

## **I. POLICY**

Standards for Advancement and Graduation

## **II. PURPOSE**

This policy outlines the requirements to advance through the program and receive a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree.

## **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 in advance of 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.

To progress to the Clerkship Phase, students are required to pass all courses in the Pre-clerkship Phase. 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 to begin core clinical clerkships.

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

To progress to the Elective Phase, students are required to successfully complete all six core clerkships in the Clerkship Phase (i.e., Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Surgery) and the Career Exploration course. Students who fail a clerkship are required to successfully remediate the failed clerkship prior to starting the Elective Phase. Students may swap a maximum of 6 weeks of non-clinical elective phase credits into the Clerkship Phase. The clerkship or course that was swapped from the Clerkship Phase must be completed prior to moving forward into the Elective Phase.

Students are required to pass a Comprehensive Clinical Science Examination (CCSE; see USMLE Procedures Policy) and are required to pass USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge. To promote through the Elective Phase, students are required to successfully complete all elective phase requirements.

### **Dual Degree Programs**

EVMS offers a dual degree, the MD/Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree, in conjunction with the William & Mary Mason School of Business. The dual degree requires five years of academic study and full completion of all requirements of the MD degree. The MD/MBA dual degree program is available for students who have been admitted to the MD program. Students enroll in MBA curriculum after successful completion of the Pre-clerkship and Clerkship Phases and USMLE Step 2 exam. The MBA curriculum consists of 48 semester hours over four semesters (12 months). At the conclusion of the year, students earn the MBA degree and at the conclusion of the subsequent and final year of MD curriculum, students receive the MD degree.

### **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 of the following:

- Pass all required components, including all courses, clerkships, and electives of the Pre-clerkship, Clerkship, and Elective Phases.
- Demonstrate competency on all Clinical Skills Assessments (CSAs)

- Pass qualifying board examinations, 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 of 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.