

Policy on Standards for Performance and Satisfactory Academic Progress

I. POLICY

In order to make satisfactory progress towards the MD degree, each student must satisfy academic, professional, and technical standards on an ongoing basis.

1. Academic: To be considered to be making satisfactory academic progress, a student must:

- Successfully complete and pass all courses, clerkships and other experiences in the periods offered.
- Meet all Longitudinal Research Project requirements.
- Meet all examination requirements, such as the USMLE Step 1, Step 2-CK, and CCA.
- Correct all academic deficiencies within one year (or otherwise within the time limit specifically set by the Committee on Student Promotions in the individual case).

Under certain circumstances the Committee on Student Promotions may recommend dismissal. Such circumstances may include (but are not limited to) when one or more of the following conditions apply:

- Two failures in clinical clerkships.
- Failures in more than three sections of pre-clerkship required coursework in a given academic year or over the course of the pre-clerkship curriculum (whether or not remediated).
- Failure to pass the USMLE Step 1, Step 2-CK, or CCA examinations within the time frame specified in the Policy on USMLE Examinations.
- Failure of the same course twice. The policy of the University of Pittsburgh states that a student cannot register for the same course three times.

A student's failure to attend required meetings, comply with Committee on Student Promotions directives for remediation, or meet Committee on Student Promotions deadlines may preclude remediation and result in immediate dismissal from the MD Degree Program.

2. Professional Behavior: Students are required on an ongoing basis to demonstrate satisfactory professional behavior. A serious breach of professionalism may result in immediate dismissal from the MD Degree Program.

3. Technical Standards: Students are required on an ongoing basis to satisfy technical standards, as outlined in the Policy on Technical Standards. Continued fulfillment of such standards is a requirement for ongoing registration in the MD Degree program.

A student who has at the end of an academic year has successfully completed all courses without deficiency, who has demonstrated the professional attitudes, values and behaviors expected of physicians, and who is otherwise in good academic standing will be promoted to the next academic year of study or recommended for graduation. Students may be conditionally enrolled in a subsequent year of the program pending receipt of requirements for advancement, such as score reports for USMLE or grade reports for courses or clerkships that end immediately prior to the next academic year.

Additional graduation requirements, including national and local examination requirements, are listed in the Policy on USMLE Examinations and Clinical Competency Assessment and Policy on Requirements for Granting of the MD Degree.

Overall, a student who is not making satisfactory academic progress will be considered by the Committee on Student Promotions. The Committee on Student Promotions will review the student's progress and will determine the acceptability of any proposed remediation efforts.

II. PURPOSE

UPSOM strives to graduate professionals who are knowledgeable, skillful, compassionate and caring. This policy provides a framework to determine eligibility for academic advancement, taking into account that graduates with a Doctor of Medicine degree who achieve licensure will have the prerogative to provide patient care in the future.

The student evaluation for advancement involves both objective criteria and subjective judgments. To be considered for advancement, students must have satisfactorily completed all course work; demonstrate motivation, maturity, sound judgment, responsibility, and acceptable professional behavior; demonstrate the required technical skills; and possess other such attributes as the faculty deems to be essential to become a reliable and effective physician.

The faculty and administrators assigned the responsibility to make decisions regarding academic standing, promotion, remediation, and dismissal are charged to globally evaluate individual student performance and use their judgment in making decisions.

III. SCOPE

This policy applies to:

- Medical students

IV. POLICY AUTHOR(S)

- Office of Medical Education

V. RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Policy on Academic Observation
- Policy on Academic Remediation
- Policy on Requirements for Granting of the MD Degree
- Policy on Standards for Performance and Academic Progress
- Policy on Structure and Function of the Committee on Student Promotions
- Policy on Technical Standards
- Policy on Time Limitations for Completing Portions of the MD Degree Program
- Policy on USMLE Examinations
- Procedural Guidance on Student Promotions
- UPSOM Code of Professionalism

VI. REFERENCES

• LCME Standard 9.9: Single Standard for Promotion, Graduation and Appeal Process: A medical school ensures that the medical education program has a single standard for the promotion and graduation of medical students across all locations and a fair and formal process for taking any action that may affect the status of a medical student, including timely notice of the impending action, disclosure of the evidence on which the action would be based, an opportunity for the medical student to respond, and an opportunity to appeal any adverse decision related to promotion, graduation, or dismissal.

• LCME Standard 10.3: Policies Regarding Student Selection/Progress and Their Dissemination: The faculty of a medical school establish criteria for student selection and develop and implement effective policies and procedures regarding, and make decisions about, medical student application, selection, admission, assessment, promotion, graduation, and any disciplinary action. The medical school makes available to all interested parties its criteria, standards, policies, and procedures regarding these matters.

VII. APPROVALS

Dean, School of Medicine, originally approved December 30, 2018.

Education Policy Council, revision approved October 28, 2019.

Executive Committee, revision approved December 10, 2019.

Dean, School of Medicine, revision approved December 16, 2019.

