



Policy on Dismissal from the College of Medicine

Policy #

1-103b

Category:	1-Grading and Progression
Curriculum Phase:	All Phases
Author/Authoring Body:	Curricular and Student Affairs
Responsible Unit:	Student Affairs
Policy Contact:	Student Affairs Dean Office
Next Review Year:	2025

Summary

This policy establishes conditions that, if met, will subject a medical student to academic dismissal from the Doctor of Medicine degree program, including but not limited to failure to progress through the curriculum, failure to meet academic or programmatic requirements, failure to satisfy the professionalism component of an academic course, or failure to adhere to the Grading and Progression Policy.

This policy further establishes conditions that, if met, will subject a medical student to conduct dismissal from the Doctor of Medicine Degree program, including Honor Code violations, lack of academic integrity, unprofessional behavior in extracurricular activities or interactions, violations of clinical site policies (including HIPAA), or other violations of the Arizona Board of Regents (ABOR) Student Code of Conduct.

Applicability & Scope

This policy applies to medical students across all phases of the curriculum.

This policy is effective for the Class of 2026 and prior classes.

Policy Statement

I. Academic Dismissal

- A. A student who meets any of the following conditions will be subject to academic dismissal from the Doctor of Medicine degree program:
 - 1) **The student fails the same course twice.** This includes any course in the curriculum, including blocks, longitudinal, clerkships, electives, and intersession courses.
 - 2) **The student fails two different clerkships, electives, or intersession courses.**
 - 3) **The student fails three different preclerkship blocks.**

- 4) **The student fails to take the USMLE Step 1 when required, stopping progress in the curriculum without approval.**
 - 5) **The student fails to timely pass USMLE Step 1.** The student has not passed the USMLE Step 1 within 1 calendar year (12 months) after the date of their first attempt.
 - 6) **The student fails to timely pass USMLE Step 2 CK.** The student has not passed the USMLE Step 2 CK within 1 calendar year (12 months) after the date of their first attempt.
 - 7) **The student fails to progress through the curriculum.** The Vice Dean for Education may dismiss a student for failure to progress through the curriculum, failure to meet academic or programmatic requirements, failure to satisfy the professionalism component of an academic course, or failure to adhere to the Grading and Progression Policy.
 - 8) **The student fails to academically progress within the required timeframes.** All students must satisfactorily complete the Preclerkship Phase of the M.D. degree and take the USMLE Step 1 within 3 years of the date of matriculation. A student will be deemed to have completed the Preclerkship Phase upon an initial attempt at the USMLE Step 1. Progress in the clerkships may halt if a student fails to pass the USMLE Step 1. All M.D. degree students must satisfactorily complete all graduation requirements 6 years from the original date of matriculation. All time limits are inclusive of a repeat of an academic year, and retakes or remediation of any course, exam, or other requirement but exclusive of leaves of absence.
 - a) **Exception to section 7(a).** Dual-degree students in a College of Medicine – Tucson MD-PhD or MD-MPH program may exceed the 6-year limit to satisfy the requirements for the M.D. degree stated in section 7(a), above. However, dual degree students must satisfactorily complete the Preclerkship Phase of the M.D. degree and take the USMLE Step 1 within 3 years of the date of matriculation and must satisfactorily complete all clerkships and transition to residency clinical experiences and electives and pass USMLE Step 2 CK within 3 years of beginning clerkships.
 - 9) **The student is not enrolled, on an approved leave of absence, or on an approved academic delay.** At all times, all students must be continuously enrolled in the M.D. or dual-degree program curriculum, on an approved leave of absence, or on an approved academic delay. Failure to enroll, obtain a leave of absence, or obtain approval for an academic delay for a period of 3 months will result in academic dismissal. Failure to meet the conditions to return from a leave of absence, including absences for failure to meet the technical standards, will result in an academic dismissal.
 - 10) **The student refuses a Technical Standards Evaluation.** A student who refuses a Technical Standards evaluation will not be permitted to continue in the curriculum and will be academically dismissed from the College of Medicine – Tucson.
- B. A student who is subject to academic dismissal will be notified of this by the Office of Curricular Affairs, which will simultaneously notify the student's House Dean and the Student Progress Committee. The student may request in writing a review by the Student Progress Committee within 5 business days.

- C. If the Student Progress Committee recommends upholding the academic dismissal, the student is permitted to appeal to the Student Appeals Committee, in accordance with procedure.
- D. A student who is dismissed may reapply to the College of Medicine – Tucson through the standard application process. If readmitted, the student will meet with the Student Progress Committee to determine where the student should reintegrate into the curriculum.

II. Conduct Dismissal

- A. A student who meets any of the following conditions will be subject to conduct dismissal from the Doctor of Medicine degree program:
 - 1) Honor Code violations,
 - 2) Lack of academic integrity,
 - 3) Unprofessional behavior in extracurricular activities or interactions,
 - 4) Violations of clinical site policies (including HIPAA), or
 - 5) Other violations of the Arizona Board of Regents Student Code of Conduct (ABOR Policy 5-308).

Related Information

Policies

[ABOR Policy 5-308: Student Code of Conduct](#)

[COM-T Policy 1-101: Grading and Progression Policy](#)

[COM-T Policy 1-104: Technical Standards](#)

[COM-T Policy 1-105: Technical Standards Evaluation Policy](#)

[COM-T Policy 1-106: Student Progress Committee Procedures and Process for Dismissal](#)

[COM-T Policy 1-107: Student Appeals Committee Procedures](#)

[COM-T Policy 4-101: Honor Code Policy and Committee Procedures and Process for Dismissal](#)

[University of Arizona Student Disciplinary Procedures](#)

Revision History

3/31/2023: Vice Dean for Education approved revisions to clarify conditions for academic dismissal (not on an approved academic delay; failing to progress through the curriculum) and to add conditions for conduct dismissal.

3/22/2023: Tucson Educational Policy Committee approved minor revisions to clean-up the policy and move it from the Grading and Progression Policy to a stand-alone policy under the purview of Student Affairs.

10/13/2021: Policy revised.

2/21/2018: Policy approved.