

## **I. POLICY**

Standards for Advancement and Graduation CFC 2.0

## **II. PURPOSE**

This policy outlines the requirements to advance through the program at the Macon & Joan Brock Virginia Health Sciences Eastern Virginia Medical School at Old Dominion University (“EVMS”) and receive a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree for students under the CFC-2.0 curriculum.

## **III. RESPONSIBLE PARTY AND REVIEW CYCLE**

The Curriculum Policy Subcommittee and the Student Progress Committee review this policy annually. The policy is reviewed and approved by the Medical Education Committee annually before the new academic year.

## **IV. ACCREDITATION REFERENCES**

LCME 9.6	Setting Standards of Achievement
LCME 9.9	Student Advancement and Appeal Process
LCME 10.3	Policies Regarding Student Selection/Progress and their Dissemination
SACSCOC 9.2	Program Length
SACSCOC 9.7	Program Requirements

## **V. DESCRIPTION**

### **Advancement through the Phases of the MD Program**

The MD program at EVMS is comprised of three phases:

1. Pre-clerkship Phase
2. Clerkship Phase
3. Elective Phase

In the Pre-clerkship Phase, students are required to pass all courses in the order of the curriculum with the exception of remediated courses.

- Human Structure (8 weeks)
- Foundations of Disease (10 weeks)
- Introduction to Organ Systems (10 weeks)
- Hormones and Reproductive Health (9 weeks)
- Heart, Lung and Kidney (10 weeks)
- Brain, Mind and Behavior (9 weeks)

To progress to the Clerkship Phase, students must complete and pass all requirements in the Pre-clerkship Phase.

Prior to beginning a core clinical clerkship, students must pass USMLE Synthesis, Foundations of Clinical Practice, Clerkship TIPS, at least one Comprehensive Basic Science Examination (CBSE; see USMLE Procedures Policy) and take United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1. Students who subsequently receive a failing USMLE Step 1 score cannot start any further core clinical clerkships in the Clerkship Phase until retaking USMLE Step 1.

In the Clerkship Phase, students are required to pass all core clinical clerkships:

- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Surgery

the two courses (USMLE synthesis (6 weeks) and Foundations of Clinical Practice (6 weeks)), and the Career Exploration elective (6 weeks).

To progress to the Elective Phase, students must complete and pass all requirements in the Clerkship Phase.

In the Elective Phase, students are required to pass 36 weeks of electives, including the following required electives/categories:

- Acting Internship (4 weeks)
- Ambulatory Care (4 weeks)
- Clinical Skills Capstone (2 weeks)
- TIPS Residency (2 weeks)
- Elective outside of specialty (4 weeks)

During either the Clerkship or Elective Phase, students are required to pass a Comprehensive Clinical Science Examination (CCSE; see USMLE Procedures Policy) and USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge.

### **Student Requests for Changes to Academic Progress Schedule**

Students at times may wish to defer one or more clerkships or electives in the Clerkship or Elective Phase to address academic needs or wish to defer a year of the MD program to pursue research or other opportunities. They may do so in consultation with the Vice Dean for Academic Affairs or their designee.

Students who defer any component of the MD program acknowledge that doing so will alter their academic progress schedule and may change their graduation date.

### **Requirements for Graduation**

To be awarded the MD degree from EVMS, students must achieve all the following:

- Pass all required components, including all courses, clerkships, and electives of the Pre-clerkship, Clerkship, and Elective Phases.
- Pass qualifying board examinations (CBSE & CCSE), USMLE Step 1, and USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge.
- Demonstrate satisfactory compliance with the MD program's Technical Standards, including exhibiting the professional characteristics expected of a physician.
- Adhere to all institutional and MD program policies.

### **Certification of Eligibility for Graduation**

The Vice Dean for Academic Affairs will recommend to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Visitors that a student has met or will meet all the requirements for graduation. The Academic Affairs Committee in turn will make the recommendation to the Board of Visitors, who is empowered to grant the MD degree.

### **VI. RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Attendance of Academic Responsibilities Policy  
Pre-clerkship Phase Assessment and Grading Policy  
Clerkship Phase Assessment and Grading Policy  
Elective Phase Assessment and Grading Policy  
Professional Learning Environment and Appropriate Treatment of Medical Students Policy  
Professionalism and Expectations for Students' Professional Behaviors Policy  
Student Progress Committee Structure and Function Policy  
Technical Standards  
USMLE Procedures Policy

### **VII. HISTORY OF APPROVALS AND UPDATES**

The following list documents policy approvals and updates by oversight authority, date, and summary of changes. This policy is housed on the MD Student Handbook webpage.

- On June 29, 2020, the Medical Education Committee approved the update to separate the policy from the MD Student Handbook.
- On February 10, 2021, the Medical Education Committee approved updates to reflect changes made to the USMLE Procedures Policy.
- On May 25, 2021, the Medical Education Committee approved updates to reflect changes made to the M3 TIPS course and M4 requirements.
- On May 11, 2022, the Medical Education Committee approved updates to reflect the requirement of passing a CCSE for all MD students.
- On April 12, 2023, the Medical Education Committee approved updates to language to align with the curriculum redesign (replace module with course, replace M1-M4 with phase as appropriate, etc.), to the progression requirements/pathways to the clerkship phase, and to remove details about the MD MPH dual degree program.
- On April 10, 2024, the Medical Education Committee approved adding the requirements specific to MD2025 and MD2026 for Pre-clerkship Phase modules/courses and Elective Phase.
- On April 10, 2024, the Medical Education Committee approved the creation of this Standards for Advancement and Graduation Policy CFC-2.0 Curriculum in order to make adjustments to the policy for CFC 2.0 students (MD 2027 and beyond) to include Pre-clerkship Phase courses, the addition of Clerkship phase courses and the EM core clerkship, and the removal of the critical care and increase in total number of weeks requirement for the Elective Phase.

- On December 11, 2024, the Medical Education Committee approved updates to Clerkship Phase content language to align with the curriculum redesign, changed Career Exploration from a clerkship to an elective, and other minor changes associate with the ODU merger.