



Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

SECTION: Medical Students

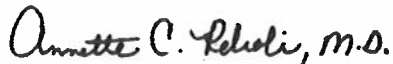
SUBJECT: Grading, Promotions, and Appeals

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INITIATED BY: Office of Medical Education

APPROVED BY:


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POLICY: Grading, Promotions, and Appeals Policy

PURPOSE:

The faculty and academic administrators of CMSRU (CMSRU, School) recognize their responsibility to maximize the probability that graduates of the School are qualified and have the maturity and emotional stability to assume the professional responsibilities implicit in the receipt of the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Therefore, they have established these policies to guide themselves and medical student colleagues in pursuing a level of academic and professional excellence required for the conferral of that degree. Specific procedures have been established to provide uniformity and equity of process in all situations requiring administrative action.

SCOPE: Candidates for the Doctor of Medicine Degree (M.D.)

DEFINITIONS:

This document deals with those students who are candidates for the MD degree.

Remediation: A defined process created by a course or clerkship director to ensure that a student who fails a course or clerkship has subsequently gained the knowledge and skills required. The process is tailored to the student and consists of activities to improve competency through reassessment.

Appeal: A petition filed by a student challenging a course or clerkship grade, a clinical assessment in the M3 year, time in program, and promotional decisions. An action in favor of a student does not imply wrongdoing by the faculty or the administration.

Promotional decisions: The Academic Standing Committee reviews students annually or on an as-needed basis to advance them in the medical education program, certify them for graduation, or consider them for dismissal.

Academic or performance improvement plan: A defined plan developed by the Office of Medical Education and/or the CMSRU Executive Deans for students whose appeal regarding a promotional decision has been upheld by the Academic Standing Committee or the Ad Hoc Committee for Student Appeals. The improvement plan is developed to ensure that a student who fails to complete the courses



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and/or clerkships in a medical education program year will have successfully completed the failed courses and/or clerkships and demonstrated competence in the knowledge or skills required to move to the next level in the medical education program. The process is tailored to the student and addresses academic or other deficiencies related to their academic or professional performance. A student may be required to meet special conditions or take an extra academic year as part of their plan. An academic improvement plan is not an adverse action and, therefore, not subject to appeal.

Final grade: A grade entered into the academic transcript at the end of a course or clerkship or at the resolution of a grade appeal.

I. RESPONSIBILITY

Implementation

1. Faculty

The faculty is responsible for implementing grading policies, regulations and procedures. For the courses or clerkships for which they are responsible, faculty members:

- a. establish standards to be met for attaining course or clerkship credit and criteria for assigning specific grades, and
- b. assign final grades for the course or clerkship within six weeks of the last day of the course or clerkship.

2. The senior associate dean for medical education

The senior associate dean for medical education administers the grading and promotion policy regulations and procedures with the support of the assistant dean for curriculum for phase 1 and the assistant dean for curriculum for phase 2, as appropriate.

3. Academic Standing Committee

The Academic Standing Committee hears student grade appeals and communicates its decision to the senior associate dean for medical education. The Committee reviews student progress and makes decisions regarding the placement on and removal from academic and non-academic probation. The Committee makes recommendations for certification of the graduating class to the departmental chairs, who review and approve on behalf of the faculty. The Committee also makes recommendations to the dean about student promotions and decisions regarding dismissal. Students have the right to appeal all promotional decisions made by the Academic Standing Committee. Committee members who have a significant relationship with a CMSRU student who is under review for a potential adverse action by the Academic Standing Committee, must recuse themselves from hearing that particular case.

4. Ad Hoc Committee for Student Appeals

The Ad Hoc Committee for Student Appeals is convened by the senior associate dean for medical education to hear appeals of promotional decisions by the Academic Standing Committee. It is composed of five members of the faculty who are not advisory college directors, members of the Academic Standing Committee, or the Curriculum Committee. This committee is advisory to the dean.

5. Executive Cabinet of Deans



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The Executive Cabinet of Deans at CMSRU are composed of all the associate and assistant deans at CMSRU. This group may develop Academic Improvement or Performance Improvement Plans for students.

II. COURSE REQUIREMENTS, SEQUENCING, AND GRADUATION

All required courses of all curricular years, including the required number of elective weeks, must be completed satisfactorily in the prescribed sequence before a student can be certified for graduation. A student may not repeat a course or clerkship more than once, and no more than three distinct academic years may be utilized to fulfill the requirements of either the first and second years (Phase 1), or the third and fourth years (Phase 2) of the curriculum. Students enrolled in the Student Scholar Year opportunity or an Independent Study are considered to be enrolled in the academic program, and this year counts as completed time in Phase 1 or 2 of the curriculum. Total time in each Phase cannot exceed four years, allowing a maximum degree completion time of eight years. This includes any time spent in a leave of absence or independent study. Students who perform scholarly work or enroll in dual degree programs (e.g., MD/PhD) may extend their MD degree total time completion limit from six distinct academic years to ten distinct academic years upon the approval of the Academic Standing Committee. Students pursuing a PhD or other combined degree programs after their 2nd year must have passed all Phase 1 courses/clerkships and taken Step I prior to starting their PhD/additional degree program.

The medical school curriculum builds on the essential knowledge and skills required for the practice of medicine and therefore certain courses/clerkships must be taken in a particular sequence. In Phase 1, the successful completion of both Molecular Basis for Medicine (MBM) and Microbiology, Immunology and Infectious Disease (MIID) is a pre-requisite for all other basic science block courses. In addition, successful completion of the Neuro-psych basic science block is a pre-requisite for the SMS basic science block. Foundations of Medical Practice, must be taken with their corresponding basic science blocks and Scholars Workshop must be taken in sequence. Students must complete and Pass Phase 1 of the curriculum, as well as take USMLE Step 1 prior to starting Phase 2. Student must complete and pass all required clinical clerkships before starting 4th year required courses. A grade of UR, U, I or W (see below) is not considered a Passing grade.

