

Faculty Determinations Regarding Unsatisfactory Academic Performance

Remedial work, re-examination, or repetition of a course are not to be regarded as a right for a student who has an unsatisfactory record in a course but are options which may be offered to individual students, in the judgment of the faculty, based on the student's academic record and consideration of circumstances related to completion of the course. The Student Evaluation Committees will review each student's performance to identify and give support to those students who are having academic challenges. When there is a pattern of poor performance longitudinally across courses or failure of remediation, the Promotion and Graduation Committee will make decisions about whether to permit a student to have an opportunity for further remedial work, re-examination, repetition of a course, or other appropriate alternatives.

Academic Good Standing

A student with a "Marginal," "Fail," or "Incomplete" course grade is not considered to be a student in good academic standing and is ineligible to go on an academic leave of absence, participate in an Extended Curriculum for Research, or go on an international elective, until a passing grade is obtained in the pertinent course(s).

Remedial Course Work

Remedial work, including re-examination, will ordinarily be offered at times which do not conflict with regularly scheduled required academic activities. Generally, remedial work, including re-examination, will be available only if the student has successfully completed the majority of course work required for a passing grade in the course. Remedial work and any re-examination needed in first year courses generally will be scheduled during winter or spring break or during the following summer. Remediation of a failed unit in EPOM Parts A or B or HID 1 Parts A or B that was not remediated during a recess break must start immediately after HID 1 Part B has ended. Remediation of more than one failed unit must be done sequentially, not concurrently, and may extend throughout the summer. All non-passing course grades must be remedied before entering Phase 2 of the curriculum (core clerkship year). Students should review the academic calendar for the pre-set foundational remediation dates. Students must recognize that remediation of failed units takes priority over their summer plans (i.e., research, travel, jobs, work-study, fellowships, electives abroad, vacation, etc.), as failed remediation can result in more serious academic consequences and/or delays to graduation.

A non-passing grade in a required foundational science course in the second year will have to be remedied prior to the beginning of the clerkships. A clerkship that is failed usually will be repeated as soon as possible. In the case of a "Marginal" grade, the remedial work may be targeted in scope, as determined at the discretion of the learning unit or course director in consultation with the learning unit or course faculty. A student who successfully completes remediation for a "Marginal" grade is eligible only for a grade of "Pass." However, if the first attempt by a student at remediation of a "Marginal" grade is not satisfactory, the course grade converts to a "Fail" and remediation for a grade of "Fail" must ensue. In the case of an "Incomplete" grade, completion within the period specified by the faculty can result in a grade of "Honors" (if available), "High Pass" (if available), "Pass," "Marginal" or "Fail." An "Incomplete" grade not successfully addressed within the specified period shall revert to either a

“Marginal” or “Fail” grade, and appropriate remediation must be undertaken. In the case of a “Fail” grade in any course, the course must be retaken in its entirety when it is offered again or as scheduled by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and must result in the satisfactory demonstration of competence in all aspects of the course. The nature of the remediation lies solely in the province of the course director in consultation with the learning unit leader. The grades of “Honors” or “High Pass” are not awarded when a student has repeated a course.

Criteria for Continuation in the Academic Program and Dismissal*

In the Foundational Years (the first 1.5 years of the curriculum) faculty use a wide array of formats to assess a student’s performance including quizzes, essay exams, laboratory practicals, clinical write-ups, and case analyses. Students must complete satisfactorily all required learning units of the major foundational year courses, before advancing to the Clinical Clerkships. Students who fail fewer than half the units comprising a course will receive a “Marginal” grade for the relevant course and must then undergo a structured remediation program, as prescribed by the course leadership. Failure of the structured remediation program of one or more units results in the student receiving a “Fail” grade for the course. The failed course ordinarily must be retaken in class in its entirety when that course is offered again or at a time specified by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. Failure to pass any one unit in a course that is retaken results in a second “Fail” grade in that course, and results in automatic dismissal from the Medical College, subject to confirmation by the Promotion and Graduation Committee.

Students who fail half or more of the units constituting a foundational course will receive a “Fail” grade in that course. The student must retake the failed foundational course in its entirety when it is offered again. Failure to pass any unit in a course that is retaken results in a second “Fail” grade in that course, and results in automatic dismissal from the Medical College, subject to confirmation by the Promotion and Graduation Committee.

Students must satisfactorily complete all required clerkships, which use several methods to assess performance. A student who receives a “Marginal” grade in a required clerkship will ordinarily be given an opportunity for remediation, as arranged by the clerkship leadership and the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. If the remediation is successful, the “Marginal” grade will convert to a “Pass” grade. If the remediation is unsuccessful, the “Marginal” grade will convert to a “Fail” grade and will require that the student re-take the entire clerkship. A student who receives a “Fail” grade in a required clerkship will not be offered remediation and must re-take the failed clerkship. Any student who must repeat a clerkship and does not initially achieve a passing grade, will receive a second “Fail” grade in that clerkship, without opportunity for remediation, and will automatically be dismissed from the Medical College subject to confirmation by the Promotion and Graduation Committee.

