



Policy: Academic Promotion, Probation and Dismissal Policy	Applicability: PA Sciences Program Students
Policy Owner: PA Sciences Program	Approved By: Dean of the School of Graduate Studies
Effective Date: August 18, 2021	Last Reviewed: August 7, 2025
Next Review: August 7, 2026	Contact: (615)321-2933

PURPOSE: To inform Meharry Medical College (MMC) Physician Assistant Sciences (PAS) Program students of the policy on Progression.

POLICY:

To achieve satisfactory academic progression in the Physician Assistant Sciences Program, the student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.00/4.00 each semester and must successfully complete each course to progress in the program. The PAS Program considers a grade below "C" in any course to represent unsatisfactory academic progress, which will result in referral to the Student Evaluation and Promotion Committee.

DEFINITIONS:

Probation – Refers to a period during which a student’s performance is closely monitored due to previous poor academic or professional performance.

Progression – Refers to moving to the next phase of the program after meeting the prescribed academic progression criteria.

Dismissal – Refers to a student being expelled or removed from an academic program or an institution due to poor academic performance or misconduct.

PROCEDURE:

1. Students are required to successfully complete all didactic coursework and other related activities as assigned by the program in the required timeframe (18 months) and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 each semester to be eligible to progress each semester.
2. A GPA of less than 3.0 at the conclusion of any semester, will result in referral to the Student Evaluation and Promotion Committee and may result in the student being placed on academic probation.
3. To be removed from academic probation, the student must earn a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above within two semesters.
4. Students who earns an "F" for any final course grade may be recommended for dismissal from the program.
5. The Student Evaluation and Promotion Committee will make recommendations for probation or dismissal to the Program Director.
6. The Program Director may accept or deny the recommendation.



Policy: Academic Promotion, Probation and Dismissal Policy	Applicability: PA Sciences Program Students
Policy Owner: PA Sciences Program	Approved By: Dean of the School of Graduate Studies
Effective Date: August 18, 2021	Last Reviewed: August 7, 2025
Next Review: August 7, 2026	Contact: (615)321-2933

7. A dismissal decision may be appealed to the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies.
8. Progression from the didactic phase of the program to the clinical phase requires that students have met all of the following requirements:
 - a. Cumulative GPA (Grade Point Average) of 3.0 or greater
 - b. Completion of the end of the didactic phase Physician Assistant Clinical Knowledge Rating and Assessment Tool (PACKRAT) exam
 - c. Passing performance on assessing history, physical, and clinical skills via a practical exam Objective Structured Clinical Exam (OSCE)
 - d. Compliance with the student code of conduct, including professionalism
 - e. Maintain an active health insurance policy (Any student who does not maintain an active health insurance policy during the Clinical Phase will be removed from clinical rotations until compliance has been established).
 - f. Provide proof of up-to-date status of all required immunizations and a negative Purified Protein Derivative (PPD) or chest radiograph for conversions.
 - g. Maintain a clear criminal background check
 - h. Test negative for drug screening as required by clinical rotation site(s)
 - i. Provide the Program and the Clinical Education team with up-to-date personal and emergency contact information.
 - j. Completion of any additional clinical rotation site requirements (credentialing process).

Any deficiencies, failures, and/or disciplinary actions during the didactic year will limit the student's ability to progress to the clinical year of the program.

9. Progression through the clinical phase of the program requires successful completion of each Supervised Clinical Practice Experience (SCPE) and a minimum GPA of 3.0 in each semester.
10. A GPA of less than 3.0 at the conclusion of any semester, will result in referral to the Student Evaluation and Promotion Committee and may result in academic probation.
11. To qualify for graduation from the MMC PAS Program and be eligible to earn a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Sciences Degree, students must complete the entire PA curriculum and fulfil the following requirements:
 - a. Completion of all MMC PAS courses with a minimum of a letter grade of "C" or above



Policy: Academic Promotion, Probation and Dismissal Policy	Applicability: PA Sciences Program Students
Policy Owner: PA Sciences Program	Approved By: Dean of the School of Graduate Studies
Effective Date: August 18, 2021	Last Reviewed: August 7, 2025
Next Review: August 7, 2026	Contact: (615)321-2933

- b. Satisfactory completion of all PAS Program courses with a minimum GPA of 3.0 or greater
- c. Successful completion of all clinical phase courses
- d. Successfully pass all summative assessments
- e. Compliance with all institutional and program policies and procedures
- f. Settlement of all financial obligations to the institution
- g. Completion of all graduation clearance requirements as instructed by the Registrar

Only students who have completed all the above requirements by April 30th will receive a diploma with the published commencement date. Those completing all requirements after April 30th will be considered for graduation as follows: May 31st for June graduation, July 31st for October graduation, and October 31st for December graduation.

This policy establishes the maximum allowable time for students to complete their academic program to ensure timely progression, maintain academic integrity, and uphold accreditation and regulatory requirements. All curricular components must be completed within 40 months of enrollment into the MMC PAS Program. Students who do not complete the program within the specified time limit may be subject to dismissal from the program.

Students must meet all of the Program's Technical Standards as well as the standards for professionalism. Failure to fulfill these requirements in any of these areas will result in referral to the Student Evaluation and Promotion Committee and may limit the student's ability to progress or remain in the program.

EXHIBITS: N/A

RELATED POLICIES: N/A