

<b>Clinical and Academic Policy</b>	
	<b>Policy Title</b>
	Academic Sustainability and Dismissal
	<b>Policy Number</b>
	OME-900.21
	<b>Department/Office</b>
	Office of Medical Education
	<b>Effective Date</b>
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	<b>Approved By</b>
	Executive Medical Education Committee
	<b>Approval Date</b>
	October 30, 2025
	<b>Endorsement</b>
	Endorsed by WCM-Executive Policy Review Group on September 23, 2025.

## Purpose

To specify the criteria used by the Promotion and Graduation (P&G) Committee of Weill Cornell Medical College (WCMC) in determining sustainability in the medical curriculum or dismissal from the Medical College.

## Scope

This policy applies to Weill Cornell Medicine (WCM) Workforce Members including medical students and MD-PhD students.

## Policy

In special circumstances, students who perform unsatisfactorily or who do not meet the requirement standards of WCMC must be formally reviewed by the P&G Committee for consideration of sustainability in the medical curriculum or dismissal from the Medical College.

### Criteria for Dismissal from the Medical College

Subject to confirmation by the P&G Committee, the following situations may result in dismissal from the Medical College:

1. A failing grade in a repeated course that has been failed before;
2. Failure to complete the curriculum in six (6) years (“4-in-6” rule);
  - In rare cases, 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 MD degree may petition the Senior Associate Dean for Education for an exemption from the “4-in-6” rule. Students not in Good Academic Standing do not fall under this exception.
3. A failing grade in three (3) of the required clerkships will result in the student not being given an opportunity for additional remediation for the third failed clerkship; or
4. A cumulative total of six (6) Non-Passing Grades (even if the Non-Passing Grades are remediated) in different courses rendered on the first taking of those courses.

### Consideration of Sustainability in the Medical Curriculum

In the following situations, the P&G Committee will conduct a formal review of the student’s suitability for the practice of medicine and for continued study in the Medical College:

1. A student who accumulates three (3) or more grades of “Marginal” or “Fail” in different courses, even if those grades have been successfully remediated, is at risk for further failing grades; or

2. A student who accumulates three (3) or more Professionalism Reports or has displayed an egregious lapse of professionalism.

## Procedure

### Process for Academic Review

1. Meeting of the P&G Committee to review the student's academic record, presented by Medical Education, in an evaluation of suitability to remain in the Medical College or consideration of dismissal from the Medical College.
2. The P&G Committee may meet with the student prior to any decision or may determine a need for an *ad hoc* committee to be assembled for review of a medical student's ability or fitness to continue in the Medical College prior to a final decision (OME 900.15).
3. Once the P&G Committee has made the decision about a student's dismissal, the student has a right to appeal the decision (OME-900.06).

## Definitions

**Fail:** A permanent grade in a course or clerkship that is placed in a student's academic record

**Good Academic Standing:** A term used to refer to students with no Non-Passing Grades in their academic record (no temporary Incomplete or Marginal grades and no Fail grade in a course not yet repeated).

**Marginal:** A temporary grade in a course or clerkship that is placed in a student's academic record as a placeholder prior to an attempted remediation of a course or clerkship

**Non-Passing Grade:** A grade of Marginal or Fail in a course or clerkship.

**Professionalism Reports:** Documents about a student's lapse in professionalism that are placed in a student's academic record (OME-900.15).

**Workforce Members:** Faculty; Staff; Students; Volunteers; Trainees; and other persons whose conduct, in the performance of work for WCM, is under the direction and control of WCM, whether or not they are paid by WCM.

## Compliance with this Policy

The Office of Academic Affairs monitors compliance with this policy.

## Contact Information

Office of Academic Affairs  
1300 York Avenue, Room C-118

## References

- OME-900.06 Appeals Processes
- OME-900.11 Elective Requirements
- OME-900.12 Academic Advancement
- OME-900.13 Student Course and Duty Hours
- OME-900.15 Medical Student Standards of Professionalism—Assessment and Remediation
- Weill Cornell Medical College Student Handbook

## Policy Approval

This policy was endorsed by WCM-Executive Policy Review Group on September 23, 2025.

This policy was reviewed and approved by the Executive Medical Education Committee (EMEC) on October 30, 2025.

## Version History

Date	Author	Revisions
10/30/2025	Office of Academic Affairs	Original date of issue.

## Appendix

N/A