

Policy Name: 9.09.2 Academic Standing Policy**Scope**

Matriculating through the program of study at The University of Texas at Tyler School of Medicine (SOM) requires successful achievement of benchmarks in academic performance and professionalism. Further, medical students must comply with all University and UT System rules and regulations.

Policy

Students at The University of Texas at Tyler SOM must achieve satisfactory completion of all required coursework, milestones, examinations, and other requirements, including expectations for professionalism, to be considered in “good academic standing” and progress towards graduation. Failure to meet conduct and professionalism expectations can result in adverse academic actions that may result in dismissal, despite completing all academic requirements. Grades are Pass/Fail for Phase 1 modules and courses including Population Health and System Science (PHSS), Teaching Outstanding Physician Skills (TOPS) and Interprofessional Education (IPE). Phase 2 and Phase 3 grades are based on an Honors/Pass/Fail/ system for the clinical experiences and electives.

The Student Progress and Promotions Committee (SPPC) has oversight of academic actions including decisions that may be adverse and entail dismissal. Potential academic actions include but are not limited to the following: added remediation, extension of time for completion of certain requirements, repeating portions of the curriculum, taking leave of absence, and dismissal.

The SPPC will meet at least every 6 months or as needed to review student performance and progress and determine if students are maintaining good academic standing or if they are at-risk of not maintaining good academic standing. Although the following list is not exhaustive, a student is considered at-risk if they have shown a significant decline in performance level over time, experienced poor academic performance within a phase, failed a Step exam, demonstrated small lapses in judgement (not characterized by those below), or have experienced significant life events/changes. The goal of identifying students who may be at-risk is to ensure they are provided additional support, resources, and interventions as needed to ensure their success in the program.

The SPPC will convene as needed to address academic deficiencies, student conduct, and professionalism concerns. Committee members will recuse themselves in instances where a conflict of interest may exist. A student has the right to address the committee prior to a vote on their academic standing or decisions on potential academic actions. The SOM administration will uphold the decision of the SPPC except in the case of a student appeal where the decision is under review.

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Student Professionalism and Conduct Infractions

Students experiencing chronic or serious lapses in judgement in the areas of professionalism and conduct may be referred by the Office of Student Affairs to the Medical Student Professionalism and Conduct Committee (MSPCC); the MSPCC will be convened to review instances that violate the Medical Student Professionalism Policy. Documentation will be submitted by the Office of Student Affairs in the instance of student referral for conduct and/or professionalism infractions. The documentation will include, at minimum, details surrounding concerning behaviors and situations, a clear explanation of any investigation.

that took place, including who conducted it, what the investigation entailed, and the findings of investigation, and results of remediation efforts (when applicable), and recommended action (see LCME 3-06-4 for Medical Student Professionalism Policy).

Dependent upon the level of concern for the professionalism lapse, the MSPCC will contact the appropriate SOM designee, and SPCC regarding their findings (Levels 1-3). The SPPC then decides if the proposed plan is sufficient to address the concern. If it is, the student will be provided with a copy of the recommendation via email and given five (5) business days to submit a written appeal to the SPPC. If the SPPC does not believe the plan is appropriate upon review of the report from the Office of Student Affairs, any student response and other evidence, the SPPC may choose to investigate the situation further. The SPPC may also determine that the issue is under the purview of The University of Texas at Tyler Dean of Students Office or other appropriate institutional authority, a situation that may occur if there is a need for further remediation efforts and/or in instances of involuntary leave of absences or dismissal of the student. Decisions of the SPPC are subject to appeal per the academic grievance policy.

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