Of important note, most state licensing boards require the completion of USMLE Steps 1, 2, and 3 within a seven-year period. Step 3 is usually taken during the first or second year of postgraduate training. All students should be familiar with the medical licensing requirements for the States where they intend to practice medicine, and if a waiver of the seven-year requirement is possible.

Any requests to extend the academic program beyond the time limits noted above and for any reason, must be approved by the Academic Standing Committee. Appeals of these decisions may be made to the Ad Hoc Committee for Student Appeals.

Students returning from a Leave of Absence, Independent Study, or Student Scholar research experience of equal to or greater than one academic year, will need to document their ability to resume patient care within the CMSRU medical education curriculum. A student with significant degradation of clinical skills may need remediation prior to returning to the medical education curriculum.

The Academic Standing Committee reviews all students to ensure that all graduation requirements have been met. The graduation list is forwarded to the CMSRU Executive Council of departmental chairs for approval. Students are approved for graduation in May of their M4 (final) academic year. A student who will complete all of their degree requirements after the month of May can be awarded the M.D. degree at



a later time in limited, special circumstances and as approved by the Academic Standing Committee and the CMSRU Dean. If granted approval, students may graduate in August or December of that same calendar year as the May graduation date. In limited circumstances, students, in their final year of matriculation, may need to extend their expected date of graduation. Students will remain active in the Rowan University system up to 18 months after their expected graduation date. No medical degree will be conferred more than 18 months past the student's expected graduation date, determined in the student's fourth and final year, unless the student is on a medical leave of absence. If the student does not meet all requirements for graduation within this 18 month period, the student will no longer be eligible to receive the CMSRU Medical Degree (M.D.) (See the CMSRU Graduation Policy).

III. ASSESSMENT AND STANDING OF STUDENTS

A. Grading

All courses or clerkships, whether required or elective, and all research experiences specifically approved as part of an individual student's curriculum must be graded according to the grading system for Phase 1 or Phase 2. Final grades must be submitted to the registrar within six weeks of the completion of a course or clerkship. If the final grade for a course or clerkship is a UR (unsatisfactory remediable) or a U (unsatisfactory), the assistant dean for assessment and CQI in the Office of Medical Education informs the appropriate assistant curricular dean promptly by phone or email and submits that information in writing within three weeks.

1. The CMSRU Grading System

Phase 1

The grading system for Phase 1 provides two levels of credit (Pass [P] and Remediated Pass [RP]) and four levels of non-credit (Unsatisfactory [U], Unsatisfactory Remediable [UR], Incomplete [I], and Withdrawn [W]). Unsatisfactory is equivalent to failure.

Phase 2

The grading system for Phase 2 provides four levels of credit (Honors [H], High Pass [HP], Pass [P], and Remediated Pass [RP]) and four levels of non-credit (Unsatisfactory [U], Unsatisfactory Remediable [UR], Incomplete [I], and Withdrawn [W]). The grading mechanism for each course will be detailed in the syllabus of that course or clerkship.

Incomplete (I)

Grades of Incomplete are applied at the School as described below:

- A course/clerkship director, following consultation with the appropriate phase dean, may assign the grade of I to indicate that a student has been unable to complete all of the course requirements for a reason(s) beyond his/her control (e.g., death in the family, significant illness or injury, etc.).
- When the grade of I is assigned to a course/clerkship, the student must complete the course/clerkship requirement before progressing in any course that requires this course/clerkship as a prerequisite.
- Once the student has completed all course/clerkship requirements, the course/clerkship director must assign a final grade (Phase 1 = P, UR, or U, Phase 2 = H, HP, P, UR or (U) in place of the I grade. If the requirements for the incomplete course/clerkship have not been met within the appropriate final grade of U will be assigned.



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Withdrawn (W)

If the student has withdrawn from a course or clerkship, the appropriate phase dean for medical education will assign a **W** (Withdrawn) grade to the student's record.

M3 Courses/Clerkships:

Clerkship grades are based on student clinical performance and other components as noted in the individual syllabi for each clerkship, including NBME examination scores. Each clerkship defines the score ranges for each of the grades listed below.

Honors (H): is a clearly superior performance that reflects comprehensive achievement of course/clerkship objectives.

High Pass (HP): a performance well beyond minimum achievement of course/clerkship requirements.

Pass (P): a satisfactory performance that meets basic course/clerkship requirements including showing up on time, knowing your patients, and demonstrating a desire to learn.

Remediated Pass (RP): a satisfactory performance that meets basic course/clerkship requirements upon the successful completion of the remediation plan, following an unsatisfactory course grade (UR).

Unsatisfactory Remediable (UR): a temporary grade for a performance below acceptable minimum standards (grade less than 70.00) which the student has been granted the opportunity to remediate. This grade can only be replaced by either an RP or a U (see below).

Unsatisfactory (U): a final grade for student performance below acceptable minimum standards (grade less than 70.00)

- If a student repeats a curricular year, the final grade recorded on the transcript for the repeated course/ clerkship shall be the actual grade earned (**H, HP, P, or U**). The original grades earned in previous academic years remains on the transcript (including U grades).

M4 Courses/Clerkships:

The M4 courses and clerkships provides for grades of **Honors (H)**, **High Pass (HP)**, **Pass (P)**, **Unsatisfactory Remediable (UR)**, and **Unsatisfactory (U)**, except in the case of one and two-week electives which are graded as **Pass (P)**, **Unsatisfactory Remediable (UR)**, and **Unsatisfactory (U)**.

When written confirmation of a final grade for an M4 course/clerkship has not been received within seven days prior to the student's scheduled graduation date from the school, the course or clerkship director in consultation with the appropriate departmental chairperson, may assign an administrative Pass and have duly recorded on the student's academic transcript a final grade of **P**, if the student has met all requirements for that course/clerkship.

Leave of Absence Grading (M1 through M4):



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If a student takes a leave of absence, the following policies will apply regarding grading courses/clerkships at the time of the leave:

1. The student will receive a final grade for all courses/clerkships for which they have met all requirements in the course or clerkship syllabus.
2. For courses/clerkships for which the student has not completed all requirements, the student will receive one of the following grades.

