



I. POLICY

Standards for Advancement and Graduation

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 graduating as part of the MD2025 or MD2026 cohort.

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.

MD 2025	MD 2026
Human Structure (9.5 weeks)	Human Structure (9 weeks)
Foundational Science (8.5 weeks)	Foundational Science (9 weeks)
General Mechanisms of Disease (8 weeks)	General Mechanisms of Disease (8 weeks)
Skin Muscle and Bone (4 weeks)	Skin Muscle and Bone (4 weeks)
Gastrointestinal Systems and Metabolism (6 weeks)	Gastrointestinal Systems and Metabolism (6 weeks)
Heart, Lung and Kidney (10 weeks)	Heart, Lung and Kidney (10 weeks)
Hormones and Reproductive Health (8 weeks)	Hormones and Reproductive Health (8 weeks)
Brain, Mind and Behavior (9 weeks)	Brain, Mind and Behavior (8 weeks)
Multisystem Disorders (4 weeks)	USMLE Synthesis (6 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 at least one Comprehensive Basic Science Examination (CBSE; see USMLE Procedures Policy) and take United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1.

Students who have not passed at least one Comprehensive Basic Science Examination (CBSE) and/or taken the USMLE Step 1 by the start of clerkship orientation may opt to 1) swap six (6) weeks of Elective Phase credits to the start of the Clerkship Phase and enroll in a 6-week dedicated study prep course or 2) take a leave of absence.

Students who have taken USMLE Step 1 but have not received a score prior to the start of clerkship orientation may start their first clerkship as scheduled. Students who subsequently receive a failing USMLE Step 1 score after starting the Clerkship Phase can opt to either leave the clerkship immediately or to complete the clerkship they have started. The student 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 course and core clerkships:

MD 2025/2026
Career Exploration
Family Medicine
Internal Medicine
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Pediatrics
Psychiatry
Surgery

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 34 weeks of electives, including the following required electives/categories:

MD 2025/MD2026
Acting Internship (4 weeks)
Critical Care (4 weeks)
Ambulatory Care (4 weeks)
Clinical Skills Capstone (2 weeks)
Residency TIPS (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 and 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 EVMS 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.



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- 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 and removed MD/MBA option.