



Didactic Year Academic Policy

APPLIES TO: Students

BACKGROUND:

Assuring a minimum standard is the benchmark for clinical success. Monitoring student grades and averages at the end of each semester will assure the standard is met.

PURPOSE:

To establish and monitor minimum grade point average of all PA students in the didactic portion of the PA Program. GPA and grades are a means to evaluate and ensure student success in the program and beyond. (ARC-PA standard A3.02 *The program must define, publish, make readily available and consistently apply its policies and practices to all students.*)

POLICY:

- All students in the PA program must maintain a 3.0-grade point average after each semester.
- All letter grades of C (74% minimum) in any didactic course will be reported to the Program Director, Director of Didactic Education, and advisor by the course instructor for discussion of remediation.
- If a student's cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 at the end of any semester, that student will be placed on academic probation (per CMU Graduate Bulletin). The student will then have 2 semesters to regain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above.
- Failure to raise this average to 3.0 or above will result in the student decelerating for one year until the course(s) in which the failing or C grade was earned is offered again in the schedule of the CMU PA Curriculum. Once the course is offered again, the student may retake course(s) at their expense. By regaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, the student will be taken off academic probation ([per Graduate Studies Bulletin](#)) and continue progressing through the curriculum to the clinical year.
- Should the student fail any course in the program (below a C), the student will automatically decelerate and restart the program with the next incoming cohort to repeat the failed course at their expense when offered. Students can also audit any course in the didactic curriculum that they have completed and passed to enhance their medical/clinical knowledge. This can be accomplished by registering for PHA 694 (3-5 credits) for each semester they choose to repeat via course audit.
- Failure of two courses in the same semester or at any time in the Didactic portion of the PA Program will result in dismissal from the CMU PA program, and the student cannot reapply.
- Students must pass all courses with a C (74% minimum) or better to progress in the program.
- To advance to the clinical year, the student must maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA or higher by the end of the summer semester before the clinical year (Summer II). If the student does not achieve the required cumulative GPA of 3.0, they will decelerate and retake courses below the standard to improve their cumulative GPA. They would then start the clinical year the following year with a new cohort.

In Summary, all letter grades of C or below must be reported to Program Director, Director of Didactic Education, and the student's advisor by the course instructor. For any **one-time** F grade (below 74%), the



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student is decelerated to next year to re-take that course. At this time, the student may audit further courses in that semester at the discretion of the Student Progress Committee. Two course failures in one semester will **result in dismissal** from the CMU PA Program. The dismissed student is not allowed to re-apply to CMU PA program.

PROCEDURE:

It is the Instructor of Record's responsibility to monitor all students' final grades. If a student receives a grade of C or less, the instructor of record will report the grade to the Program Director, the Director of Didactic Education, and the student's advisor for further recommendations. Students will be monitored if they receive a C in a course in any semester, and this will warrant more frequent advising and possible remediation.

Approved by Program Faculty June 7, 2024.

Kathleen Flannery, PA-C

Signature

6/7/2024

Date

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CMU PA Interim Program Director