A student who accumulates a “Fail” grade in three of the required clerkships will not be given an opportunity for additional remediation for the third failed clerkship and will be automatically dismissed from the Medical College subject to confirmation by the Promotion and Graduation Committee.

Students are strongly advised to consult the specifics of assessment/remediation processes and policies for their individual foundational year's courses, clerkships, and other core curriculum activities on the course websites.

Students are also required to complete the Step Study courses, Area of Concentration course, a series of elective courses, a sub-internship, Translational Science course, Advanced Clinical Ethics course, Healthcare Policy course and Transition to Residency course. Students who fail an elective course may repeat that course or, with the approval of the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, enroll in another elective course, as needed, to complete the number of elective weeks required for graduation. A student may not take elective courses concurrently with any other courses to satisfy the required elective weeks.

Students in the M.D.-Ph.D. program who have successfully completed the Ph.D. are exempt from the elective week requirement, the Translational Science course, and the Area of Concentration course.

Students who will graduate after May 2024 are required to take the United States Medical Licensing Exams (USMLE) Step 1 by December 31 of their third year and Step 2 CK prior to March 15 of the year in which they are graduating. Passing these exams is not a graduation requirement.

Students who accumulate three or more grades of "Marginal" or "Fail" in different courses may be at risk for further "Marginal" or "Fail" grades which could result in unsatisfactory overall academic performance as defined in the section below. The performance of students who receive three or more grades of "Fail" or "Marginal" in different courses over the course of their study, even if those grades have been successfully remediated, shall be reviewed at the next scheduled meeting of the Promotion and Graduation Committee to determine if a formal review of the student's suitability for the practice of medicine for continued study in the Medical College is warranted. The Promotion and Graduation Committee may specify the nature of the intervention(s) recommended based on its evaluation of the student's performance.

Completion of the Medical College Curriculum within Six Years ("4-in-6 rule")

Students may repeat no more than the equivalent of two academic years and, except for students in the M.D.-Ph.D. program, students must complete the academic work of the first three years in five academic years. Students must complete the entire Medical College curriculum in six academic years ("4-in-6 rule"). Students in the M.D.-Ph.D. Program must complete the M.D. portion of the program within the six-year time period as well (excluding the time in the Ph.D. portion of the program). Students who are in good academic standing and who are seeking to engage in a unique or exceptionally enriching experience that may prolong the length of time it will take to complete the M.D. degree may petition the Senior Associate Dean, Education for an exemption from the "4-in-6 rule." In these rare cases, the petition must be submitted in writing no later than three months prior to the planned experience. The Senior Associate Dean, Education will review the petition. If the petition is granted, the rules of notification pertaining to leaves of absence will remain in effect.

Unsatisfactory Academic Progress Performance and Dismissal

In addition to the academic performance standards that lead to dismissal from the Medical College described in the previous section, unsatisfactory overall academic performance will also be grounds for dismissal. Unsatisfactory overall performance is defined as a combination of multiple “Fail” or “Marginal” grades in a significant number of different courses, clerkships, electives, or the sub-internship (even if the non-passing grades are remedied). Generally, a cumulative total of six (6) non-passing grades in different courses rendered on the first taking of that course will result in dismissal subject to confirmation by the Promotion and Graduation Committee. Similarly, failure to complete the curriculum within six (6) years will be deemed unsatisfactory performance, resulting in dismissal, subject to confirmation by the Promotion and Graduation Committee.

The faculty of the Medical College takes the position that an overall failing performance as described above constitutes a quality of work unsatisfactory for admission to the medical profession.

Administrative Hold

When a student is being considered for dismissal from the Medical College, the Senior Associate Dean (Education) will place that student on an Administrative Hold from some or all activities at his or her discretion (e.g., educational, clinical, or extracurricular) while the dismissal decision is being adjudicated by the Promotions and Graduation Committee.

Satisfactory Academic Progress and Financial Aid

Satisfactory academic progress (SAP) is a financial aid term. To be eligible for financial assistance at the Medical College, a student must be making satisfactory progress according to the Academic Advancement Policy (OME 900.12). Students who fail to achieve passing grades in courses (for example, those who receive “Incomplete,” “Marginal,” or “Fail” grades) are urged to consult the Office of Financial Aid and Student Accounting as soon as possible to understand the ramifications of their failure to make satisfactory academic progress.

Unsatisfactory Academic Progress and Financial Aid

Satisfactory academic progress is reviewed for each student receiving financial aid from the institution at the end of every payment term. If a student exhibits unsatisfactory academic performance as determined by the Committee on Promotion and Graduation, they receive notification in writing from the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, which includes a Financial Aid warning for the subsequent payment term. If a student fails to make satisfactory progress after a warning period, they are placed on probation and are ineligible for subsequent financial aid payments. Under the circumstance, a student may be offered an individual academic plan in accordance with the committee’s criteria to reestablish satisfactory progress and is permitted to receive financial aid for an additional payment term. Failure after one warning and probation period may be grounds for academic dismissal subject to confirmation by the Promotion and Graduation Committee.