

# Evaluation of a Didactic Examination Retake Process for Preclinical Medical Students

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- **Challenge/Issue:**

In an effort to improve student learning, provide opportunities to demonstrate competence, and improve student wellness, WesternU-COMP implemented changes in curricular delivery and assessment beginning with the DO 2022 cohort. These included: 1) moving from a one-pass to a two-pass systems-based approach; 2) cumulative exams at the end of each block; 3) **the opportunity to retake all or part of an exam after an initial unsuccessful attempt.**

- **Objective:**

The aim of this study was to determine if the retake process results in improved student learning to weigh the potential benefits against the additional burden to students, faculty, and staff.

- **Approach:**

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- Targeted retake examinations in the 1<sup>st</sup> year help reinforce foundational concepts required for 2<sup>nd</sup> year curriculum
  - This presumably also provides early reinforcement prior to board study
- Tracking the frequency of retake examinations helps identify students in need of additional support prepping for their licensing exams