Incomplete (I): Grades of incomplete are applied at CMSRU as described below:

- a) **Incomplete (I)** if the student is assigned an **I** grade to a course/clerkship, that is a pre-requisite for progression, the student must complete the course/clerkship requirement before progressing in the curriculum. The completion of the course/clerkship can not exceed one year from the completion date of the course/clerkship. If there is a compelling reason that the course/clerkship can't be completed within the timeframe above, the exception must be approved by the academic standing committee.
- b) **Unsatisfactory Remediable (UR):** If the student is assigned a **UR** grade for a course/clerkship and then begins a Leave of Absence later in the same semester, the student must complete remediation of the course/clerkship before returning to the curriculum. Any exceptions must be approved by the academic standing committee.

Withdrawn (W): Grades of **W** are applied for a course or clerkship, and remain on the student's record. The **Withdrawn (W)** will be issued if the student will not be completing the course/clerkship requirements and had not completed enough work to determine performance at the time of the leave. The **W** grade remains permanently on the transcript.

3. No "credit" will be given for completion of a partial term's work. A student who leaves in the middle of a term without completing all course/clerkship requirements will receive a **Withdrawn (W)**. The **W** grade will remain permanently on the transcript. The student will be required to repeat and complete the course starting at the beginning of the course when the student returns from leave. The course will be listed a second time on the transcript with the final grade the student earns in that course in the academic year that it is taken.

Grading for students changing to Independent Study after a semester commences:

- a) **Incomplete (I):** If the student is assigned an **I** grade to a course/clerkship, the student must complete the course/clerkship requirement before returning to the curriculum. If there is a compelling reason that the course/clerkship can't be completed, the exception must be approved by the academic standing committee.
- b) **Unsatisfactory Remediable (UR):** If the student is assigned a **UR** grade for a course/clerkship and then begins an Independent Study later in the same semester, the student must complete remediation before returning to the curriculum.
- c) **Withdrawn (W):** For courses that the student has started but has not completed, a **Withdrawn (W)** grade will be assigned. The **W** grade remains permanently on the transcript.

Narrative Assessments (M1 – M4)

When the teacher-student interaction permits, students will receive a narrative assessment as part of their evaluation in a course or clerkship. In phase 1, students will receive a formative narrative assessment at the conclusion of each course, lasting greater than or equal to four weeks. This formative narrative must be submitted to the office of medical education within 6 weeks of the conclusion of the course/clerkship. Students will receive a summative narrative assessment at the end of Phase 1. In Phase 2, students will



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receive a summative narrative assessment after all M3 clerkships, and after the required clerkships in M4. This narrative assessment of each student's performance must be submitted to the Office of Medical Education within 6 weeks of the end of the clerkship. These narrative comments will become part of the academic record and all summative narrative assessments will be included in the medical student performance evaluation (MSPE). In Phase 1, narrative assessments are written by the active learning group (ALG) and Scholar's Workshop (SW) facilitators and by the course faculty for the Foundations of Medical Practice Course and Ambulatory clerkship. M3 and M4 clerkship directors provide the narrative assessment in phase 2.

Errors in Statements of Fact in Narratives

If any student feels that there are errors of fact in their narrative, a request to have that narrative amended must be submitted through the grade appeal process within three days of receiving the final course or clerkship grade.

Mid-course and Mid-Clerkship Feedback

Interim feedback from the ALG, SW, and FMP facilitators, clinical preceptors, and/or clerkship directors made directly to the student are required during all courses and clerkships. Such interim feedback must be given at approximately the mid-point of each course or clerkship when faculty communicate to each student information concerning the student's performance to date and, as appropriate, recommendations for improvement.

B. Standing of Students

Students are placed into one of the following two categories by the Academic Standing Committee based upon their academic performance:

1. In good standing

The status of "good standing" indicates that the student is eligible to continue at CMSRU, to return to CMSRU, or to transfer elsewhere. It implies good academic progress as well as good citizenship.

2. Not in good standing

The status of "not in good standing" indicates that the student is not eligible to progress in the CMSRU medical education program due to an academic or citizenship issue. If a student is on probation they are "not in good standing" and must successfully complete the requirements to be removed from probation to be able to have their status changed to "in good standing". Students who have been dismissed from CMSRU are unable to re-enroll at CMSRU.

All decisions made by the Academic Standing Committee regarding the standing of students are final. See Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy regarding financial aid implications.

IV. THE PROMOTIONAL SYSTEM

A. Phase 1

Students are required to achieve final grades of Pass (P) or Remediated Pass (RP) in all prerequisite courses in order to progress to the subsequent courses. Students must pass all Phase 1 courses/clerkships and take the USMLE Step 1 examination prior to beginning Phase 2.



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- The passing grade for all courses in Phase 1 is 70.00 and minimal competency for all summative written and practical examinations in a course is set at a score of 60.00. Any score on a summative written or practical examination below 60.00 will result in an unsatisfactory grade (U or UR) in the course, regardless of the overall course score.
- In M1 and M2 Foundations of Medical Practice, students must pass each end-of-year OSCE domain with a score of greater than or equal to 60.00. A score below 60.00 will result in an unsatisfactory grade (U or UR), regardless of the overall course score.
- A student who receives an unsatisfactory/remediable grade in 1 or 2 courses in an academic year will be permitted the opportunity to remediate the course(s)/clerkship(s) during the remediation period.
- A student who receives an unsatisfactory grade in 3 courses in an academic year in Phase I will be reviewed by the Academic Standing Committee for probation, removal from the curriculum, repeat of the academic year, or dismissal notwithstanding their remediation. A third remediation can take place only after the Academic Standing Committee grants the student the ability to continue in the program.
- A student who chooses to repeat a year without having successfully completed all the academic requirements for that year will be placed on academic probation since he/she has not successfully remediated the courses and is choosing to repeat them.
- A student who fails to remediate an unsatisfactory grade in 1 or 2 courses/clerkships will be placed on academic probation and must repeat the course/clerkship in the subsequent year. A student may not advance to any course that requires the uncompleted courses/clerkships as a prerequisite. If the student is unsuccessful in their repeated course/clerkship, they will not be permitted to remediate the repeated course/clerkship and they will be reviewed for dismissal by the Academic Standing Committee.
- A student who receives a final grade of unsatisfactory remediable (UR) grade in 3 or more courses/clerkships within the same academic year will be reviewed by the Academic Standing Committee for dismissal. This is notwithstanding any successful remediation of the courses or clerkships in which a UR grade was awarded.
- If a student is found to have been absent from a mandatory session and did not log/report the absence, was not approved for an absence and/or did not inform OSA and OME about their needed absence, their grade in their enrolled course or clerkship will result in an Unsuccessful Remediable (UR). A course or clerkship director cannot overturn this grade. The student will need to meet with the Assistant Dean of Phase 1 to discuss remediation plans. In addition, a Professionalism Form will also be submitted for an unexcused absence.
- A student with an identified area of concern about their professionalism in their course narratives may be referred to the director of professionalism for review and action, which may include non-academic or academic probation and/or review for dismissal.

