



<b>Policy:</b> Academic Promotion, Probation and Dismissal Policy	<b>Applicability:</b> PA Sciences Program Students
<b>Policy Owner:</b> PA Sciences Program	<b>Approved By:</b> Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and Research
<b>Effective Date:</b> August 18, 2021	<b>Last Reviewed:</b> November 3, 2021
<b>Next Review:</b> November 3, 2022	<b>Contact:</b> (615)321-2933

**PURPOSE:** To inform Meharry Medical College (MMC) Physician Assistant Sciences (PAS) Program students of the policy on Academic Promotion, Probation and Dismissal from the program.

**POLICY:**

**Academic Progression (A3.15b):**

Progression into the Clinical Phase of the MMC PAS Program requires that students have met all of the following requirements:

- Cumulative GPA (Grade Point Average) of 3.0 or greater
- Completion of the end of didactic phase PACKRAT exam
- Passing performance on assessing history, physical and clinical skills via a practical exam (OSCE)
- Compliance with student code of conduct, including professionalism
- Maintain a current health insurance policy (Any student who does not maintain a current health insurance policy during the Clinical Phase will be removed from clinical rotations until compliance has been established.)
- Provide proof of up-to-date status of all required immunizations and a negative PPD (or chest radiograph for conversions)
- Maintain a clear criminal background check
- Test negative on drug screening as required by clinical rotation site(s)
- Provide the Program and Clinical Education team with up-to-date personal and emergency contact information
- Completion of any additional clinical rotation site requirements (credentialing process)

Any student who does not complete the didactic phase of the program in good academic standing will be required to remediate before progressing to the clinical phase.

To qualify for graduation from the MMC PAS Program and be eligible to confer a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies degree, students must complete the entire PA curriculum and fulfill the following requirements:

- Completion of all MMC PAS courses with a minimum of a letter grade of "C" or above



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- Satisfactory completion of all PAS program courses with a minimum GPA of 3.0 or greater
- Successful complete of all clinical phase courses
- Successfully pass all summative assessments
- Compliance with all institutional and program policies and procedures
- Settlement of all financial obligations to the institution
- Completion of all graduation clearance requirements as instructed by the Registrar

Only students who have completed all the above requirements by April 30th will receive a diploma with the published commencement date. Those completing all requirements after April 30th will receive a diploma with the date of June 30th, October 31st, or December 31st.

#### **Non-Academic Probation/Dismissal Policy:**

Any violation of published institutional or program policies pertaining to conduct unbecoming of a MMC PAS student, regardless of the student's calculated grade for a particular course, should be reported to the Student Progress and Promotion Committee.

Based on the incident(s) and associated documentation, the committee may recommend disciplinary action, including but not limited to counseling, oral reprimand, written reprimand, probation, restitution, suspension, and expulsion. The recommended actions will be provided to the student in writing, with acknowledgement of receipt and a copy placed within the student's file.

Students have a right to appeal the disciplinary action following the Institution's appeal policy and procedure.

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

Academic Progression – satisfactory completion of all or sufficient subjects to enable a student to progress towards completion of an accredited program.

Academic Probation – is a status given to students who do not meet minimum academic requirements in any given term.

#### **PROCEDURE:**



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1. A student falling below a cumulative GPA of 3.0, in any given semester, may be placed on academic probation.
2. To be removed from academic probation, the student must attain a cumulative GPA at or above 3.0 within two semesters.
3. Students who earn an "F" for any final course grade may be recommended for dismissal from the program.
4. A student, who does not obtain a GPA of 3.0 or greater, by the end of the didactic year of instruction, will be recommended for dismissal from the PA program. Such dismissals shall be done in a timely fashion, but no later than three weeks after the completion of the phase.
5. The Student Evaluation and Promotion Committee makes recommendations of probation or dismissal to the Program Director.
6. The Program Director may accept or deny the recommendation and any recommendation for dismissal is forwarded to the Dean for final academic action.
7. A decision to dismiss by the Dean may be appealed to the President.