

Grading and Examinations

Grading at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine is not viewed as an end in itself. Although grades are an appropriate means for monitoring and recording achievement and progress towards the M.D. degree, they represent but one indicator of a student's performance and attributes. Descriptive evaluations are of equal importance.

Students at Johns Hopkins receive continual feedback on their progress toward achieving the educational objectives of the curriculum. For the knowledge-based courses in the first 20 months of the curriculum, written assessments occur approximately every 2-3 weeks; students also receive narrative feed-back from course and small group leaders for each course block. In Clinical Foundations, detailed feedback is provided in face-to-face meetings with college advisors, as well as with online evaluations. With the Genes to Society curriculum, the student portfolio was introduced as another method of feedback and assessment. Periodically, students are asked to enter documentation into the portfolio, such as reflective writing, credentialing, and patient care documentation. This portfolio is reviewed twice a year with the College advisor and used as a framework for individualized learning plans.

At Johns Hopkins, the student has access to grades and written evaluations. Competition between students for grades per se is strongly discouraged, emphasis being placed instead on giving each student full opportunity to develop his or her particular abilities and interests.

Grades in the preclinical courses are designated as Pass or Fail. Beginning with the Longitudinal Clerkship and Transition to the Wards, and continuing with subsequent clinical clerkships and electives, grades are designated as Honors, High Pass, Pass or Fail. Pass is awarded to the student who fulfills all of the requirements of a course or clerkship in an entirely satisfactory manner. High Pass is awarded to students for excellent performance. Honors is awarded to a student who has been consistently outstanding in scholarship and professionalism.

The grade of Fail is used if a student does not meet the minimum performance requirements of a course or clerkship as defined by the course directors.

If a student exhibits a marginal performance in which the minimal performance expectations of a course or clerkship are met, but individual components of the course have not been satisfactorily mastered, a grade of Unsatisfactory may be given. Remedial work will be required before a grade of Pass is awarded. Remedial work will not allow an Unsatisfactory grade to be remediated higher than a Pass. If the remedial work for a failing grade requires repetition of the entire course or clerkship, the resulting grade will reflect the student's performance on the retaken course/clerkship and will be recorded next to the failing grade already entered on the transcript.

Students who do not complete all required components of a course are given an Incomplete. When students are unable to complete requirements because of illness or other compelling personal circumstances, they should promptly contact the Associate Dean for Student Affairs in order to request permission for a temporary interruption of studies. The Associate Dean for Student Affairs

will assist in making arrangements for completion of course requirements by an excused student. The Incomplete is a neutral statement and reflects nothing per se about the quality of a student's performance. The Incomplete may be remediated to Pass, High Pass or Honors. The Incomplete must not be used in lieu of a failing or marginal grade.

Promotions

The record of each student will be reviewed by the appropriate Committee on Student Promotion at scheduled intervals and action will be taken on each student's status. In addition to maintaining good academic standing, students are expected to adhere to the accepted standards of professional behavior in their contacts with fellow students, faculty, patients, staff, and others. A student must satisfactorily complete the work of an academic year in all regards and be in good standing before advancement to the next year.

During years one and two, students must pass every course in order to be promoted. In either the first or second year, dismissal is automatic if a student receives two failing grades, one failing and one unsatisfactory grade, or unexcused incompletes in two or more courses.

A student may repeat only one year of the first two years of the curriculum. During the repeat year dismissal is automatic if the student receives one failing grade or two unsatisfactory grades.

During the clinical years, a failure in a required course/clerkship will be referred immediately to the Promotions Committee for discussion and presentation of a remediation plan, unless the student's overall performance requires consideration of dismissal. The student will be permitted to complete any subsequent required course/clerkship he/she has begun, but no additional required clerkships can be taken until the failure is remediated. Unsatisfactory performance in two courses/clerkships or failure in a subsequent course will result in dismissal from school at the discretion of the Promotions Committee.

The Committee on Student Promotion may make specific recommendations regarding remediation of grades in any year.

A student dismissed for academic reasons may submit a written petition for readmission to the appropriate Committee on Student Promotion setting forth an explanation for the student's deficient performance, any extenuating circumstances, and any other information relevant to the student's fitness to continue the academic program. The student additionally may request the opportunity to appear personally before the Committee on Student Promotion.

In accordance with the high standard of ethical conduct required of a physician, students are expected to refrain from acts of dishonesty which impair the academic integrity of the University. Students whose behavior appears to be unbecoming a physician will be reviewed by an ad hoc committee of the Advisory Board of the Medical Faculty, and such other persons as may be deemed appropriate. The ad hoc committee will be appointed by the Dean, or in the Dean's absence, the Vice Dean for Education. This committee will decide on the student's status within the school. Students

reviewed under such circumstances will have the opportunity to meet with the ad hoc committee in person prior to a decision. A student whose status is affected by a decision of the ad hoc committee will be afforded an opportunity to appeal to the Dean and, thereafter, to the Provost of the University. A complete description of procedures to be followed in disciplinary matters is located in this catalog in the section titled "Instruction Leading to the M.D. Degree." It is also available in the Student Affairs Office.

At the end of the Fourth Year the candidate's entire record, including both required and elective work, will be reviewed by the Committee on Student Promotion. Those who have satisfactory records and who are judged by the Committee to have demonstrated evidence of personal fitness for a career in medicine will be recommended to the Advisory Board of the Medical Faculty for the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Students must have resolved all outstanding charges of misconduct and violations of academic ethics to be eligible for graduation.