

## **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 then reviewed and approved by the Medical Education Committee annually in advance of the new academic year.

## **IV. ACCREDITATION REFERENCES**

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|-------------|---|
| 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 (i.e., M1 and M2 years)
2. Clerkship Phase (i.e., M3 year)
3. M4 Elective Phase (i.e., M4 year)

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

To progress to the Clerkship Phase, students are required to pass all modules in the Pre-clerkship Phase, at least one Comprehensive Basic Science Examination (CBSE; see USMLE Procedures Policy), and United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 1. To begin clinical clerkships, students must complete week 1 of the Transition in Practice Series (TIPS): Clerkship course and compliance requirements. Students who have taken USMLE Step 1 but have not received a score prior to the first date of the Clerkship Phase can start their first clerkship. Students who subsequently receive a failing USMLE Step 1 score after starting the Clerkship Phase are removed from the clerkship and placed on a leave of absence until retaking USMLE Step 1.

To progress to the M4 Elective Phase, students are required to successfully complete all six 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 M4 Elective Phase.

During the M4 Elective Phase, students may be 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 M4 Elective Phase, students are required to successfully complete 30 weeks of elective rotations, including 4 weeks of an acting internship, 4 weeks of critical care, and 4 weeks of ambulatory medicine. Students are also required to complete the Capstone project, interprofessional education curriculum, a clinical skills assessment, and the TIPS: Residency course.

### **Dual Degree Programs**

EVMS offers two dual degrees with the MD program: the MD/Masters of Business Administration (MBA) degree, offered in conjunction with the William & Mary Mason School of Business; and the MD/Masters of Public Health (MPH) degree, offered in conjunction with the EVMS School of Health Professions. Both dual degrees require five years of academic study and full completion of all requirements of the MD degree.

The MD/MBA dual degree program is also available for students who have been admitted to the MD program. In this program, students enroll in MBA curriculum after successful completion of the Pre-clerkship and Clerkship Phases and USMLE Step 2 exams. 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.

The MD/MPH dual degree program is available for students who have been admitted to the MD program. This degree program leads to both the MD degree and the MPH degree in one of two specialized tracks: (1) epidemiology or (2) health management and policy. In the first two years, students in the MD/MPH degree program register for MD program basic science courses and all MPH courses. At the end of the two years, students are awarded an MPH degree. At the conclusion of the subsequent three years of the MD curriculum, students receive the MD degree.

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

Students at times wish to defer one or more clerkships or electives in the M3 or M4 year 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.

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 modules, clerkships, courses, and electives of the Pre-clerkship, Clerkship, and M4 Elective Phases.
- 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**

Clerkship Phase Assessment and Grading Policy  
Attendance of Academic Responsibilities Policy  
M4 Elective Phase Assessment and Grading Policy  
Pre-clerkship Phase Assessment and Grading Policy  
Professional Learning Environment and Appropriate Treatment of Medical Students 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.