**PURPOSE AND SCOPE:**
To provide information about the grading policies for the MD program.

**YEARS 1 AND 2:**
Grading in Years 1 and 2 is on a Pass/Fail basis. A student who does not complete a course will receive an Incomplete. Types of situations where a student may not complete a course include illness or family emergencies. The Incomplete will change to a Pass or Fail once the student has completed the course. A student who receives a failing grade in a course will follow a remediation plan devised by the Course Director. Successful remediation of a failing grade results in a final grade of FP (Fail remediated to Pass).

Course Directors will identify the bottom five percent of passing students. Students in this score range will be designated internally as having received a “marginal pass” for tracking and monitoring purposes only. **Marginal grades are considered a full Pass on the transcript.** However, marginal grades are tracked by Student Affairs as part of an early warning system for students at risk of academic difficulty. As part of this system a student’s Faculty Advisor will reach out to him or her if he or she receives a marginal grade on an examination or in a course. A student who has three marginal passes in an academic year will be placed on Monitored Academic Status. See section on Academic Status for a full description.

A student who fails a course in Year 1 must remediate the course by August 1. A student who fails a course in Year 2 must remediate the course before the start of Year 3. The remediation process is determined by the Course Director.

**YEARS 3 AND 4 AND THE ART AND SCIENCE OF MEDICINE:**
The Art & Science of Medicine (ASM) course in Years 1 and 2 as well as the clerkships in Years 3 and 4 have a special focus on the teaching and assessment of clinical skills and may use any of the following in assessing a student's performance:

- Clinical performance assessments by faculty, preceptor, or resident
- Oral and/or written examinations
- NBME subject test exams
- Written or oral presentations of a specific subject related to the clerkship or course
- Exams using standardized patients or simulators
- Direct observation of history taking and physical examination skills

The weight given to specific parameters may vary with an individual clerkship or course.

Each Clerkship or Course Director submits a final grade plus a comprehensive narrative paragraph. The final grades and narrative paragraphs for ASM and the third-year clerkships are included verbatim in a student's MSPE.

All reports of student performance are due in the Office of the Registrar within six weeks of the clerkship's completion.

The grading system for all required clerkships is H (Honors), HP (High Pass), P (Pass), and F (Fail). ASM in Years 1 and 2 and Introduction to Internship in Year 4 are graded Pass/Fail. Electives are graded on a system of Honors/High Pass/Pass/Fail.

A student will receive a temporary grade of Conditional (C) in the event they fail the NBME subject exam or other final exam if other assessments and clinical evaluations are satisfactory. Upon successful completion of the failed exam, the grade is revised to a Pass (P) or High Pass (HP). A student cannot get an Honors if they do not pass the shelf on the first attempt. If the student fails the exam on the retake, he or she will receive an overall failing grade and will need to retake the entire clerkship and then take the NBME exam or final exam again. Students are not permitted to retake a passed NBME subject examination.

A student can fail a clerkship based on overall clerkship score, unsatisfactory clinical evaluations or a repeated failure on an NBME subject exam or final exam. Students who behave unprofessionally during the clerkship are also at risk of failing. If a student is felt to be unprofessionally to the point that evaluators do not feel that the student is a reliable, accurate reporter of clinical data and a trustworthy team member, the student will receive a failing grade. As mentioned above a student who fails a shelf exam on the second attempt also fails the clerkship overall. A student who receives a failing grade for a clerkship must retake all or part of the clerkship at the discretion of the Clerkship Director and the Promotions Committee. Upon successful completion of remediation, a student will receive a grade of Fail-Pass FP, and the narrative paragraph will describe the remediation.

Grade cutoffs are set by each clerkship director to create a goal distribution of grades that is 60 percent Honors, 30 percent High Pass and 10 percent Pass at the completion of each quarterly module during the academic year.

All students must pass all clerkships in Year 3 to advance to Year 4.