

Academic Standards

Medical Curriculum

1. The curriculum for the MD degree at the KUSOM is a rigorous series of educational experiences that prepares each graduate for entry into a Graduate Medical Education specialty residency of their choice. The curriculum begins with a series of thirteen consecutive and sequential modules of 4-8 weeks in duration over a two year span (Phase I) that provides the student with the foundation of knowledge and basic clinical skills needed in order to enter the full time clinical experience in the third and fourth year (Phase II). The modules fully integrate the traditional core disciplines of physiology, biochemistry, anatomy, cell biology, embryology, microbiology, immunology, pharmacology, and pathology with the social sciences and clinical skills pertinent to medicine into block experiences centered on clinical themes. Learning occurs in three hours of lecture daily as well as small group problem solving exercises, and considerable self study in order to instill the knowledge, problem solving skill, collaborative practice skill, and the attitude of reflective practice required of successful physicians. The faculty work collaboratively with the students to advance their learning in a manner expected in a professional graduate level program.
2. The curriculum is a required, structured program for the first three years. Limited opportunities for elective courses are available for students in good academic standing with approval of the Associate Dean for Student Affairs (ADSA) in the first three years. Twenty weeks of electives are required for graduation, the majority occurring in the fourth year.
3. Student progress in the curriculum is closely monitored by the ADSA. Students who are not achieving the minimal level of performance are engaged in an early intervention program with a learning specialist team in order to assist them to discover their optimal learning methods. Any interruption, suspension, or delay in progress through Phase I must be approved by the ADSA. Failure of any module will require successful remediation before advancement to Phase II. Students failing a module will need permission from ADSA to proceed to the next module in the curriculum. Any module failures will remain on the official transcript and as part of the GPA calculation despite successful remediation. In addition, students must have taken USMLE Step I before beginning Phase II.
4. All required modules and clerkships must be completed at KUSOM unless approved otherwise by the Academic Committee.
5. Admission to the School of Medicine, progress within the curriculum and certification of graduation requirements are the responsibilities of the Academic Committee and its two subcommittees (Admissions, Student Promotions/Special Programs). The content, organization, implementation, and evaluation of the curriculum are the responsibilities of the Education Council. Both the Academic Committee and the Education Council consist of elected and Dean appointed faculty and student representatives elected by the student body.

Required modules, clerkships, and elective distributions are listed below:

PHASE ONE - Basic Science and Introductory Clinical Component

YEAR ONE

Fall Semester:

- CORE 800 - Foundations of Medicine (8 weeks/credit hours)
- CORE 805 - Genetics and Neoplasia (4 weeks/credit hours)
- CORE 810 - Inflammation and Immunity (4 weeks/credit hours)
- CORE 814 – Cardiopulmonary System I (0 credit hours)

Spring Semester:

- CORE 815 - Cardiopulmonary System (8 weeks/credit hours)
- CORE 820 - Gastrointestinal System and Nutrition (4 weeks/credit hours)
- CORE 825 - Renal and Endocrine System (4 weeks/credit hours)
- CORE 830 - Sexuality and Reproductive Medicine (4 weeks/credit hours)

YEAR TWO

Fall Semester:

CORE 835 - Musculoskeletal and Soft Tissue (4 weeks/credit hours)
CORE 840 - Brain, Mind, and Behavior (8 weeks/credit hours)
CORE 845 - Blood and Lymphoid System (4 weeks/credit hours)

Spring Semester:

CORE 850 - Infectious and Parasitic Diseases (6 weeks/credit hours)
CORE 855 - Medicine Across the Lifespan (4 weeks/credit hours)
CORE 860 - Integration and Consolidation (7 weeks/credit hours)

PHASE TWO – Clinical Component (Kansas City/Wichita Clinical Campuses)

YEAR THREE - Basic Clinical Experiences

AMED 900(K), AMMD 975(W) - Ambulatory Medicine/ Geriatrics (6 weeks/credit hours)
FAPR 950(K), FCMD 975(W) - Family Practice (6 weeks/credit hours)
PEDS 900(K), PDRC 975(W) - Pediatrics (6 weeks/credit hours)
GYNO 900(K), OBN 975(W) - Gynecology and Obstetrics (6 weeks/credit hours)
SURG 900(K), SGRY 975(W) - General Surgery (8 weeks/credit hours)
MED 900(K), INMD 975(W) - Internal Medicine (8 weeks/credit hours)
PYCH 900(K), PSCR 975(W) - Neuropsychiatry (8 weeks/credit hours)
ICM 900(K), ICM 975(W) - Issues in Clinical Medicine (0 credit hours)

