Academic Progress and Academic Standing

**Academic Progress**

Academic Progress refers to the satisfactory completion of academic requirements, institutional requirements, and licensing examinations within the required timeframe. All students in the MD program are expected to complete 8 semesters, but students can take no more than 12 semesters (one-and-a-half times the accredited program length) of enrolled credit to complete the degree. A student who requires enrollment in more than 12 semesters is considered to not be making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). Students must meet SAP in order to remain eligible for loans and financial aid for that time period. Scholarly leave is not considered extending the time needed to complete the program.

Each student is assessed at the end of each year by Student Affairs to ensure that the student is meeting SAP.

Students must pass all Year 1 courses to move onto Year 2, and pass all Year 2 courses and take USMLE Step 1 to advance to Year 3. Third-year clerkships must be taken and completed in Year 3 in order to advance to Year 4.

A student who fails a Year 1 course can remediate the course over the summer between Year 1 and 2. A student who fails a Year 2 course can remediate the course between the end of Year 2 and the beginning of Year 3. A student requires permission from Student Affairs and the course director to remediate a course at any other time. A student who fails three (3) or more courses in a year may be required to repeat the entire year, at the discretion of the Promotions Committee.

**Academic Standing**

Academic progress is related to academic standing. A student will be considered in “Good Standing” if he or she meets the following requirements:

- Is not in Serious Academic Status (see Academic Status section of the Medical Student Handbook) or academic probation (see Academic section of Graduate School Handbook).
- Passes licensing examinations within the specified timeframe; medical students must pass USMLE Step 1 to progress to Year 5 and pass Step 2 CK and CS to graduate.
- Pays all bills on time including tuition, fees and, if applicable, housing.
- Meets school standards and deadlines for health assessments, immunization status, PPD testing, BLS training, and other requirements as determined by Student Affairs.

A student who fails to meet one or more of the components above may be subjected to certain “holds” which can prevent a student from advancing to the next year of training, the ability for the Registrar to release a transcript or for the student to receive a letter of recommendation from the administration. Please see the Registrar section of this handbook for a more detailed explanation of holds.

**Academic Status**

At the Icahn School of Medicine, academic status falls into three categories: Satisfactory Academic Status, Monitored Academic Status, and Serious Academic Status.
Satisfactory Academic Status

Satisfactory Academic Status means that a student has met all course/clerkship requirements or has successfully remediated any course/clerkship failures or other issues pertaining to academic performance as detailed in the following sections.

Monitored Academic Status

Students will be considered in Monitored Academic Status in the event of any one of the following:

- A course failure in Years 1 or 2.
- Three marginal performances in an academic year. Marginal is defined as falling in the bottom 5% of passing grades.
- A failure of USMLE Step 1, Step 2CK or Step 2CS.
- Failure of two NBME subject examinations in Year 3 clerkships.

Students in Monitored Academic Status will be notified in writing of this determination and will be required to meet with Student Affairs to help plan appropriate interventions. This status is an internal designation only and will not be noted on the transcript or the MSPE. Students who meet one of the criteria for Monitored Academic Status as specified above will be advised to prioritize studying for courses, but will not be required to relinquish school-related extracurricular activities. Students are permitted to take a Scholarly Year or leave of absence, but must remediate any failures before starting the leave. An exception may be made for medical or extenuating reasons. These situations will be handled on a case by case basis by Student Affairs.

For Year 1 students in Monitored Academic Status, participation in summer research activities will depend on the nature and timing of any necessary remediation. Students should meet with their Faculty Advisor and the Medical Student Research Office to plan their projects.

Students in Monitored Academic Status can return to Satisfactory Academic Status if they complete one semester in Year 1 or 2, or six months of clerkships in Year 3 or Year 4 without any evidence of the above criteria, or, if they are in Monitored Academic Status for a failure on a USMLE exam, they pass it on the second attempt. A student who was once in Monitored Academic Status in Year 1 or 2 will return to that status if he or she has an additional marginal grade in Year 1 or 2.

Serious Academic Status

Students will be considered in Serious Academic Status in the event of any one of the following:

- Two course failures in an academic year during Year 1 or 2.
- A Year 3 or 4 clerkship failure.
- A repeated failure of a Year 1 or 2 course.
- A failure on USMLE Step 1, Step 2CK or Step 2CS on a second attempt.
- Multiple occurrences of unprofessionalism or one serious occurrence as determined by Student Affairs.

Students in Serious Academic Status will be notified in writing of this determination. They will be required to appear before the Promotions Committee and will be subject to its decisions. This status will not be noted on the transcript or the MSPE unless mandated by the Promotions Committee, but students risk being placed on financial aid probation if they are unable to demonstrate that they can maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress.

Remediation may include tailored and/or external remediation programs (at the student’s expense), and/or repetition of the semester or year (tuition required).

Students in Serious Academic Status will not be permitted to participate in any Icahn School of Medicine extracurricular activities. Year 1 students in Serious Academic Status will need to discuss the timing of remediation and
summer research with their Faculty Advisor and the Medical Student Research Office. Year 2 students in this status will not be able to apply for the special curricular programs in the third year, including InterACT and the Neuroscience experience. Students in Serious Academic Status are not considered to be in “Good Standing” (see above) and therefore will not be permitted to take a Scholarly Year or leave of absence except for medical or extenuating reasons as determined by Student Affairs.

While in Serious Academic Status students will be forward fed to course and clerkship directors (see below).

In addition, any student in Serious Academic Status who experiences an additional course or clerkship failure must be presented again to the Promotions Committee. Failure of remediation may be grounds for dismissal.

Students will remain in Serious Academic Status until they complete remediation and complete one semester in Year 1 or 2, six months of required clerkships in Year 3 or 4 without any course or clerkship failures or marginal course grades, or if they pass a USMLE exam on the third attempt. They will then be elevated to Monitored Academic Status, and from Monitored Academic Status to Satisfactory Academic Status as specified above.