

Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Scope

Applies to all Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine (MCASOM) students and staff when determining academic progress and meeting graduation requirements.

Purpose

To establish the criteria for satisfactory academic progress and the graduation requirements for the M.D. degree.

To enable students to successfully complete training leading to the M.D. degree within four academic years.

Policy

- MCASOM students are expected to make continuous and successful academic and professional progress toward [graduation requirements](#) for the M.D. degree.
- MCASOM will monitor students' academic and professional performance through items including, and not limited to:
 - Grades recorded.
 - Academic performance assessments.
 - Timely completion of longitudinal educational requirements.
 - Non-academic performance including professionalism, timeliness, responsibility, accountability, and interpersonal communications.
 - Passage of United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1 and Step 2 CK (Clinical Knowledge) according to the [USMLE Requirements Policy](#).

Satisfactory Academic Progress

- The Student Promotion and Assessment Review Committee (SPARC) will review students' academic progress (including academic performance and timely completion of all requirements) on a biannual basis, and as needed.
- MCASOM students should complete their M.D. degree within four-years. Exceptions to the four-year requirement may occur in the following situations:
 - Up to an additional two years are permitted for a personal and/or medical leave of absence (LOAs) with approval from the Office of Student Affairs with the maximum years approved not exceeding six years.
 - Additional time for academic leave of absence(s) may be taken with authorization of the respective site Dean of Academic Affairs prior to starting in the program. The estimated time of completion is based on the time the student engages in the program and is dependent upon the expected time required for the completion of the degree advancing program.

- Time away from the curriculum is permitted for academic leave of absence, with approval from the Academic Affairs Dean according to the [External Academic Program Policy](#).

Unsatisfactory Academic Progress

- Academic or non-academic deficiencies identified in a student's performance may lead to review at SPARC, consistent with [Deficiencies and Unsatisfactory Progress Policy](#) and the [Warning, Probation, Dismissal, and Appeal Policy](#).
- Students who identify as needing additional time to meet educational requirements, which would extend training beyond four years, outside of approved LOAs must be reviewed by SPARC.
- Students that are unable to complete graduation requirements within the six years of enrollment in MCASOM (inclusive of personal and/or medical leave of absence) must be reviewed at SPARC.

Policy Notes

N/A

Related Procedures

[Warning, Probation, Dismissal, and Appeal Procedure](#)

Related Documents

[Academic Enrichment Policy](#)

[Deficiencies and Unsatisfactory Progress Policy](#)

[External Academic Program Policy](#)

[Grading Policy](#)

[Graduation Requirements \(MCASOM Webpage\)](#)

[Program Change Between MD and MD-PhD Tracks Policy](#)

[Selectives Policy](#)

[United States Medical Licensing Examinations \(USMLE\) Requirements Policy](#)

[Warning, Probation, Dismissal and Appeal Policy](#)

Definitions

Degree Advancing Program: Degree, certificate, research fellowship or another formal academic program.

Good Standing: A MCASOM student that is not on a formal written warning or probation.

United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE): A three-step examination for medical licensure in the United States and is sponsored by the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) and the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME).

References

[USMLE Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Owner

Mary Stevens, M.H.S. on behalf of the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine Executive Committee

Contact

[MCASOM Academic Affairs Support](#)

Last Effective Date:

10/16/2025