Phase 1	
Event	Outcome
UR in 1 or 2 courses/clerkships	Remediate the failures, if unsuccessful, placed on academic probation and repeat the non-remediated courses. If unsuccessful in any of the repeated courses/clerkships, remediation is not permitted. The student is reviewed for dismissal by the academic standing committee.



UR in 3 courses/clerkships	All students with UR in 3 courses/clerkships are reviewed by the Academic Standing Committee for consideration of remediation, removal from the curriculum, probation and/or dismissal, notwithstanding remediation. Remediation of a third course failure can take place only after the Academic Standing Committee grants the student the ability to continue in the program. Students receiving subsequent failing grades, will be reviewed for dismissal after grades are finalized and any applicable grade appeals have been completed.
UR in 3 or more exams in Molecular Basis for Medicine and Microbiology/Immunology/Infectious Disease	The student may not progress in the basic science block curriculum until the courses are remediated.. They are placed on academic probation pending a successful outcome. If the student is unsuccessful in their remediation, they must repeat the course(s). If unsuccessful in their repeated course(s), they will be reviewed for dismissal.

B. Phase 2

- Students are required to pass all courses and clerkships in Year 3 to be promoted to Year 4 and take the USMLE Step 2 CK examination.
- In the M3 year, a student must successfully complete all assessment components of his/her course and clerkship requirements. A student who needs to remediate assessment components for courses or clerkships during the M3 year must do so before starting the 4th year. Remediation may delay the start of the M4 year and therefore may delay graduation. A student who needs to remediate any portion of an M3 course or clerkship can only receive a final grade of Remediated Pass (RP) in those courses or clerkships. A student who fails to remediate a course/clerkship will be placed on academic probation, must repeat the course/clerkship, and cannot advance in the curriculum. If the student is unsuccessful in their repeated course/clerkship, they will not be permitted to remediate the repeated course/clerkship and they will be reviewed for dismissal by the Academic Standing Committee.
 - In the M3 year, minimal competency for all clerkship NBME Subject examinations is set at 2 standard deviations below the national mean for the most recent published national means for each of the subject examinations. Any score below the posted pass score will result in an unsatisfactory grade (U or UR) in the clerkship regardless of the overall clerkship score.
 - In the M3 year, minimal competency for all clerkship summative clinical assessments is set as the mean score for all competency domains at greater than or equal to 2. Any mean score below 2 will result in an unsatisfactory grade (U or UR) in the clerkship regardless of the overall clerkship score.
 - In the M3 summative OSCE, students must pass each OSCE domain with a score of greater than or equal to 60.00.



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- Students are required to pass all M4 clerkships and electives, USMLE Step 2 CK, and satisfactorily complete their Scholar’s Workshop capstone project to be eligible for graduation.
- A student who receives a final grade of UR in three M3 courses or clerkships or three M4 courses or clerkships in an academic year will be reviewed by the Academic Standing Committee for dismissal. They will be permitted to remediate up to two of the unsatisfactory courses or clerkships before being reviewed for dismissal by the Academic Standing Committee, notwithstanding their remediation.
- A student with an identified area of concern in their clerkship narrative assessments may be referred to the director of professionalism for review and action, which may include academic or non-academic probation and/or review for dismissal.
- **Unexcused absences in the M3, PC3, and M4 year are unacceptable.** If a student is found to be absent from their educational activities and did not log/report the absence, was not approved for the absence and/or did not inform OSA and OME about their needed absence, their grade in their enrolled clerkship will immediately result in an Unsuccessful Remediabale (UR). A course or clerkship director cannot overturn this grade. The student will need to meet with the Assistant Dean of Phase 2 to discuss remediation plans. In addition, a Professionalism Form will be submitted for the unexcused absence.

Phase 2	
Event	Outcome
Fail 1 or 2 M3 course/elective/clerkship	Remediate the failed course(s), elective(s), or clerkship(s), if unsuccessful, placed on academic probation and repeat the course/elective/clerkship. If unsuccessful in the repeated course/elective/clerkship, remediation is not permitted. The student is reviewed for dismissal by the academic standing committee.
Fail 3 M3 courses/electives/clerkships	Repeat entire M3 year and placed on academic probation. Students will be allowed to complete Scholar’s Workshop and Ambulatory Clinic so that they do not have to remediate those two courses when repeating the M3 Year. If unsuccessful in any of the repeated courses/electives/clerkships, remediation is not permitted. The student is reviewed for dismissal by the academic standing committee.
Fail 1 M4 course/elective/clerkship	Immediately stop progression in the M4 year. Remediate the failed course, elective, or clerkship, if unsuccessful, placed on academic probation and repeat the course/elective/clerkship. If unsuccessful in the repeated course/elective/clerkship, remediation is not permitted. The student is reviewed for dismissal by the academic standing committee.



