



Academic Progress & Graduation

Senior Leader: Medical School Dean

Responsible University Officer: Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education

Policy Owner: Assistant Dean, Student Affairs - Twin Cities

Associate Dean, Student Life & Academic Affairs - Duluth

Policy Contact: Medical School Registrar

POLICY STATEMENT

All students of the University of Minnesota Medical School (UMMS) are expected to maintain continuous enrollment and meet the same academic, technical, and professional standards for advancement and graduation within a prescribed time frame, with or without accommodations. These requirements include successful completion of all Foundations and Clerkship phase work, passing of the USMLE Step 1 and 2 CK, and demonstrated proficiency in the Competencies Required for Graduation. Satisfactory academic progress is also necessary for determining financial aid eligibility.

REASON FOR POLICY

This policy clarifies the single set of core requirements governing what constitutes satisfactory academic progress for advancement in the educational program and for graduation. For students receiving financial aid, federal regulations require the UMMS to establish, publish, and apply standards to monitor progress toward completion of the MD degree.

This policy also ensures the medical school meets LCME Accreditation requirements as follows:

Element 9.9: STUDENT ADVANCEMENT AND APPEAL PROCESS. “A medical school ensures that the medical education program has a single set of core standards for the advancement and graduation of all medical students across all locations. A subset of medical students may have academic requirements in addition to the core standards if they are enrolled in a parallel curriculum. A medical school ensures that there is 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 advancement, graduation, or dismissal.”

Element 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.”

PROCEDURES

I. Requirements

In order to make academic progress and be eligible to receive the MD Degree, the following

requirements must be met.

1. Foundations Phase (FP) ¹

- a. The Foundations Phase of the curriculum consists of three semesters in Year 1 (fall: FP1, spring: FP2, and summer: FP3) and a single fall semester in Year 2 (FP4).
- b. All students must successfully pass all FP courses (1-4) in order to progress to the Clinical Immersion Phase (CiP). In the event grades have not been posted before beginning the CiP, students will be permitted to progress into the CiP up to a maximum of 4 weeks (e.g. taking one 4-week clerkship or two 2-week clerkships). Students will not be permitted to progress further than 4 weeks as long as grades are not posted.

Procedures and Limitations for Transition to the Central Campus in the Twin Cities

Students matriculated on the Duluth Campus will transition to the Twin Cities Campus upon successfully passing all FP courses. Students who have not successfully passed one or more FP requirements will not transition to the Twin Cities Campus (and will not be approved for a transfer to another school) until successful remediation. At which point the student may transition to the Twin Cities Campus, subject to scheduling modifications resulting from the delayed transition.

2. Clinical Immersion Phase (CiP) and Specialty-Specific Transitions Phase (StP)

- a. The Clinical Immersion Phase (CiP) and the Specialty-Specific Transition Phase (StP) consist of a total of seven semesters beginning in the spring of Year 2 through the spring semester of Year 4.
- b. Students must successfully pass all required core clerkships, fulfill all required weeks of electives and selectives, Acting Internship, and pass all required academic work across the CiP and StP.
- c. All students must take and meet established performance levels (eg. pass) all required institutional assessments as designated in the MD Program requirements.

3. All Phases

- a. Students must successfully pass the USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK as described in the section **USMLE Requirements**, below.
- b. Students must meet compliance requirements for up-to-date immunizations as outlined in the **Student Compliance Requirements, Years 1-4** policy (see *"Related Information"*).
- c. Students must meet the academic, technical, and professional standards at each level of the medical education program and must do so within the prescribed time frame with or without accommodations (*see below*).

4. Time Limits

The maximum duration for completion of undergraduate medical education is six years from matriculation as detailed below.

- a. All FP courses and academic requirements must be successfully completed within 2.5 years from matriculation (inclusive of fall, spring, and summer semesters). ¹
- b. All CiP and StP courses and academic requirements must be successfully completed within 3.5 years from the start of the CiP (inclusive of fall, spring, and summer semesters). ¹

Exceptions:

- a. Students enrolled in a dual degree program are granted additional time as long as they otherwise remain in good academic standing in the medical school.
- b. Approved Leaves of Absence (LOA) are not counted against time to completion.

¹ For purposes of this policy, successful completion of the academic requirements in the FP is inclusive of a passing score on USMLE Step 1. Successful completion of the academic requirements in the CiP and StP is inclusive of a passing score on the USMLE Step 2 CK.

II. Systematic Progression

1. Academic Difficulty

Refers to failing and/or performing marginally on one or more graded components within a course/clerkship, *prior* to receiving a final grade for the course/clerkship. In these instances, students are strongly encouraged to proactively seek out services to support their academic success. It is ultimately each student's responsibility to be engaged in, and take responsibility for, their own education and for availing themselves of academic resources.

