

Top-Rated Review Resources

“Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested.”
—Sir Francis Bacon

“Always read something that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.”
—P.J. O'Rourke

“So many books, so little time.”
—Frank Zappa

“If one cannot enjoy reading a book over and over again, there is no use in reading it at all.”
—Oscar Wilde

“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.”
—Arthur Ashe

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► HOW TO USE THE DATABASE

This section is a database of top-rated basic science review books, sample examination books, websites, apps, and commercial review courses that have been marketed to medical students studying for the USMLE Step 1. For each recommended resource, we list (where applicable) the **Title**, the **First Author** (or editor), the **Series Name** (where applicable), the **Current Publisher**, the **Copyright Year**, the **Number of Pages**, the **ISBN**, the **Approximate List Price**, the **Format** of the resource, and the **Number of Test Questions**. We also include **Summary Comments** that describe their style and overall utility for studying. Finally, each recommended resource receives a **Rating**. Within each section, resources are arranged first by Rating and then alphabetically by the first author within each Rating group.

A letter rating scale with six different grades reflects the detailed student evaluations for **Rated Resources**. Each rated resource receives a rating as follows:

A+	Excellent for boards review.
A A–	Very good for boards review; choose among the group.
B+ B	Good, but use only after exhausting better resources.
B–	Fair, but there are many better resources in the discipline; or low-yield subject material.

The Rating is meant to reflect the overall usefulness of the resource in helping medical students prepare for the USMLE Step 1. This is based on a number of factors, including:

- The importance of the discipline for the USMLE Step 1
- The appropriateness and accuracy of the material
- The readability of the text
- The quality and number of sample questions
- The quality of written answers to sample questions
- The cost
- The quality of the user interface and learning experience, for web and mobile apps
- The quality and appropriateness of the images and illustrations
- The length of the text (longer is not necessarily better)
- The quality and number of other resources available in the same discipline

Please note that ratings do not reflect the quality of the resources for purposes other than reviewing for the USMLE Step 1. Many books with lower ratings are well written and informative but are not ideal for boards

preparation. We have not listed or commented on general textbooks available for the basic sciences.

Evaluations are based on the cumulative results of formal and informal surveys of thousands of medical students at many medical schools across the country. The summary comments and overall ratings represent a consensus opinion, but there may have been a broad range of opinion or limited student feedback on any particular resource.

Please note that the data listed are subject to change in that:

- Publisher and app store prices change frequently.
- Retail and online bookstores may set their own prices.
- New editions and app versions come out frequently, and the quality of updating varies.
- The same book may be reissued through another publisher.

We actively encourage medical students and faculty to submit their opinions and ratings of these basic science review materials so that we may update our database. In addition, we ask that publishers and authors submit for evaluation review copies of basic science review books, including new editions and books not included in our database. We also solicit reviews of new books, mobile apps, websites, flash cards, and commercial review courses.

Disclaimer/Conflict of Interest Statement

None of the ratings reflects the opinion or influence of the publisher. All errors and omissions will gladly be corrected if brought to the attention of the authors through our blog at firstaidteam.com. Please note that USMLE-Rx, ScholarRx, and the entire *First Aid for the USMLE* series are publications by certain authors of *First Aid for the USMLE Step 1*; the following ratings are based solely on recommendations from the student authors of *First Aid for the USMLE Step 1* as well as data from the student survey and feedback forms.

▶ TOP-RATED REVIEW RESOURCES

Question Banks

		AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	TYPE	PRICE
A⁺	<i>UWorld Qbank</i>	UWorld	uworld.com	Test/3600+ q	\$299–\$719
A	<i>AMBOSS</i>	Amboss	amboss.com	Test/2700+ q	\$99–\$398
A	<i>NBME Practice Exams</i>	National Board of Medical Examiners	nbme.org/examinees/self-assessments	Test/200 q	\$60
A⁻	<i>USMLE-Rx Qmax</i>	USMLE-Rx	usmle-rx.com/products/step-1-qmax/	Test/2750+ q	\$79–\$299
B⁺	<i>Kaplan Qbank</i>	Kaplan	kaptest.com	Test/3300+ q	\$159–\$499
B	<i>TrueLearn Review</i>		truelearn.com	Test/2600+ q	\$149–\$419

