Academic Standards

Grading System for PA Program

1. Honors: 95- 100
2. Competent: 80-94
3. Concern: 70-79
4. Failure: 69 or below

Academic Performance

1. A final course, rotation or Clinical Skills Assessment grade of “Concern” or “Failure” automatically places a student on Academic Probation.
2. A student on Academic Probation will automatically be referred to the Promotions Committee.
3. Notification of Academic Probation:
    a. The student will be notified in writing of their probationary status and academic deficiencies by the Registrar.
    b. The Registrar will forward a copy of this notification to the Department Chair or his/her designee and the Chair of the PA Promotions Committee.
4. Remediation of Academic Probation:
    a. Remediation of a course and/or clinical coursework is considered a privilege offered to students.
    b. All remediation plans are forwarded to the Program Director and the Chair of the PA Promotions Committee.
    c. Preclinical year
        - The Course Director(s) will formulate a remediation plan and the student will adhere to all recommendations developed to achieve the required level of competency.
    d. Clinical year
        - The Director of Clinical Education in consultation with the preceptor(s), the student and other core faculty members will prescribe remediation activities which may include repeating a course (rotation), repeating a rotation examination, or other activities.
            1. Students are expected to gain steadily in clinical knowledge and skills during their rotations and to conduct themselves in a professional manner. A student failing to achieve acceptable progress as evidenced by performance evaluations, test scores, and judgments made by preceptors or the faculty of the Physician Assistant Program will be referred by the Director of Clinical Education to the PA Promotions Committee with notification to the Program Director and Registrar.
            2. A student not meeting Competency on Clinical Skills Assessments (CSA) will be subject to remediation of the required elements and retesting of those elements. If a student does not meet Competency in the second CSA, the student will enter into a focused remediation including the assignment of an individual faculty advisor, and the Chair of Promotions Committee will be alerted. A third retesting opportunity will be scheduled by the Director of Clinical Education.
    e. Any delay for academic concerns during the program may affect graduation dates.

5. Removal from Academic Probation:
    a. Students who successfully complete remediation as directed and confirmed by the Course Director(s) or Director Clinical Education will be considered for removal of Academic Probation by the Promotions Committee.
    b. When a student has successfully completed remediation, the Course Director(s) or Director of Clinical Education will notify the Promotions Committee who will determine if the student has successfully completed all of the remediation requirements.
    c. If remediation is successful, the Promotions Committee Chair or his/her designee will provide written confirmation of removal from academic probation to the Registrar. The Registrar will then notify the Program Director and the student in writing.
    d. Successful remediation results in no higher than a "Competent" grade. For the purpose of the student's transcript notation, the remediated grade will be reflected below the original course grade.
    e. If remediation is not successful, the Promotions Committee will notify the Program Director and the Registrar.
6. Promotion to the Clinical Year
    a. All students must successfully complete the Preclinical Year course work before being promoted to the Clinical Year.
    b. A student on Academic Probation at the end of the Preclinical year will automatically delay the start of the Clinical Year to allow for remediation. This delay will affect the student's graduation/completion date.
7. Dismissal from the Program
    a. Any student placed on Academic Probation may be considered for dismissal from the program.
    b. If a student on Academic Probation declines or fails remediation, they will be automatically dismissed from the program.
    c. Any student who was on Academic Probation during the Preclinical Year and subsequently requires remediation in a course/rotation during the Clinical Year will be automatically referred to the Promotions Committee for consideration of dismissal.
    d. Three Academic probations will automatically result in dismissal from the program.
    e. Dismissal from the program is effective upon receipt of the letter of notification from the Chair of the Physician Assistant Program or his/her designee.