

I. INFORMATION DOCUMENT

COVID-19 Adjustments to MD Policies for Academic Years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021

II. PURPOSE

This document provides information on adjustments made to Doctor of Medicine (MD) program policies for Academic Year (AY) 2019-2020 and AY 2020-2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. All of these policy changes were approved by the Medical Education Committee from March – September 2020.

III. ACCREDITATION REFERENCES

LCME 3.5	Learning Environment/Professionalism
LCME 9.6	Setting Standards
LCME 9.7	Formative Feedback
LCME 9.8	Fair and Timely Summative Assessment
SACSCOC 12.3	Student Rights
SACSCOC 12.3	Student Complaints

IV. DESCRIPTION

The following adjustments were made to the listed MD program policies.

Pre-clerkship Phase Grading and Assessment Policy

Overall Changes for AY 2019-2020 (MD 2022 and MD 2023)

- Formative activities: Required completion of activities; assessed professionalism infraction for noncompletion of one or more assignments.
- Summative exam format: Changed to an internally-constructed exam due to the decision of the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) to discontinue all assessment services for a period of time during spring 2020.
- Summative exam passing benchmark: Changed passing benchmark requirement of an average of 68% or greater on both summative exams to a score of 68% or greater on each summative exam.
- Number of permitted retake exams: Substituted limits on retake exams in the spring 2020 semester with one retake allowed for each midterm and exam, regardless of the number of retakes that the student had used previously in the semester.
- Final module grade: Eliminated overall requirement of 70% or greater to pass modules; required students to pass clinical skills and ultrasound requirements, pass both midterm and final summative exams, and complete formative assignments (including Health Systems Science assignments).
- Student rank/Holistic assessment processes: Excluded student performance in the following modules from calculations of class rank, AOA candidacy, and the Medical Knowledge Area of Distinction for holistic assessment for the listed cohorts: Skin,

Muscle, Bone (MD 2023); GI and Metabolism (MD 2023); and Multisystem Disorders (MD 2022).

- Longitudinal Generalist Mentorship program: Waived requirement to complete encounters (MD 2023 only).

GI & Metabolism Module (AY 2019-2020; MD 2023)

- Clinical Skills Assessment (CSA): Rescheduled CSA from this module to fall semester of the M2 year.

Multisystem Disorders Module (AY 2019-2020; MD 2022)

- Module grading system: Changed four-tiered grading system (i.e., Honor-High Pass-Pass-Fail) to binary system (i.e., Pass-Fail), as follows:
 - Summative Assessment:
 - Set benchmark of 69.5% required for Pass.
 - Set benchmark of less than 69.5% for Fail.
 - Comprehensive Points:
 - Set benchmark of 69.5% required for Pass.
 - Set benchmark of less than 69.5% for Fail.
 - Formative Points: Set benchmark of completion of all formative activities for Pass.
 - Clinical Skills: Maintained binary pass-fail grading system.
 - Ultrasound: Maintained binary pass-fail grading system.

Overall Changes for AY 2020-2021 (MD 2023 and MD 2024)

- Longitudinal Generalist Mentorship program: Waived requirement to complete encounters.

Clerkship Phase Grading and Assessment Policy

AY 2019-2020 (MD 2021)

- Clerkship clinical experiences for Blocks 7 and 8: Converted all academic experiences to 4-week virtual experiences; required students to complete alternate assignments for clinical conditions, procedures, and skills listed on the student objectives log; and created opportunities for students to make up clinical experiences in two-week rotations after June 15, 2020, or in the M4 year.
- Clerkship subject exams for Blocks 6, 7, and 8: Delayed subject exams due to the decision of the NBME to discontinue all assessment services for a period of time during spring 2020.
- Telehealth for Health Professionals Certificate Course: Initiated new required, online course for all students.