YEAR FOUR - Advanced Clinical Experiences

Health of the Public* (4 credit hours)

Critical Care* (4 weeks/credit hours) - Student selects one:

- Anesthesia
- Cardiothoracic Surgery
- Coronary Care ICU
- Medicine ICU
- Surgery ICU
- Pulmonary ICU
- Pediatrics/Neonatal ICU
- Emergency Medicine
- Burn Center
- Neurosurgical ICU

Rural Preceptorship** (4 weeks/credit hours) – Student selects one:

- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Pediatrics

Subinternship* (4 weeks/credit hours) – Student selects one:

- Internal Medicine
- General Surgery
- Neurosurgery
- Urological Surgery
- Orthopaedic Surgery
- Pediatrics
- Family Medicine
- Obstetrics/ Gynecology
- Otolaryngology
- Psychiatry

ELECTIVES: 20 credits. No more than 8 credits may be granted from electives provided by Basic Science Departments. No more than 8 credits can be earned at another LCME accredited medical school (electives at hospitals in the KC metro area and the International experiences are not included in this rule.)

*Required experiences

**The Kansas Rural Preceptor Program gives each student a valuable one-month opportunity to practice medicine in a rural community while working alongside volunteer physician faculty.

2. Grading and Records

- A. A student must register each semester at the prescribed time outlined in the curriculum, unless otherwise authorized in writing by the ADSA of the School of Medicine.
- B. Grading shall be the responsibility of the faculty teaching the module or clerkship.
- C. A student must achieve a passing grade in each module, clerkship or elective taken for credit toward the achievement of the M.D. degree. However, passing grades in individual modules and clerkships do not guarantee that the student's performance, viewed as a whole, will meet requirements for awarding the degree. A student's performance will be recorded as:

Superior (SU) -work of marked excellence, indicating high honor

High Satisfactory (HS) -work of much more than average quality

Satisfactory (SA) -work of average quality

Unsatisfactory (U) -work of less than acceptable quality

Incomplete (I) -work required has not been completed at the conclusion of the module or clerkship. The student is otherwise passing the course but a final satisfactory grade cannot be awarded without satisfactory completion of the missing work. The module\clerkship director is willing to await the completion of the remaining work by a defined date before assigning the final evaluation.

- D. The student's final summative assessment will be completed and will take into consideration knowledge of subject matter, professional behavior, and skills attainment.
- E. Grades will be submitted within six weeks after the end of a module or clerkship and the grades will be available to individual students as soon thereafter as possible. The Registrar maintains the official transcript.

The following numerical values are used in calculating a student's Grade Point Average:

Superior (SU) -4 points

High Satisfactory (HS) -3 points

Satisfactory (SA) -2 points

Unsatisfactory (U) -0 point

Grades of W (Withdraw), I (Incomplete), P (Passing), Credit, and No Credit are not averaged into the Grade Point Average.

A semester Grade Point Average will be calculated at the end of each semester. A cumulative Grade Point Average will be calculated based on all completed coursework.

- F. Associate Dean for Student Affairs will inform the Special Programs/ Student Promotions Subcommittee of Unsatisfactory grades, and semester or cumulative Grade Point Averages below 2.0.
- G. A grade of Incomplete shall be completed within one year from the last day of classes in the semester in which the grade was given. If this does not occur and unless the module director or clinical department chairperson requests an extension in writing to the Registrar, the Incomplete shall be changed to an Unsatisfactory grade.
- H. All Unsatisfactory grades shall remain a part of the permanent record, whether or not they have been rectified.

- I. A grade of Unsatisfactory (U) shall be rectified by additional study, retaking the final examination, or retaking the entire module or clerkship at The University of Kansas School of Medicine.
- J. An academic folder for each student shall be kept in the Office of Student Affairs. The folder shall include MCAT scores, grades and comments from the medical faculty, and the Medical School Performance Evaluation written by the ADSA.