Web and Mobile Apps

		AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	TYPE	PRICE
A⁺	<i>Free 120</i>		orientation.nbme.org/launch/usmle/stpfl	Test/120 q	Free
A	<i>AMBOSS Library</i>		amboss.com	Review	\$129
A	<i>Anki</i>		ankiweb.net	Flash cards	Free
A	<i>Boards and Beyond</i>		boardsbeyond.com	Review/ Test/2300+ q	\$24–\$399
A	<i>OnlineMedEd</i>		onlinemeded.org	Review	Free–\$365
A	<i>Pixorize</i>		pixorize.com	Review	\$185–\$249
A	<i>Rx Bricks</i>		usmle-rx.com/products/rx-bricks	Study plan	\$99–\$399
A	<i>SketchyMedical</i>		sketchy.com	Review	\$300–\$600
A⁻	<i>Dirty Medicine</i>		youtube.com/DirtyMedicine		Free
A⁻	<i>Osmosis</i>		osmosis.org	Test	\$179–\$279
A⁻	<i>Physeio</i>		physeo.com	Review	Free–\$450
A⁻	<i>USMLE-Rx Step 1 Express</i>		usmle-rx.com/products/step-1-express-videos	Review/Test	\$49–\$179
A⁻	<i>USMLE-Rx Step 1 Flash Facts</i>		usmle-rx.com/products/step-1-flash-facts	Flash cards	\$29–\$99
B⁺	<i>Armando Hasudungan</i>		youtube.com/user/armandohasudungan	Review	Free
B⁺	<i>Cram Fighter</i>		cramfighter.com	Study plan	\$29–\$149
B⁺	<i>Firecracker</i>		wolterskluwer.com/en/solutions/lippincott-medicine/medical-education/firecracker	Review/ Test/2300 q	\$99–\$149
B⁺	<i>Kaplan USMLE® Step 1 Prep</i>		kaptest.com/usmle-step-1	Review/ Test/3300+ q	\$1999
B⁺	<i>Lecturio</i>		lecturio.com/medical/usmle-step-1	Review/ Test/5000+ q	\$105–\$720

B⁺	<i>Ninja Nerd Medicine</i>	youtube.com/ninjanerdsience	Review	Free
B⁺	<i>Picmonic</i>	picmonic.com	Review	\$528–\$1019
B⁺	<i>Radiopaedia.org</i>	radiopaedia.org	Cases/Test	Free
B	<i>Dr. Najeeb Lectures</i>	drnajeeblectures.com	Review	\$499
B	<i>KISSPrep</i>	kissprep.com	Review	\$30–\$150
B	<i>Medbullets</i>	step1.medbullets.com	Review/ Test/1000+ q	\$80–\$250
B	<i>Memorang</i>	memorang.com	Flash cards	\$20–\$240
B	<i>WebPath: The Internet Pathology Laboratory</i>	webpath.med.utah.edu	Review/ Test/1300+ q	Free
B⁻	<i>Innerbody Research</i>	innerbody.com/htm/body.html	Review	Free

Comprehensive

		AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	TYPE	PRICE
A	<i>First Aid Cases for the USMLE Step 1</i>	Le	McGraw-Hill, 2019, 496 pages, ISBN 9781260143133	Cases	\$50
A	<i>First Aid for the Basic Sciences: General Principles</i>	Le	McGraw-Hill, 2017, 528 pages, ISBN 9781259587016	Review	\$75
A	<i>First Aid for the Basic Sciences: Organ Systems</i>	Le	McGraw-Hill, 2017, 912 pages, ISBN 9781259587030	Review	\$72
A	<i>USMLE Step 1 Secrets in Color</i>	O'Connell	Elsevier, 2021, 5th ed., 736 pages, ISBN 9780323810609	Review	\$45
B⁺	<i>USMLE Step 1 Lecture Notes 2022</i>	Kaplan	Kaplan Test Prep, 2022, 2000 pages, ISBN 9781506272967	Review	\$350
B⁺	<i>Crush Step 1: The Ultimate USMLE Step 1 Review</i>	O'Connell	Elsevier, 2018, 704 pages, ISBN 9780323481632	Review	\$45
B	<i>USMLE Step 1 Made Ridiculously Simple</i>	Carl	MedMaster, 2020, 416 pages, ISBN 9781935660224	Review	\$30
B	<i>Kaplan USMLE Step 1 Qbook</i>	Kaplan	Kaplan Test Prep, 2022, 10th ed., 456 pages, ISBN 9781506276410	Test/850 q	\$55
B	<i>medEssentials for the USMLE Step 1</i>	Kaplan	Kaplan Medical, 2022, 6th ed., 536 pages, ISBN 9781506254609	Review	\$60

