



Downloading Mobile Apps is Step One for Conquering USMLE Step 1

By Andrew Leibs

The United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) is the main obstacle that separates you from certification and an unrestricted medical license.

With the curriculum geared toward passing the boards, the time to start studying for USMLE Step 1 is right now — and nonstop.

One of the best tools to retrain your brain with the right mentality for mastering the USML exam is a mobile device and one or more USMLE apps.

Apps make studying eternally accessible, while common features (built-in practice tests and timers, flashcard creation, performance tracking, etc.) make facts easier to acquire, memorize, and differentiate among — qualities ideal for a multiple-choice milieu.

Here's a quick review of seven USMLE apps for iOS and Android smartphones and tablets. They're all free to download, though a web membership is usually required to access content.

[UWorld USMLE Qbank Mobile App](#) USMLEWorld, LLC

This app lets you access and sync USMLE Qbank tests for Step 1, Step 2 CK, and Step 3 across iOS devices and enables you to create and customize new tests to fit your studying needs. You can also retake previous tests, track

performance in each subject and system, and create and review notes for each test. Requires Qbank access and iOS 8. Works on iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch.

USMLE Step 1 Mastery

Higher Learning Technologies, Free (In-app purchases required)

This app uses a flashcard lightning system to help you learn and study USMLE Step 1 exam content. It features 1,200+ test questions across multiple subjects with explanations and Retina display images; 300 quiz questions; 500+ medical terms; and 200+ mnemonics. It also provides test taking and study strategies, statistical tracking of subject strengths and weaknesses, and a built-in timer. Requires iOS 8.0 and works on iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch.

Memorang Flashcards and Memory Games

Memorang, Free (USMLE Step 1 cards: \$99)

Memorang is a personalized learning platform for USMLE Step 1, Step 2, MCAT, and other exams designed to track what you know and how you study. The app enables you to display flashcards or multiple choice questions. You can also search thousands of user-generated card sets and vary the order of display (spaced repetition, original order, or random shuffle). You can also combine study sets. Requires iOS 8.0 and works on iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch.

USMLE Step 1 Pathology Flashcards Lite

Virtual Flashcards

This lite version of USMLE Step 1 Pathology Flashcards is fully functional, but includes only a few cards. The full version has 3,000+ flashcards on all subjects covered in the Step 1 exam. Features include the ability to randomize and flag cards, study only new, missed, or flagged cards, and a timed mode that automatically flips and advances cards. Requires iOS 6.0 or later; works on iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch. A full version is also available.

Firecracker Daly Review

Firecracker, Inc.

Firecracker is a study app (USMLE Step 1, Step 2CK, COMLEX, or MCAT) that provides daily quizzes to bolster memorization. The app is a companion that syncs with the core Firecracker MD and Firecracker DO desktop programs. It provides daily review tasks and lets you create additional 'Get Ahead' test questions. When you need to study something specific or mark new topics as learned within the desktop version, the changes are reflected in the Daily Review app. Requires iOS 8.0 and works on iPad, iPhone, and iPod touch.

Cram Fighter Study Planner

Cram Fighter LLC

Cram Fighter lets you create and manage a study plan for the USMLE, MCAT, and NCLEX exams so you know exactly what you must study each day. The app enables you to view your plan, consisting of books, question banks, lectures, and flashcards; choose from hundreds of study resources; automatically rebalance your schedule when needed; reorder tasks with a flick of a finger; schedule catch-up and off days. The app requires a Cram Fighter Mobile plan and a study schedule created at cramfighter.com. Requires Android 4.0 and up.

Kaplan USMLE Step 1 QBank

Kaplan Test Prep

This app provides access to 2,000+ USMLE questions, all reviewed and updated in the last 12 months, and features detailed progress reports (on one test or all) personalized test creation, and a clean interface designed for on-the-go prep. The app is only available by enrolling in Kaplan's USMLE® Step 1 Qbank course. Requires Android 4.4 and up.

Resources

A great general resource is iMedicalApps.com, a website maintained by medical students and physicians that provides reviews of mobile medical technology and health care apps. Visit <http://www.imedicalapps.com/#>

Links to app developer websites:

USMLEWorld, LLC

<https://www.uworld.com/>

Higher Learning Technologies

<http://hltdcorp.com/>

Memorang (USMLE Step 1)

<https://www.memorangapp.com/premium/7/USMLE+Step+1+Flashcards/>

Virtual Flashcards

<http://virtualflashcards.net/iOSSupport.htm>

Firecracker, Inc.

<http://www.firecracker.me/>

Cram Fighter, LLC

<http://cramfighter.com/>

Kaplan Test Prep

<https://www.kaptest.com/>

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