3. Requirements for Promotion and Graduation with Granting of the M. D. Degree

- A. Promotion - A student who has satisfactorily completed Phase I, taken Step 1 of the USMLE (pending receipt of a passing score), and is otherwise in Good Standing shall be recommended for Promotion to the clinical component of the curriculum. A student who does not meet these requirements will be reviewed by the Academic Committee on a case-by-case basis.
- B. Graduation - The M. D. degree will be conferred by The University of Kansas upon persons who have complied with the following requirements:
 - (1) satisfactory grades in all required modules and clerkships; AND
 - (2) satisfactory grades in at least twenty (20) weeks of electives, including at least twelve (12) weeks of clinical electives; AND
 - (3) a cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.0 or higher; AND
 - (4) passing scores on Steps 1 and 2 of the USMLE; AND
 - (5) satisfactory professional behavior.
- C. Endorsement and Responsibility of Faculty In granting the Doctor of Medicine degree: The Faculty of The University of Kansas School of Medicine endorses the student as having acquired the knowledge and skills appropriate for entry into postgraduate medical training and as having demonstrated appropriate professional and personal conduct. It, therefore, becomes the responsibility of the Faculty to establish the standards of academic accomplishment and professional conduct that a student must attain to receive the M.D. degree. The Faculty also has the responsibility of establishing the competencies required by the School of Medicine and to assist each student in recognizing and correcting deficiencies before the M.D. degree can be granted.
- D. Time Permitted to Meet Requirements: All of the requirements in "B" must be met within six (6) years of the date of first enrollment unless the Academic Committee grants an extension. A student with an outstanding Incomplete or unrectified Unsatisfactory grade on her/ his transcript will not be allowed to graduate from the School of Medicine after the six year period has expired without the explicit permission of the Academic Committee.

4. United States Medical Licensing Examination

- A. Requirement for Promotion and Graduation: A student must pass the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE), Steps 1 and 2 (both the Clinical Knowledge and Clinical Skills portion of the Step 2 must be completed satisfactorily) to graduate from The University of Kansas School of Medicine and be granted the M. D. degree. Successful completion of Step 1 is required for Promotion to Phase II. (Students are allowed to begin Phase II after taking USMLE Step I but if a passing score is not attained, their progress through Phase II will be interrupted).
- B. Step 1 of the USMLE Step 1 is a one-day, computer based examination of the basic medical sciences and includes questions related to anatomy, behavioral sciences, biochemistry, microbiology, pathology, pharmacology, and physiology. A student will take Step 1 for the first time during the months of May and June at the end of Phase I of the medical curriculum unless she/he receive a waiver from the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.
- C. Step 2 Clinical Knowledge and Clinical Skills of the USMLE are each one-day exams. A student must take Step 2 Clinical Knowledge for the first time by September 30 and Step 2 Clinical Skills for the first time by October 31 of Year Four of the medical curriculum, unless they receive a waiver from the Associate Dean for Student Affairs. Clinical Knowledge is a computer based

examination of the clinical sciences and includes questions related to gynecology and obstetrics, internal medicine, pediatrics, preventive medicine and public health, psychiatry, family medicine, geriatrics, and surgery. Clinical Skills uses standardized patients to assess student's ability to gather information from patients, perform physical examinations, communicate their findings to patients and colleagues and construct post encounter notes.

- D. Failure of USLME Step 1 or Step 2 CK or CS of the USMLE - After the first failure of an exam, the student will be counseled and a remediation plan will be developed by the ADFSA. If a student twice fails either Step 1 or Step 2 CK or Step 2 CS of the USMLE, the student's entire academic record will be reviewed by the Student Promotions/Special Programs Subcommittee to include consideration of extenuating circumstances. Recommendations for remedial experiences and/or further attempts will be forwarded to the Academic Committee. A third failure will be grounds for a dismissal hearing. A student who has satisfied all requirements for graduation except (1) successful completion of Step 2 of the USMLE and (2) is not formally enrolled for electives or board preparation courses will be granted an Academic Leave of Absence by the ADSA.

