

Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) Policy

<b>Title: Impact of Course Failure on Academic Progression</b>			
<i>Origination</i> Date: 11/15/2012	<i>Last Amended</i> Date: 6/20/2019; 11/09/2018	<i>Next Scheduled Review</i> Date: 6/20/2023	<i>Policy Reaffirmed</i> Date:
Purpose:	Effective performance as a physician demands a high standard of achievement sustained over time. Repeated demonstration of an inability to meet minimum passing standards for acceptable performance by a medical student is cause for concern, and it is incumbent upon the Long School of Medicine (Long SOM) to have a process in place to review such students for their suitability to continue on the path to a medical degree.		
Definitions:	<p><b><u>Failed course</u></b> - student failed to meet minimum passing standards at the conclusion of coursework*. This definition applies regardless of whether the student successfully remediates the component(s) that led to the failure.</p> <p><b><u>*Conclusion of course/coursework:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In modules, this refers to the point at which a student has completed and received scores from all graded components of the module as listed in the module grading policy.</li> <li>In clerkships, this refers to the point at which a student has completed and received scores from all graded components of the clerkship. For the NBME Subject Exam component, this may derive from a second attempt of the exam in accordance with the Clerkship Grade Composition Policy.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Academic phases</u></b> - Preclinical Phase, Clinical Phase.</p> <p><b><u>Longitudinal courses</u></b> - coursework that occurs over more than one academic year.</p> <p><b><u>Academic Year</u></b> – typically refers to the period of a year, usually starting July 1<sup>st</sup> and concluding June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following year. There may be slight variations based on student's year (1-4) in the Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree program.</p> <p><b><u>LCME Element 10.3 Policies Regarding Student Selection/Progress and their Dissemination</u></b> - 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.</p>		
Policy:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any student who fails to meet minimum passing standards in a preclinical module, clerkship, mandatory clinical or didactic course, or elective is subject to review under this policy.</li> <li>Students who fail to meet minimum passing standards at the conclusion of any Long SOM course are subject to review of their performance in previous coursework. Failure to meet minimum passing standards in more than one course between the time of matriculation and graduation may result in requiring the student to repeat a portion of the curriculum or may result in dismissal.</li> </ul>		
Process:	<p>Guidelines for action to be taken in the event of failed course(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b><u>Failed Course in the Preclinical Phase*</u></b>: A student's first occurrence within one academic year of a failure to meet minimum passing standards in one or more component/benchmark of a course grade will result in the student having one opportunity to demonstrate</li> </ul>		

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competency/meet the benchmark(s) before a final grade is issued. The final grade will be determined by the outcome of the remediation, according to the *Pre-Clinical Grade Composition Policy (Classes of 2022 and beyond)*.

*\*Applies to students who matriculate in 2018 and later and plan to graduate in 2022 or later.*

- Unsuccessful Remediation of Failure to Meet Minimum Passing Standards: A student who fails a course and does not meet passing standards on the remediation plan (as determined by this policy and by *Remediation Framework in Preclinical Modules* policy) will be presented to the Student Progression and Promotion Committee (SPPC).
  - Failure to successfully remediate a preclinical module will result in the student repeating all modules of that year.
  - Failure to successfully remediate a core clerkship will result in the student repeating that clerkship in its entirety.
- More than One Failed Course Within an Academic Phase:
  - A student who fails to meet minimum passing requirements in more than one course in Year 1 will repeat all courses within Year 1.
  - Excluding longitudinal courses, a student who fails to meet minimum passing requirements in more than one course in Year 2 will repeat all courses within Year 2. This would include the portions of longitudinal courses that take place in Year 2.
  - In Year 2, a student who fails to meet minimum passing standards in both a longitudinal course and a single non-longitudinal course will be required to successfully remediate each course in order to progress to the Clinical Phase. Such a student would not be required to repeat Year 1 and/or Year 2.
  - In the Clinical Phase:
    - A student who fails to meet the minimum passing standard on the NBME Subject exam(s) for no more than two clerkship(s) will be allowed to remediate the failing performances(s) by repeat examination(s), under the restrictions set by the *Clerkship Grade Composition* policy. This applies only when the NBME performance is the only component of the grade in which the student failed to meet the minimum passing standard.
    - A student who fails more than two clerkships based solely on failing to meet the minimum passing standard on the NBME Clinical Subject exams for those clerkships meets criteria for dismissal.
    - A student who fails more than one clerkship or elective based entirely or in part on performance in the clinical or professionalism portion of the grade meets criteria for dismissal.
- More than Two Failures: A student who has three failed courses (by the definition in this policy) of any type between the time of matriculation and graduation meets criteria for dismissal.

No student will be allowed to participate in either the first-year curriculum or the second-year curriculum more than two times. Failing to meet benchmarks for progression to the next level of training during a second encounter with the first- or second-year curriculum meets criteria for dismissal.

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Students who are repeating an entire academic year or phase must meet established benchmarks for promotion to the next academic year or phase wholly within the repeated academic year or phase. Prior passing grades from the initial unsuccessful academic year or phase will not carry forward. In this situation, any failure of a previously passed course will count as a failed course and be subject to this policy.

- **Second Failure of a Previously Failed Module, Course, or Clerkship:** A student who is repeating a preclinical module, elective course, or core clerkship due to previous failure of that same module, course, or clerkship, and who fails a second time, meets criteria for dismissal.

*Approval Body: Long School of Medicine, Curriculum Committee*

### **CERTIFIED BY:**

#### **Curriculum Committee Chair**

*Name: Kevin Schindler, MD*

*Title: Associate Professor, Medicine*

### **ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO:**

#### **Responsible Officer**

*Name: Florence Eddins-Folensbee, MD*

*Title: Vice Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education*

#### **Responsible Executive**

*Name: Robert Hromas, MD, FACP*

*Title: Dean/Vice President for Medical Affairs, Long School of Medicine*

### **References to regulations and/or other related policies:**

- **LCME Standards/Elements:**
  - 10.3 Policies Regarding Student Selection/Progress and Their Dissemination
- **Other Relevant Policies/Guidelines/Procedures/Forms:**
  - Pre-Clinical Grade Composition Policy
  - Remediation Framework in Preclinical Modules
  - General Academic Progression and Professionalism Requirements for Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) Degree Program
  - Graduation Requirements for the Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) Degree