



Policy: Deceleration Policy	Applicability: PA Sciences Program
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 Physician Assistant Sciences’ Students of the program’s policy on deceleration.

POLICY:

The Meharry Medical College Physician Assistant Sciences Program recognizes that there may be circumstances other than academics that require a student to alter his or her course of study and will take those factors into consideration when reviewing the request for deceleration.

Deceleration will only be offered in rare instances.

DEFINITIONS: Deceleration – The loss of a student from the entering cohort who remains matriculated in the Physician Assistant Program.

- Deceleration occurs when a student leaves their current cohort to join a cohort following behind with the goal to satisfactorily completing the program with the new cohort.

PROCEDURE:

1. A student who experiences a significant interruption in the full-time plan of study may submit a written request to the Program Director to decelerate. The letter must have sufficient information to explain the request. Deceleration may also be recommended by the Student Progress Committee.
2. If deceleration is approved, the Program Director will convey the recommendations and expectations to the student in writing.
3. The student will return to the program as a full-time student at the beginning of the semester in which he/she decelerated during the following year unless otherwise stated. For example, a student leaving the didactic portion of the program in the middle of the spring semester will return to the program at the beginning of the following spring semester. Due to didactic courses only being offered once per year, there is no option for a shorter absence in the didactic year.