- Clerkship grading for Blocks 6, 7, and 8: Changed grading benchmarks for Honors, High Pass, Pass, and Fail and removed clinical evaluation domain from the final clerkship grading system.
 - Medical Knowledge domain:
 - Set benchmark of $\geq 60\%$ equated % correct score on NBME subject exam for Honors, High Pass, and Pass.
 - Set benchmark of $\leq 59\%$ equated % correct score for Fail.
 - Clinical Evaluation: Excluded from final clerkship grades.
 - Other Competency Assessments domain
 - Set benchmark of $\geq 69.5\%$ required for Honors, High Pass, and Pass.
 - Set benchmark of $\leq 69.4\%$ for Fail.
 - Changed clerkship-specific assessments in this domain that could not be completed virtually.
 - Professionalism Domain: Set benchmarks as follows (after opportunity to remediate 1 point):
 - Honors = No lost points
 - High Pass = 1 lost point
 - Pass = 2 lost points
 - Fail = more than 2 lost points
- Student rank/Holistic assessment processes: Excluded student performance for Blocks 6, 7, and 8 from class rank calculations and AOA candidacy.

AY 2020-2021 (MD 2022)

- Transition In Practice Series – Clerkship: Changed from a two-week, in-person course to a six-week, online course.
- Family Medicine Clerkship: Changes to the clerkship structure had been planned prior to COVID-19.
- Internal Medicine Clerkship: Changed from a 12-week clerkship to a 6-week clerkship.
 - Eliminated three weeks of inpatient wards in a setting other than Sentara Norfolk General Hospital.
 - Eliminated the combined Neurology/Geriatrics rotations. Neurology became an elective and geriatrics will be not available due to COVID-19.
- OB-GYN Clerkship: Changed two weeks of gynecology to one week of gynecology and one week of interprofessional education and virtual curriculum.
- Pediatrics Clerkship: Changed two weeks of outpatient pediatrics to one week of outpatient pediatrics and one week of virtual curriculum.

M4 Elective Phase Grading and Assessment Policy

AY 2019-2020 (MD 2020)

- M4 Elective clinical experiences for Blocks 9-12: Converted all academic experiences to virtual and online.
- Number of elective weeks: Waived graduation requirement based upon a requisite number of elective weeks.

AY 2020-2021 (MD 2021)

- Critical Care Requirement: Offered alternative to complete four-week requirement virtually with an in-person standardized patient assessment at the end of the academic year.
- Health Equity and Justice Course: Created new two-week longitudinal course.
- Inter-Professional Education: Eliminated from M4 Elective Phase requirements due to lack of availability secondary to COVID-19.
- Longitudinal elective limits: Changed previous limits of a maximum of six weeks of longitudinal credits to no limitations.
- Spring clinical elective requirement: Eliminated M4 Elective Phase requirement for students to have at least one clinical elective in the spring semester, although students are strongly encouraged to plan one.
- Virtual clerkship makeup clinical experience: Created requirement for M4 students to schedule two-week clinical electives in the departments for which they did not have clinical experiences in Block 7 and Block 8 of their clerkship year.
- Course grading: Changed domain-based grading benchmarks for Honors, High Pass, Pass, Fail:
 - Clinical Domain:
 - Set benchmark of $\geq 69.5\%$ required for Honors, High Pass, and Pass.
 - Set benchmark of $\leq 69.4\%$ for Fail.
 - Professionalism Domain: Set benchmarks as follows:
 - Honors = 0 professionalism infractions
 - High Pass = 1 professionalism infractions
 - Pass = 2 professionalism infractions
 - Fail = more than 2 professionalism infractions

Standards for Advancement and Graduation Policy/USMLE Procedures Policy

AY 2019-2020 (MD 2022)

- United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1: Waived requirement to take Step 1 prior to the start of the Clerkship Phase for MD 2022. Instead, students are required to successfully pass one Comprehensive Basic Science Examination prior to starting the Clerkship Phase. Students must complete USMLE Step 1 prior to the start of the M4 Elective Phase.

AY 2019-2020 (MD 2021)

- Requirement to complete Clerkship Phase prior to beginning M4 Elective Phase:
 - Waived the requirement to successfully complete all clerkships prior to the start of the M4 Elective Phase.
 - Waived requirement to successfully remediate all clerkships prior to the start of the M4 Elective Phase. Successful completion of all clerkships and M4 electives remains a graduation requirement.
- USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS): Waived the requirement to pass USMLE Step 2 CS prior to graduation. Students are now required to pass USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills or successfully complete the Clinical Skills Assessment administered by EVMS.

V. RELATED DOCUMENTS

Clerkship Phase Assessment and Grading Policy
M4 Elective Phase Assessment and Grading Policy
Pre-clerkship Phase Assessment and Grading Policy
Standards for Advancement and Graduation Policy
USMLE Procedures Policy