Fail 2nd M4 courses/electives/clerkships	Immediately stop progression in the M4 year. Remediate the failed course, elective, or clerkship, if unsuccessful, placed on academic probation and repeat the course/elective/clerkship. If unsuccessful in the repeated course/elective/clerkship, remediation is not permitted. The student is reviewed for dismissal by the academic standing committee.
Fail 3rd M4 courses/electives/clerkships	Review for dismissal. All students are reviewed immediately upon receipt of the third unsatisfactory grade. Students may remediate no more than 2 of the failed courses/clerkships. Review for dismissal is notwithstanding remediation.

C. USMLE Examinations:

- All students studying for the MD degree at CMSRU are required to pass Step 1 and Step 2 CK of the U.S. Medical Licensure Examination (USMLE) as a condition of continued matriculation and of graduation.
 - Step 1 shall be taken prior to beginning Phase 2 of the medical school curriculum and no later than the Sunday before the beginning of the M3 year orientation. There will be no extensions of this deadline.
 - Students must successfully complete all academic requirements of Phase 1 before they will be permitted to take the Step 1 examination and enter Phase 2. Students will receive a conditional permit to register for the Step 1 examination in October of the M2 year.
 - Rising M2 students are conditionally promoted to Phase 1 M3 pending the results of the Step 1 Examination.
 - M2 students who do not matriculate to the M3 year, for any reason (eg, students who are on Independent Study and/or Leave of Absence before taking or re-taking Step 1) are required to take the Step 1 examination prior to April 15th of the year they will matriculate to the M3 year.
 - Step 2 CK (Clinical Knowledge) shall be taken no later than August 1st of the calendar year in which medical students are enrolled in Year 4 of the medical school curriculum. If a student has to miss M3 Block 1, their deadline will be moved to August 15th. There will be no exceptions of these deadlines.
- A student who fails to pass Step 1 on the initial attempt will have two choices:
 1. Complete the first block of the M3 year. The student will then enter a temporary Step 1 Prolonged Absence for up to 6 weeks in Block 2 of the M3 year and develop a Step 1 remediation plan approved by the Assistant Dean for Curriculum - Phase 2 which must be completed during block 2 of the M3 year.
 - Take Step 1 again within 40 days after completing the first block of the M3 year.



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- Resume the third-year program following the remediation time by entering the next block in the M3 curriculum.
- Completion of the M3 year will require an extension of time (a minimum of four weeks) to complete all requirements, thus delaying the start of the fourth year.
- 2. At their request, students may choose to take an Independent Study or a leave of absence for the remainder of the M3 year and begin the M3 year with the subsequent class. Step 1 must be taken by March 1st prior to the return to the M3 curriculum.
- A student who fails to pass Step 1 on his/her second attempt shall:
 - Stop all activities in the M3 year and be placed on academic probation by the Academic Standing Committee.
 - Be automatically registered in an independent study program or take a leave of absence. The independent study program will be monitored by the Office of Medical Education.
 - Take Step 1 for the third time no later than May 1st of the original third academic year.
 - If the student successfully completes the Step 1 examination, the student may reenter the medical education program.
- A student whose M3 year may have been extended for the above reasons and has met all requirements of the Year 3 program may begin his/ her Year 4 program. The student will have the option of starting the M4 curriculum late, or choosing a leave of absence or independent study and re-entering the Year 4 program with the subsequent class. The amount of time extended into the M4 year may have an impact on a student's ability to graduate on-time.

A student who fails the Step 1 examination a third time shall be reviewed for dismissal by the Academic Standing Committee.

- A student who does not take Step 2 CK by August 1st of the fourth year (or August 15th if had to miss M3 Block 1) shall not be permitted to continue clinical rotations until he/she takes the Step 2 examination(s).
- A student who fails to pass Step 2 CK shall:
 - Take Step 2 CK prior to January 30th in their M4 academic year.
 - Complete the fourth-year curriculum.
- A student who fails to pass Step 2 CK for the second time can continue in the M4 year and will be placed on academic probation by the Academic Standing Committee. They must:
 - Take Step 2 CK for the third time, no later than March 15th and receive a passing score in time to graduate with their current class. A passing score for Step 2 CK must be reported to the Office of Medical Education no later than one week prior to graduation in order for the student to be awarded a diploma with his/her class.
 - The student may choose to take a Leave of Absence or an Independent Study to finish out the current academic year. They must take Step 2 CK by May 31st in order to move to the next academic year and finish with the next academic class. A passing score must be received by July 1st in order to continue their academic program. If needed, the student



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may be registered for an M4 independent study program at some point in the new M4 academic year, to allow for a potential May graduation date of the next year.

- A student who fails the Step 2 CK examination three times shall be reviewed for dismissal by the Academic Standing Committee.

D. Promotional Decisions

The Academic Standing Committee is responsible for assessing the overall academic performance of each student and the decision for promotion.

For issues related to professionalism within the curriculum, a student's case is referred to the director of professionalism by the associate dean for professional development. The student is entitled to a meeting with the director of professionalism prior to his/her rendering a decision about the case. The director of professionalism determines if the case should be referred to the Academic Standing Committee for review and possible promotional decision.

Remediation of a Failing Performance

Phase 1 Remediation:

Only one attempt is permitted to remediate by reexamination or other course assessment a UR grade in any course/clerkship. Remediation examinations are subject to minimal competency scores of greater than or equal to 60.00 in addition to a remediated overall score of 70.00. The final remediation plan and assessments are at the discretion of the course/clerkship directors. Students who fail remediation cannot progress in the curriculum, cannot take the USMLE Step 1 examination, and must repeat the course or clerkship in the following academic year. Students who are unsuccessful in their remediation attempts will be placed on academic probation until they have successfully repeated the failed courses or clerkships. If unsuccessful in their repeated course or clerkship in Phase 1 of the curriculum, the student will be reviewed by the Academic Standing Committee for dismissal.

Phase 2 Remediation:

Remediation for courses and clerkships in the M3 and M4 year occurs on a case by case basis. within 21 days of the posting of the final grade.