5. Criteria for Good Standing and Probation

As a student proceeds through the medical curriculum, progress is monitored at the completion of each semester by the Student Promotions/Special Program Subcommittee. Recommendations regarding academic standing are made to the Academic Committee and are then forwarded to the Executive Dean. A student will be placed in one of the following categories:

A. Good Standing - A student is in Good Standing if she/he has:

- (1) attained a cumulative Grade Point Average of 2.0 or higher OR maintained a semester Grade Point Average of 2.0 or higher for two (2) consecutive semesters after having been placed on Academic Remediation; **AND**
- (2) remediate any Unsatisfactory grade in a required module or clerkship; **AND**
- (3) passed the appropriate step of the USMLE (when applicable); **AND**
- (4) maintained acceptable academic and professional behavior and ethical standards.

B. **Stage I Academic Remediation** - A student will be placed in Stage I Academic Remediation and will enter a closely monitored remediation program if she/he has:

- (1) a cumulative Grade Point Average less than 2.0; **OR**
- (2) received a single Unsatisfactory grade in any module or clerkship; **OR**
- (3) failed to pass the appropriate step of the USMLE; **OR**
- (4) unacceptable professional behavior or violation of the honor code.

This category does not preclude the student from participation in subsequent modules or clerkships except in the following situations:

- (a) an Unsatisfactory grade in a Year One module must be remediated before the student will be allowed to enroll in Year Two modules;
- (b) an Unsatisfactory grade in a Year Two module must be remediated before the student will be allowed to progress to Phase II;
- (c) an Unsatisfactory grade in a required clinical clerkship must be remediated as determined by the ADFSA; and
- (d) a student may not enroll in an elective that requires satisfactory completion of a prerequisite module, clerkship or elective until the educational experience is satisfactorily completed.

C. **Stage II Academic Remediation** - A student will be placed in Stage II Academic Remediation if she/he has:

- (1) a cumulative Grade Point Average less than 2.0 for two consecutive semesters; **OR**
- (2) received Unsatisfactory grades in two different modules or clerkships (required or elective); **OR**
- (3) continued unprofessional behavior, demonstration of egregious unprofessional behavior or violation of the honor code.

Stage II Academic Remediation requires that the student's entire academic record and other relevant information be reviewed by the Academic Committee. A decision to permit continuation in the curriculum, to recommend remedial experiences, or for a motion for dismissal will be made by the Academic Committee.

All academic remediation will be coordinated by the ADSA. Identification of the student's barriers to success may include but are not limited to psychological and medical evaluations, and/or consultations with educational specialists. The ADSA will monitor student compliance with remediation recommendations.

6. Academic and Professional Behavior and Ethical Standards

- A. A student will present only her/ his own work as a required element of a module or clerkship, unless group work is explicitly permitted by the faculty.
- B. A student will give, receive, or utilize only such assistance that has been authorized by the faculty in connection with any examination, written work submitted for credit, or work submitted or performed as a required element of a course or clerkship.
- C. A student will provide only truthful information to another person about any academic or clinical matter.
- D. A student will cooperate with other students while engaged in academic and clinical activities, so that no other student's academic performance is obstructed.
- E. A student will act responsibly when engaged in activities directly connected with patient care and academic activities.
- F. A student will protect the confidentiality of a patient and disclose information about a patient only to a person who is, at the time of disclosure, a member of the patient's health care team or as part of a faculty approved educational activity.
- G. A student will honestly present material information pertaining to her/ his class rank, Grade Point Average, or any other academic achievement or endeavor.

7. Remedial Experiences and Reinstatement to Good Standing

- A. The Student Promotions/Special Programs Subcommittee and Academic Committee will determine a course of remediation for a student who is not in Good Standing. Usually, one or more of the following remedial experiences will be recommended:
 - (1) repeat a required module or clerkship.
 - (2) enroll in a special module, clerkship, elective, or program to be determined, when appropriate, in consultation with module or clerkship directors.
 - (3) repeat the entire semester or year.
- B. Any of these remedial experiences recommended in the preceding section, whether the same module or clerkship or an approved alternative, shall constitute a repeated attempt to satisfy a specific graduation requirement.
- C. After successful completion of a remedial experience to improve the cumulative Grade Point Average, to rectify one or more Unsatisfactory grades, and/ or to pass the appropriate step of the USMLE, and a review of the academic record by the Student Promotions/Special Programs Subcommittee, the student who is in a Stage I or II Academic Remediation category will be recommended for reinstatement to Good Standing.
- D. A student who has been placed on Academic Remediation for having failed to maintain acceptable academic or professional behavior and has satisfactorily completed the specified remedial experience will be reviewed by the Student Promotions/Special Programs Subcommittee and recommended for reinstatement to Good Standing.