Anatomy, Embryology, and Neuroscience

		AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	TYPE	PRICE
A⁻	<i>High-Yield Gross Anatomy</i>	Dudek	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2015, 320 pages, ISBN 9781451190236	Review	\$53
B⁺	<i>BRS Embryology</i>	Dudek	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2014, 336 pages, ISBN 9781451190380	Review/ Test/220 q	\$60
B⁺	<i>High-Yield Neuroanatomy</i>	Gould	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2016, 208 pages, ISBN 9781451193435	Review/ Test/50 q	\$49

Anatomy, Embryology, and Neuroscience (continued)

		AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	TYPE	PRICE
B+	<i>Netter's Anatomy Flash Cards</i>	Hansen	Elsevier, 2022, 6th ed., 680 pages, ISBN 9789323834179	Flash cards	\$41
B+	<i>Crash Course: Anatomy and Physiology</i>	Stephens	Elsevier, 2019, 350 pages, ISBN 9780702073755	Review	\$40
B	<i>Anatomy—An Essential Textbook</i>	Gilroy	Thieme, 2017, 528 pages, ISBN 9781626234390	Text/ Test/400 q	\$50
B-	<i>Complete Anatomy</i>		3d4medical.com	Review	\$75

Behavioral Science

		AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	TYPE	PRICE
A-	<i>BRS Behavioral Science</i>	Fadem	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2021, 384 pages, ISBN 9781975188856	Review/ Test/600 q	\$60
B	<i>Biostatistics and Epidemiology: A Primer for Health and Biomedical Professionals</i>	Wassertheil-Smoller	Springer, 2015, 280 pages, ISBN 9781493921331	Review	\$90

Biochemistry

		AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	TYPE	PRICE
B+	<i>Lippincott Illustrated Reviews: Biochemistry</i>	Abali	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 8th ed., 2021, 649 pages, ISBN 9789960717319	Review/ Test/200 q	\$82
B+	<i>BRS Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Genetics</i>	Lieberman	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2020, 448 pages, ISBN 9781496399236	Review/ Test/500 q	\$58
B	<i>Lange Flashcards: Biochemistry and Genetics</i>	Baron	McGraw-Hill, 2017, 184 flash cards, ISBN 9781259837210	Flash cards	\$38

Cell Biology and Histology

		AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	TYPE	PRICE
B+	<i>Blue Histology</i>		lecannabiculteur.free.fr/SITES/UNIV%20W.AUSTRALIA/mb140/Lectures.htm	Test	Free
B+	<i>Crash Course: Cell Biology and Genetics</i>	Stubbs	Mosby, 2015, 216 pages, ISBN 9780723438762	Review/Print + online	\$47
B	<i>BRS Cell Biology and Histology</i>	Gartner	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2018, 448 pages, ISBN 9781496396358	Review/ Test/320 q	\$59

Microbiology and Immunology

		AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	TYPE	PRICE
A-	<i>Medical Microbiology and Immunology Flash Cards</i>	Rosenthal	Elsevier, 2016, 192 flash cards, ISBN 9780323462242	Flash cards	\$41
B+	<i>Basic Immunology</i>	Abbas	Elsevier, 2020, 336 pages, ISBN 9780323549431	Review	\$72
B+	<i>Clinical Microbiology Made Ridiculously Simple</i>	Gladwin	MedMaster, 2021, 448 pages, ISBN 9781935660453	Review	\$45
B+	<i>Microcards: Microbiology Flash Cards</i>	Harpavat	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2015, 156 flash cards, ISBN 9781451192353	Flash cards	\$62

Microbiology and Immunology (continued)

		AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	TYPE	PRICE
B⁺	<i>Lange Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Flash Cards, 3e</i>	Somers	McGraw-Hill, 2018, ISBN 9781259859823	Flash cards	\$55
B	<i>Lippincott Illustrated Reviews: Microbiology</i>	Cornelissen	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2019, 448 pages, ISBN 9781496395856	Review/Test/ Few q	\$78
B	<i>Case Studies in Immunology: A Clinical Companion</i>	Geha	W. W. Norton & Company, 2016, 384 pages, ISBN 9780815345121	Cases	\$62
B	<i>Review of Medical Microbiology and Immunology</i>	Levinson	McGraw-Hill, 2022, 848 pages, ISBN 9781264267088	Review/ Test/650 q	\$69
B	<i>How the Immune System Works</i>	Sompayrac	Wiley-Blackwell, 2019, 168 pages, ISBN 9781119542124	Review	\$50