- Only one attempt is permitted to remediate by reexamination or other course assessment a UR grade in any assessment component in the M3 or M4 year. The highest grade a student can earn with successful remediation in any M3 or M4 course or clerkship is a remediated/pass (RP). A student who is unsuccessful in remediation will be placed on Academic Probation, cannot take the USMLE Step 2 CK examination, and must repeat the course/clerkship as soon as possible. If the student is successful, they will be removed from Academic Probation and proceed in the curriculum. If unsuccessful, the student will be reviewed by the Academic Standing Committee for dismissal. Remediation is not permitted for second course/elective/clerkship failures.
- A student who fails three courses, electives, and/or clerkships in the M3 year will be placed on Academic Probation and must repeat the entire M3 year. If the student is successful, they will be removed from Academic Probation and enter the medical education program for the M4 year. If the student fails one or more courses or clerkships in the repeated year, the



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student will be reviewed by the Academic Standing Committee for dismissal. Remediation is not permitted for second course/elective/clerkship failures.

- A student who fails three courses, electives, and/or clerkships in the M4 year will reviewed by the Academic Standing Committee for dismissal. All students are reviewed immediately upon receipt of the third unsatisfactory grade. Students may remediate no more than 2 of the failed courses/clerkships. Review for dismissal is notwithstanding remediation.

Remediation Process:

Students will follow a plan developed for course/clerkship/elective remediation by the course director(s)/clerkship director(s). The plan will be developed, regardless of the student's intent to appeal the final grade, within fourteen (14) days of student notification of unsuccessful performance in a course/clerkship/elective, except in the last course, elective, or block in an academic year when the plan is developed within 3 days. The course/clerkship/elective director(s) will:

1. Within seven (7) days of notification of unsuccessful performance, meet with the student to help identify obstacles to achieving satisfactory performance
2. Meet with course/clerkship/elective faculty, as necessary, to discuss the student's learning needs and plan remedial experiences
3. Work with the Phase 1 or Phase 2 assistant dean to create a written plan for remediation, including:
 - a. goals
 - b. method(s) of study/practice
 - c. duration of the program
 - d. frequency of meetings between the student and designated faculty or course/clerkship director
 - e. planned assessments
4. Share the proposed program with the assistant dean for assessment and CQI for review and written approval. In the event the student is in Year 3, the M3 director will be required to review and approve the plan. For students in Year 4, the M4 director will be required to review and approve the plan.
5. Review the plan with the student within one week of the original meeting.
6. Present the student with the written plan, which will be signed by the student.
7. If the student successfully remediates, the grade is changed from a UR to an RP.
8. If the student fails to remediate, the grade is converted to a U and the student is referred to the Academic Standing Committee for promotional review.

V. PROBATION

A. Academic

A student shall be placed on academic probation by the Academic Standing Committee:

- when the student has unsuccessfully completed the remediation process for a course/clerkship and/or is required to repeat a course /clerkship due to unsatisfactory academic performance;
- when a student is repeating an academic year; or



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- When a student fails a USMLE Step 1 or Step 2 CK examination for the second time.
- See Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) Policy regarding financial aid implications.

A student shall be removed from academic probation by the Academic Standing Committee:

- when the student has successfully completed a repeated course/clerkship due to unsatisfactory academic performance;
- when a student has successfully completed all courses and clerkships in a repeated academic year; or
- when a student passes a USMLE Step 1 or Step 2 CK examination on the third attempt.

All decisions made by the Academic Standing Committee regarding the academic status of students are final.

A student who is on probation in either Phase 1 or Phase 2 of the curriculum and fails a course or clerkship for the second time shall be reviewed by the Academic Standing Committee for dismissal.

B. Non-Academic

Professionalism is a core competency of the CMSRU curriculum. All matters related to professionalism within the curriculum are reviewed by the director of professionalism. When, in narrative comments evaluating a student, or any other formal communication such as a Professionalism Intervention Report, faculty members express concern about a student's professionalism, the director of professionalism may, after discussion with the faculty, and/or course/clerkship director, and/or the associate dean for professional development, the senior associate dean for medical education, and/or the assistant dean for student affairs, refer the student to the Academic Standing Committee for review. If the Academic Standing Committee places a student on non-academic probation, the chair of the Academic Standing Committee will forward the decision to the director of professionalism. The Executive Cabinet of Deans at CMSRU will provide the conditions for removal from non-academic probation. The director of professionalism will notify the student of their status and will state in writing the specific duration and conditions of the probationary status. The director of professionalism is responsible for monitoring the student's adherence to the conditions of the probation. The director of professionalism will inform the Academic Standing Committee of the student's progress. If a student completes the requirements of their probation, they will be removed from probationary status and informed in writing by the Academic Standing Committee. If a student does not complete the requirements of their probation, they will be reviewed for dismissal by the Academic Standing Committee. All decisions made by the Academic Standing Committee regarding the academic status of students are final.

Students who are currently on academic probation, and are subsequently reviewed for and placed on non-academic probation, or vice versa, will be reviewed for dismissal.

VI. GRADE APPEALS*

A grade appeal may be made only on the basis of a **Procedural Irregularity**: a documented error in, or divergence from, the prescribed or customary process of evaluating and grading students. Appeals will be acted upon favorably only when real, clear and convincing evidence of a procedural irregularity. Testing conditions that are not identical to prior testing conditions are not necessarily a



procedural irregularity. The student should include all relevant information in the first level of the appeal, as this will constitute the basis for the appeal from the course or clerkship director through the Academic Standing Committee. The basis of the appeal cannot be modified once the appeal is submitted.

Extenuating circumstances will not be accepted as the basis for a grade appeal. Extenuating circumstances may represent the basis for a postponement of an assessment event. Students must present evidence for extenuating circumstances related to course or clerkship assessments to the Chief Student Affairs Officer before an assessment event. Excuses will not be accepted after the assessment event and are not considered procedural irregularities associated with the course or clerkship requirements or assessment activities.