- E. Holding an office in a KUMC-sponsored student or campus organization or serving as a financially-supported representative to a regional, or international professional meeting shall be restricted to those students in Good Standing in their academic programs. Holding membership in KUMC-sponsored student or campus organization or participation in local volunteer service activities shall remain open to all students. During the process of annual registration of a student or campus organization and in the application of financial support for travel to extra curricular meetings, the respective Office of Student Affairs shall verify that the student officers and financially-supported meeting participants are in Good Standing.
- F. No module or clerkship established expressly for a remedial experience or to rectify an Unsatisfactory grade may substitute for a required course or clerkship (see Section 1).
- G. Failure to meet the criteria of the remedial experience is grounds for Dismissal (see Section 9).

8. Withdrawals and Leaves

A leave of absence from all classes may be granted by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs. Any request for such a leave must be in writing and must state the reasons on which the request is based.

If the student withdraws or a leave of absence is approved, the following record will appear on the student's transcript:

- A. If the LOA or withdrawal occurs within the first week of a module (Phase I) or the first week of a clinical clerkship (Year Three or Year Four), the enrollment is cancelled without reflection on the student's permanent record (transcript).
- B. After the first week of the module (Year One or Year Two) or after the first week of a clinical clerkship (Year Three or Year Four), the student will receive a notation of W (withdrawal) on their permanent record (transcript).

9. Dismissal for Failure to Abide by the Academic Standards

A student who has failed to abide by the academic standards of The University of Kansas School of Medicine may be subject to Dismissal upon recommendation of the Student Promotions/Special Programs Subcommittee to the Academic Committee. Such a recommendation for Dismissal may occur for one or more (but are not limited to) of the following reasons:

- A. Receipt of Unsatisfactory grades, rectified or not, in (1) 12 credit hours OR (2) two clerkships or clinical electives; OR (3) the same module or clerkship twice.
- B. Maintenance of a cumulative Grade Point Average less than 2.0 for four (4) consecutive semesters.
- C. Failure to comply with an Academic Committee recommendation for remedial experience.
- D. Unexcused failure to enroll.
- E. Failure to complete requirements for graduation within the stipulated time permitted (see Section 3.D).
- F. Unprofessional behavior

A student recommended for Dismissal shall be notified in writing and shall have an opportunity to appear personally before the Academic Committee prior to a decision by the Academic Committee and transmission of that decision to the Executive Dean.

10. Due Process for Academic Dismissal

- A. A student recommended for dismissal for one or more reasons listed in Section 9 above may request, in writing, an opportunity to appear before the Academic Committee. Upon receipt of a written request the Academic Committee shall permit the student the opportunity to provide explanations for their academic deficiencies or alleged unprofessional behavior and place it in what the student deems to be the proper context. Under no circumstance shall the student be permitted to be represented by counsel. However, if the student desires, up to three individuals from the KUMC community may testify on the student's behalf. The purpose of the meeting is to permit an informal "give and take" between the student and the members of the Academic Committee.

- B. Should a majority of a quorum of the Academic Committee vote for dismissal, this decision shall be forwarded to the Executive Dean. The student will have ten (10) days to appeal the decision to the Executive Dean. The Executive Dean will, after ten (10) days or after hearing the student's appeal, decide to implement the recommendation for dismissal or to reinstate the student into the academic program of the medical school. The Executive Dean will inform the Academic Committee the reasons for the decision of reinstatement and will describe any special conditions that the student will be expected to undertake relative to the student's reinstatement into the academic program.
- C. A student dismissed for failing to meet the academic standards of the School of Medicine may reapply for admission to the School of Medicine. The application shall be considered by the Admissions Subcommittee in the same manner as are other applications.