

University of Missouri School of Medicine
Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Federal regulations (CFR 668 – Student Assistance General Provisions, Sections 668.32(f), 668.16(e), and 668.34) require that all students receiving financial assistance from federal Title IV funds maintain satisfactory academic progress according to both qualitative and quantitative measures. The following policy presents the standards adopted by the School of Medicine at the University of Missouri. The policy applies to all students receiving financial aid.

The academic requirements for the M.D. degree include the satisfactory completion of the curriculum designated by the faculty. The progress of each student working toward an M.D. degree is monitored by the Student Services Coordinator. A student is said to not be making satisfactory academic progress if any “U” grades are still on record. At the end of the second and subsequent academic years, students must have academic standing consistent with the School of Medicine's graduation requirements.

A student who does not satisfactorily complete all course requirements or who does not have academic standing consistent with graduation requirements may be permitted to remediate. In this case, a student is assigned a schedule that deviates from the norm. Those who earn satisfactory qualitative assessment in all courses for which they are enrolled will be deemed to be making satisfactory academic progress.

The normal time frame for completion of required course work for the M.D. degree is four academic years or up to ten semesters which includes two summers. Students are occasionally required to repeat all or part of a year of study (subsequent to incomplete or unsatisfactory course work). To be considered as making satisfactory academic progress, students must complete the first two years of the curriculum by the end of the third year after initial enrollment and the balance of the curriculum, including a passing score for USMLE Step 1, Step 2CK and Step 2 CS, by the end of the fifth year after initial enrollment. The progress of each medical student will be monitored at the conclusion of each academic year to determine that the student is making sufficient progress to meet the time limits as specified. A student not making sufficient progress will be deemed not to be making satisfactory academic progress.

Full-time Status

The normal course load in the M.D. curriculum constitutes a full-time program. Students who receive only Federal Stafford Student Loans are required to take at least five (5) units per semester. Students who receive institutional aid are generally required to take at least ten (10) units per semester.

Maximum Time

A student is eligible for financial aid for a maximum of five years or twelve semesters (including two summers) of enrollment. This limit includes any semester in which the student was enrolled in regular coursework, whether or not the student received financial aid. The required number of units to be completed at the end of each enrollment period will vary in cases where the student is

repeating work according to the portion of the curriculum that must be repeated. Students approved to repeat course work are meeting the school's standards for satisfactory academic progress as long as they are meeting the terms established in their academic plan determined by the Associate Deans or by the Committee on Student Promotion. Students who voluntarily extend their program beyond four years (e.g., to do research) might receive only federal aid and not institutional aid for their fifth year, depending on availability of funds.

Appeals

The school is ready to respond to mitigating circumstances that may arise in individual situations (e.g. approved leave of absence, student illness, family emergency and/or death of a family member). Students may appeal loss of eligibility for financial aid to the Student Services Coordinator. An appeal form outlining the appeals process will be emailed to the student. The appeal will be reviewed by the Satisfactory Academic Progress Committee. Their decision is final. The Associate Deans may advise the Student Services Coordinator of mitigating circumstances that offer justification for altering customary standards of academic progress.

Concurrent Degree Programs

For students who pursue the M.D. and Ph.D. degrees concurrently, the maximum time period will be the sum of enrollment periods established by the School of Medicine for the M.D. degree and the Graduate School's Office for the Ph.D. degree.

Implementation

The Student Services Coordinator will monitor the student's qualitative and quantitative performance on an annual basis and will personally notify via email students who are not making satisfactory academic progress according to the requirements described above.

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