Students may begin remediation during a grade appeals process for courses or clerkships with unsatisfactory grades and not involved in the appeal. A student who receives a final grade of UR in three courses or clerkships in an academic year in Phase 1 will be reviewed by the Academic Standing Committee for dismissal. A student who receives a final grade of UR in four M3 courses or clerkships or three M4 courses or clerkships in an academic year will be reviewed by the Academic Standing Committee for dismissal. This is notwithstanding any successful remediation of the courses or clerkships in which a UR grade was awarded.

Appealing a Course or Clerkship Assessment or Grade

1. Appeal to the Course/Clerkship Director

A student who believes that there is a procedural irregularity with his/her course/clerkship grade including course and clerkship data (e.g., examination performance or narrative assessments) must first appeal the grade to the course/clerkship directors within three (3) working days of having been notified of the grade. The student submits the Grade Appeal Form to the course/clerkship directors with a copy to the Office of Medical Education administrative assistant. The Office of Medical Education administrative assistant monitors and documents the process so that all steps in the appeal process are followed correctly. The course/clerkship directors, in consultation with the course/clerkship teaching faculty, will review the grade appeal and notify the Office of Medical Education administrative assistant of the decision within five (5) working days of the appeal. The Office of Medical Education will then notify the student of the appeal outcome.

2. Appeal to the Office of Medical Education

If the student believes that the decision reached by the course/clerkship directors is unjustified, s/he may appeal that decision, in writing, to the director of medical education in the Office of Medical Education. The written appeal must be made within three (3) working days of receiving notice upholding the original grade from the course/clerkship directors. The administrative assistant in the Office of Medical Education monitors and documents this process. The director of medical education in the Office of Medical Education reviews the appeal and offers a decision within five (5) working days. If the director of medical education in the Office of Medical Education upholds the grade as recorded by the faculty, the student may then appeal the grade to the Academic Standing Committee.



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3. Appeal to the Academic Standing Committee

If the student is dissatisfied with the decision reached by the director of medical education in the Office of Medical Education, they may appeal that decision, in writing, to the Academic Standing Committee. The written appeal must be made within three (3) working days of receiving notice upholding the original grade and is monitored and documented by the Office of Medical Education administrative assistant. The Academic Standing Committee reviews the appeal and offers a decision within seven (7) working days. The decision of the Academic Standing Committee is final. The decision is communicated to the student, the course/clerkship directors, and the Office of Medical Education by the Academic Standing Committee. The course/clerkship directors implement the decision of the Academic Standing Committee.

4. **Actions:** An action in favor of a student does not imply wrongdoing by the course or clerkship directors, faculty, or the administration.

VII. PROMOTIONAL APPEALS

Appealing Promotional Decisions

All information pertaining to a student's academic promotion and professional attributes, including that contained in departmental files, may be utilized in the appeals processes described below. Appeals may be based upon procedural irregularity or extenuating circumstances. **Extenuating Circumstances** are severe and documented situations which were beyond the student's control and which prevented the student from performing in a manner truly reflective of his/her knowledge and skills.

Students may begin remediation during a promotional appeals process for up to two courses/clerkships. A student who receives a final grade of UR in three courses or clerkships in Phase 1, or UR in four courses or clerkships in M3, or three courses or clerkships in M4 during an academic year will be reviewed by the Academic Standing Committee for dismissal. This is notwithstanding any successful remediation of the courses or clerkships in which a UR grade was awarded.

1. Academic Performance Appeals to the Ad Hoc Committee for Student Appeals

Process of Appeal

- A student may appeal the promotional decision of the Academic Standing Committee by requesting that the senior associate dean for medical education or his/her designee convene an Ad Hoc Committee for Student Appeals within 10 working days of the notice from the Academic Standing Committee decision. The appeal is made through the senior associate dean for medical education in the Office of Medical Education. The process is monitored and documented by the administrative assistant in the Office of Medical Education.
- The senior associate dean for medical education or designee convenes an Ad Hoc Committee for Student Appeals that shall be composed of five members of the faculty who are not advisory college directors, members of the Academic Standing Committee, or the Curriculum Committee. Potential members are queried by the senior associate dean



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for medical education regarding conflicts of interest. The chair will be elected from among the Ad Hoc Committee for Student Appeals committee members.

- The Ad Hoc Committee for Student Appeals shall hear the appeal and provide a decision within fifteen (15) working days of receiving written notice of intent to appeal.
- The student shall be given at least 72 hours' notice of the time and place of the committee's hearing. The student may provide a written and/or an oral statement to the committee at the hearing.
- At the discretion of the student making the appeal, one individual may accompany him/her to the hearing in the capacity of advisor and/or advocate. The advisor/advocate has no voice in the appeal process. All other advocacy efforts must be in the form of written communications to the committee, and must be received by the committee no later than 48 hours preceding the time scheduled for the start of the appeals hearing.
- The decision of the ad hoc committee shall be communicated orally and in writing to the dean or designee and will be final. The dean shall communicate this final decision to the student.
- If the appeal is successful, an Academic Improvement Plan to address the student's academic deficiencies will be developed by the Executive Cabinet of Deans. This academic plan is not appealable and may include a repeat of all courses/clerkships in the academic year including courses/clerkships where foundational knowledge is deemed poor even if there was a passing grade.
- An action in favor of a student does not imply wrongdoing by the faculty or the administration.

2. Non-academic Performance Appeals to the Ad Hoc Committee for Student Appeals

Promotional decisions based solely on non-academic issues related to professionalism, when other competencies within the curriculum are not an issue, are made by the Academic Standing Committee. A student may appeal the decision of the Academic Standing Committee for reasons of procedural irregularity or extenuating circumstances.

Process of Appeal

- A student may appeal the non-academic performance promotional decision of the Academic Standing Committee by requesting that the senior associate dean for medical education or designee convene an Ad Hoc Committee for Student Appeals within 10 working days of the notice from the Academic Standing Committee decision. The appeal is made through the associate dean for medical education in the Office of Medical Education. The process is monitored and documented by the Office of Medical Education administrative assistant.
- The senior associate dean for medical education or designee convenes an Ad Hoc Committee for Student Appeals that shall be comprised of five members of the faculty who are not advisory college directors, members of the Academic Standing Committee, or the Curriculum Committee. Potential members are queried by the associate dean for medical education regarding conflicts of interest. The chair will be elected from among the Ad Hoc Committee for Student Appeals committee members.
- The Ad Hoc Committee for Student Appeals shall hear the appeal and provide a decision within fifteen (15) working days of receiving written notice of intent to appeal.
- The student shall be given at least 72 hours' notice of the time and place of the committee's hearing. The student may provide a written and/or an oral statement to the committee at the hearing.