2. At Risk

A student is considered "At Risk" inclusive of, but not limited to: students who receive a failing grade (N) in any one FP, CiP, or StP course in a given term, or those who fail their first attempt on USMLE Step 1 or Step 2 CK with no other previous, current, or outstanding academic failures or professional deficiencies.

Students At Risk will meet with an Academic Advisor, and/or the Dean of Students for their campus to develop an appropriate and detailed remediation plan.

3. Academic Probation

This refers to students with continuing and/or more serious deficiencies. Probation is noted in the student's academic record and the Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) and the student is no longer in Good Academic Standing. Factors resulting in probationary status include the following:

- a. Failing a **repeat** of an FP or clerkship course (see "*Definitions*").
- b. Failing a **re-examination** of an FP exam (see "*Definitions*").
- c. Failing to meet the requirements of a remediation plan.
- d. A second failure in any combination of FP courses, clerkship courses, or USMLE Step Exams whether previously remediated or currently unremediated.
- e. Being sanctioned for a significant or persistent professionalism or behavioral violation (see "*Related Information*").

4. Academic Dismissal

Dismissal will be noted in the student's academic record. A student will be subject to a dismissal hearing for the following reasons, including but not limited to:

- a. Having three or more failures in any combination of Foundations or clerkship courses, and/or USMLE exams (Step 1, Step 2 CK) whether remediated or unremediated.
- b. Failing USMLE Step 1 or Step 2 CK three times (see "*USMLE Requirements*").
- c. Failing to remediate academic probation.
- d. Egregious or repeated violations of professional standards in academic, clinical, or other related professional settings.
- e. Egregious or repeated violations of the University's Code of Conduct (see "*Related Information*").
- f. Failing to adhere to the *Time Limits for Completion of Coursework and Awarding of the MD* as outlined herein.

IV. Scholastic Standing Committee Referral

Students who meet the criteria for Academic Probation will be referred to the scholastic standing committee. The scholastic standing committee may also place a student on academic probation wherever warranted. In addition, any student, irrespective of academic standing may be referred to the scholastic standing committee where review is warranted. Academic Dismissals may be considered irrespective of the student's academic standing at the time such action is considered. Refer to the [Scholastic Standing Committees Policy](#) for details.

V. Graduation

Medical students must meet the following requirements to be awarded the MD degree.

- a. All requirements of the medical education program must be successfully completed and within the prescribed time limits
- b. Students must satisfy all conditions for remediation and not be on academic probation at the time of graduation

VI. USMLE Requirements

Medical students must pass the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1 and Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) in order to graduate with the MD degree from the UMMS. Passing standards are those established by the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME).

Time limits

Students are required to take and pass USMLE Step 1 before the end of their first semester of the CiP. In the case of a failing score, students may be approved by the scholastic standing committee to continue for up to one additional semester in their clerkships in order to permit time to retake and pass Step 1.

Students who do not receive a passing score on USMLE Step 1 after retaking the exam may be referred to the scholastic standing committee for further review. In addition to other outcomes, the student may be required to take a Leave of Absence as per the [Leave of Absence and Withdrawal Policy](#) (see "Related Information").

ADDITIONAL CONTACTS

Subject	Contact	Phone	Email
Primary Contact	Name	Phone	Email
Academic Advising - Twin Cities	Addy Irvine	(612) 624-6665	abrickwe@umn.edu
Learner Development - Duluth	Elizabeth Teschner	(218) 726-7059	eteschn@umn.edu

DEFINITIONS

Re-examination

A re-examination refers to instances in which a student must retake a specific graded examination/activity as part of a formal remediation plan implemented through an advisor or scholastic standing committee.

Repeat

A repeat refers to instances in which a student must retake the entire course/clerkship.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

Satisfactory academic progress is the appropriate successful completion of degree requirements according to established increments that lead to degree completion within published completion limits.

RELATED INFORMATION

Refer to the [Medical Student Policies](#) webpage to review the following related policies:

- Competencies Required for Graduation
- Student Compliance Requirements, Years 1-4

- Leave of Absence and Withdrawal Policy
- [Flexible MD Program](#)
- Scholastic Standing Committee Policy
- Reinstatement from Withdrawal Policy
- Medical School Grades Policy
- Medical School Registration Policy
- [University of Minnesota Code of Conduct](#)

HISTORY

Approved: COSSS/SSC, April, 2021

Approved: MSSSC, January, 2022

Reviewed and Approved: MSEC, September 2023

Reviewed and Approved: MSEC, March 2024