Pathology

		AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	TYPE	PRICE
A⁺	<i>Pathoma: Fundamentals of Pathology</i>	Sattar	Pathoma, 2021, 218 pages, ISBN 9780983224631	Review/ Lecture	\$85–\$125
A⁻	<i>Rapid Review: Pathology</i>	Goljan	Elsevier, 2019, 864 pages, ISBN 9780323476683	Review/ Test/500 q	\$69
A⁻	<i>Robbins and Cotran Review of Pathology</i>	Klatt	Elsevier, 2022, 488 pages, ISBN 9780323640220	Test/1500 q	\$57
A⁻	<i>Crash Course: Pathology</i>	McKinney	Elsevier, 2019, 438 pages, ISBN 9780702073540	Review	\$40
B⁺	<i>Pocket Companion to Robbins and Cotran Pathologic Basis of Disease</i>	Mitchell	Elsevier, 2016, 896 pages, ISBN 9781455754168	Review	\$41
B	<i>BRS Pathology</i>	Gupta	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2021, 496 pages, ISBN 9781975136628	Review/ Test/450 q	\$58
B	<i>Pathophysiology of Disease: Introduction to Clinical Medicine</i>	Hammer	McGraw-Hill, 2019, 832 pages, ISBN 9781260026504	Text	\$90

Pharmacology

		AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	TYPE	PRICE
B⁺	<i>Crash Course: Pharmacology</i>	Page	Elsevier, 2019, 336 pages, ISBN 9780702073441	Review	\$40
B⁺	<i>Katzung & Trevor's Pharmacology: Examination and Board Review</i>	Trevor	McGraw-Hill, 2021, 608 pages, ISBN 9781260117127	Review/ Test/1000 q	\$62
B	<i>Lange Pharmacology Flash Cards</i>	Baron	McGraw-Hill, 2018, 266 flash cards, ISBN 9781259837241	Flash cards	\$39
B	<i>Pharmacology Flash Cards</i>	Brenner	Elsevier, 2017, 277 flash cards, ISBN 9780323355643	Flash cards	\$46
B	<i>BRS Pharmacology</i>	Lerchenfeldt	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2019, 384 pages, ISBN 9781975105495	Review/ Test/200 q	\$59
B⁻	<i>Lippincott Illustrated Reviews: Pharmacology</i>	Whalen	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2022, 8th ed., 704 pages, ISBN 9781975170554	Review/ Test/380 q	\$78

Physiology

		AUTHOR	PUBLISHER	TYPE	PRICE
A-	<i>Physiology</i>	Costanzo	Elsevier, 2022, 7th ed., 528 pages, ISBN 9780323793339	Text	\$70
A-	<i>Color Atlas of Physiology</i>	Silbernagl	Thieme, 2015, 472 pages, ISBN 9783135450070	Review	\$50
A-	<i>Pulmonary Pathophysiology: The Essentials</i>	West	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2022, 272 pages, ISBN 9781975152819	Review/ Test/75 q	\$58
B+	<i>BRS Physiology</i>	Costanzo	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2022, 8th ed., 336 pages, ISBN 9781975153601	Review/ Test/350 q	\$55
B+	<i>Pathophysiology of Heart Disease</i>	Lilly	Lippincott Williams & Williams, 2020, 480 pages, ISBN 9781975120597	Review	\$59
B+	<i>Acid-Base, Fluids, and Electrolytes Made Ridiculously Simple</i>	Preston	MedMaster, 2017, 166 pages, ISBN 9781935660293	Review	\$24
B+	<i>Lippincott Illustrated Reviews: Physiology</i>	Preston	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2018, 544 pages, ISBN 9781496385826	Review	\$79
B	<i>Vander's Renal Physiology</i>	Eaton	McGraw-Hill, 2018, 224 pages, ISBN 9781260019377	Text	\$49
B	<i>Endocrine Physiology</i>	Molina	McGraw-Hill, 2018, 320 pages, ISBN 9781260019353	Review	\$59
B	<i>Netter's Physiology Flash Cards</i>	Mulroney	Saunders, 2015, 200+ flash cards, ISBN 9780323359542	Flash cards	\$40