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- At the discretion of the student making the appeal, one individual may accompany him/her to the hearing in the capacity of advisor and/or advocate. The advisor/advocate has no voice in the appeal process. All other advocacy efforts must be in the form of written communications to the committee, and must be received by the committee not later than 48 hours preceding the time scheduled for the start of the appeals hearing.
- The decision of the ad hoc committee shall be communicated orally and in writing to the dean or designee and will be final. The dean shall communicate this final decision to the student. If the appeal is successful, a Performance Improvement Plan to address the student's professionalism deficiencies will be developed by the Executive Cabinet of Deans. The performance plan is not subject to appeal.
- An action in favor of a student does not imply wrongdoing by the faculty or the administration.

ACCELERATED THREE YEAR CURRICULUM

A student in the accelerated three-year curriculum (referred to in this section as student) may change to the four-year track if it is felt to be in the student's best interest academically or professionally.

- **COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND SEQUENCING**
 - The curriculum of this program is divided in three curricular years that must be completed in the prescribed sequence. Phase 1 comprises the M1 and M2 curricular years. Phase 2 comprises the M3 year and Sub-internship. All courses and academic requirements of a particular year must be completed satisfactorily before a student may begin any course or clerkship in the ensuing curricular year. All required courses of the curriculum, including the required number of elective weeks, must be completed satisfactorily before a student may be certified for graduation.
- **ASSESSMENT AND STANDING OF STUDENTS**
 - Identical to the applicable portions of Section III. ASSESSMENT AND STANDING OF STUDENTS
- **THE PROMOTIONAL SYSTEM**
 - Phase 1
 1. Identical to Section IV.A. Phase 1 with the following conditions for mandatory conversion from the three-year curriculum to the four-year curriculum:
 - a. A student who receives an unsatisfactory grade in 2 courses in an academic year in Phase 1, regardless of successful remediation.
 - b. A student who fails to remediate an unsatisfactory grade in one course/clerkship
 - c. A student who chooses to repeat a year without having successfully completed all the academic requirements for that year
 - d. A student who decides not to pursue their specialty track in PC3
 - Phase 2
 1. Identical to Section IV.B. Phase 2 with the following conditions for mandatory conversion from the three-year curriculum to the four-year curriculum:



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- a. Based on NBME subject exam performance in an accelerated three-year curriculum clerkship:
 - i. A student who receives an unsatisfactory grade in 2 clerkships, or one clerkship and the Scholar's Workshop, regardless of successful remediation.
 - ii. A student who fails to remediate an unsatisfactory grade in one course/clerkship
 - b. Based on global clinical assessment in an accelerated three-year curriculum clerkship:
 - i. A student who fails one clerkship.
 - c. A student who receives an unsatisfactory grade in the sub-internship
 - d. A student who receives an average of less than 4 on any summative CLOC assessment.
 - e. A student who chooses to repeat the year without having successfully completed all the academic requirements for the year
 - i. This decision must be communicated to the Director of the PC3 Curriculum no later than January 1 of the M3 year.
 - f. A student who decides not to pursue their specialty track in PC3
 - i. This decision must be communicated to the Director of the PC3 curriculum no later than January 1st of the M3 year.
- USMLE Examinations
 1. Identical to Section IV.C. USMLE Examinations with the following special conditions:
 - a. Students must achieve a passing score in Step 1 and Step 2 CK before June 1st of the accelerated M3 year to begin residency training at the completion of the accelerated M3 year.
 - b. Step 1:
 - i. A student who fails Step 1 may be allowed one other attempt:
 1. Step 1 must be retaken before September 30th of the M3 year
 - ii. A student who fails Step 1 on the second attempt must convert from the three-year curriculum to the four-year curriculum
 1. The student will get credit for M3 courses and clerkships successfully completed
 - a. Any P grade will be converted to the H/HP/P system by interpolation with the grades of the standard M3 cohort at the end of the academic year.
 - c. Step 2:
 - i. Students must take USMLE Step 2 CK by March 1st of the M3 year



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- ii. Students who fail Step 2 must convert from the three-year curriculum to the standard four-year curriculum.

The student

1. will get credit for the M3 courses and clerkships successfully completed
 - a. Any P grade will be converted to the H/HP/P system by interpolation with the grades of the standard M3 cohort at the end of the academic year.
2. will enroll in the M4 year in the following academic year
3. will retake the failed Step 2 component(s) no later than August 31st of the M4 year.
- 4.

- **PROMOTIONAL DECISIONS**

- Identical to Section IV.D. Promotional Decisions, except

1. Students will begin the remediation process for a failed M3 clerkship, based on NBME subject exam performance only, after PC3 Block 7, notwithstanding any ongoing appeal of the grade.
 - a. Remediation must be completed no later than March 8th.
2. A student who leaves the accelerated three-year curriculum during the M3 year, either by mandate or by choice, will get credit for the clerkships successfully completed (including the associated NBME subject examinations).
 - a. The P grade will be converted to the H/HP/P system by interpolation with the grades of the standard M3 cohort at the end of the academic year.

- **PROBATION**

- Identical to Section V. PROBATION.

- **GRADE APPEALS**

- Identical to Section VI. GRADE APPEALS.

- **PROMOTIONAL APPEALS**

- Identical to Section VII. PROMOTIONAL APPEALS.

The medical school may change the deadlines for grades, promotional appeals, and graduation requirements as necessitated by natural disasters or other events outside of the control of the medical school. During these circumstances, the medical school will ensure that changes are reviewed by the appropriate faculty committee such as Curriculum Committee and/or Academic Standing Committee.