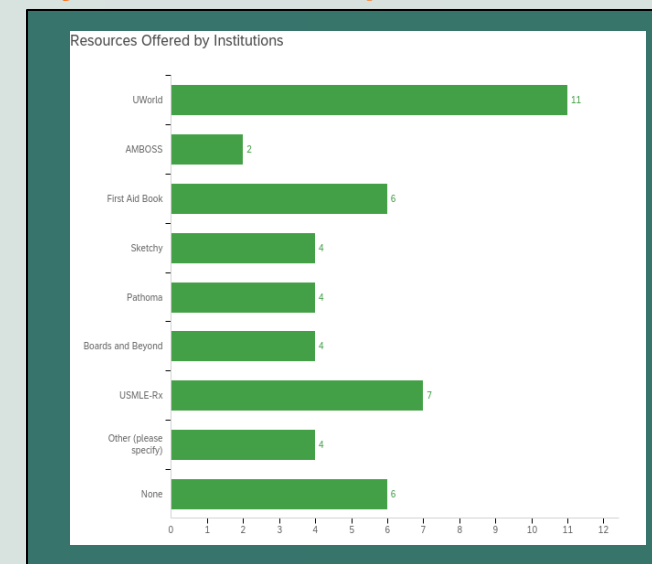
## METHODS

- The American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) has a student leadership branch called the Organization of Student Representatives (OSR). A team of OSR representatives designed and distributed a survey to all OSRs.
- This survey included questions on the school's **Step resources provided, institutional failure/deferral data, and student suggestions** for improving Step preparation.
- The survey was pre-tested by experts at national institutions. Once responses are finalized, the team will analyze the data and create recommendations that can be distributed to all institutions.

## PRELIMINARY RESULTS

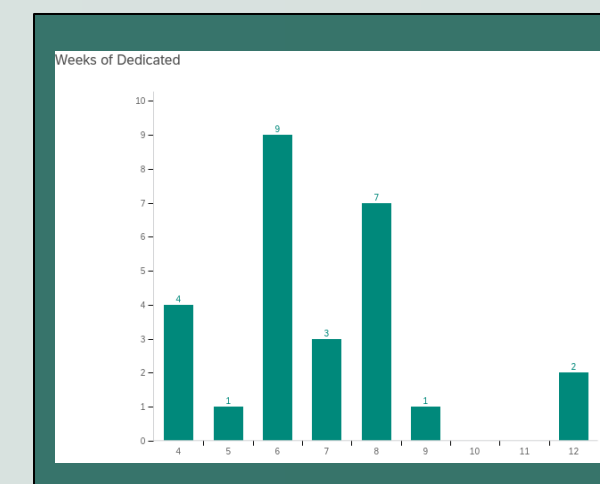
- Of the 154 US M.D-granting institutions, 26 schools have provided data (response rate= 16.9%) as of November 2022.

### Resources Offered by Institutions (included in tuition)



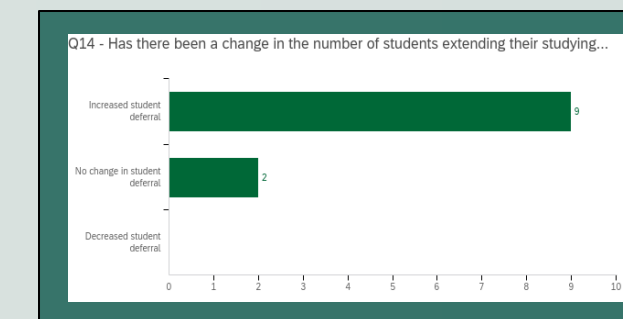
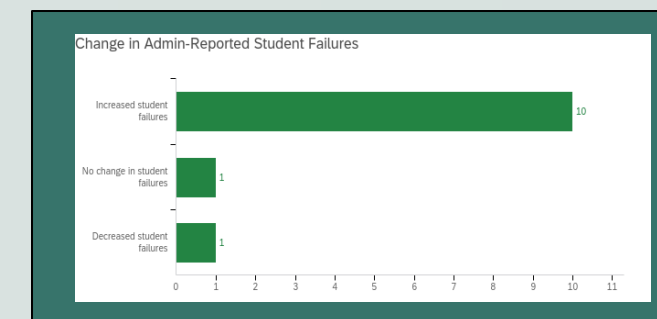
- UWorld is the most common resource offered at 42.3% of institutions (n=11), followed by USMLE-Rx (26.9%). However, 23.1% of institutions (n=6) do not offer any type of resources to their students.

### Weeks of Dedicated Offered by Institutions



- Most schools (34.6%) offer 6 weeks of dedicated time (n=9). The mean amount of time for dedicated is 6.84 weeks, with a standard deviation of 2.42 weeks.

### Institutional Failure/Deferral Data



- 46.1% of respondents were able to collect student failure/deferral data from their administration. The majority of institutions saw an increase in both student failure rates and deferral rates (n=9).

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- The maximum number of third-party resources (TPR) offered by an institution was 5 (n=2). The minimum number was 0 (n=7). The average number of TPR's offered was 1.46.
  - 15 out of 26 survey responses recommended that administrations increase funding to provide third-party resources for students. The most cited resource that should be provided was **UWorld**.
- Time for dedicated ranged between 4 and 12 weeks. Since the change to P/F, most institutions reported no change in length of the dedicated study period. However, 26.9% of responses (n=7) revealed that dedicated study period had decreased in time, with only one institution citing an increase in dedicated study period length.
  - 6 out of 26 responses emphasized the need for a dedicated study period, with one survey response recommending that schools **decrease the length of the pre-clinical curriculum to increase the length of the dedicated study period**.
- While there was data provided by the NBME on failure rates, since the change to P/F, there has also been an increase in students deferring the exam to a later date. This indicates that students do not feel prepared for their exam.
- Limitations of this study include low sample size (convenience sample) and bias from student respondents.
- For future efforts, we would like to investigate the incorporation and effectiveness of health/wellness efforts by institutions to support students during the dedicated period.

## REFERENCES

- Tallia A. NBME Update. lecture presented at the: AAMC Learn Serve Lead 2022; November 13, 2022.