



APPLIES TO: Students

BACKGROUND:

Maintaining minimum academic standards is essential for clinical success. Regular monitoring of student grades and cumulative GPA at the end of each semester ensures these standards are met.

PURPOSE:

To establish and monitor minimum GPA requirements for students during the didactic phase of the PA Program. GPA and course grades serve as objective measures to evaluate academic progress and support student success in the program and future clinical practice.

ARC-PA standards:

A3.14a
<i>The program publishes, consistently applies, and makes readily available to enrolled and prospective students:</i>
a) any required academic standards to maintain enrollment and progress in the curriculum
A3.01
Program policies are <i>published, readily available,</i> and consistently applied to all students, <i>principal faculty, staff,</i> and the program director regardless of their location.

POLICY:

- All students in the PA program must maintain a 3.0-grade point average after each semester or they will be placed on academic probation ([per Graduate Studies Bulletin](#)).
- 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.
- All letter grades of C (74% minimum) in any didactic course will be reported to the Program Director, Director of Didactic Education, and faculty advisor by the course instructor for discussion of remediation.
- 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.
- Students with a cumulative GPA ≤ 3.2 at the end of any semester will be referred for student success measures and classified as “at risk.” Additional criteria for “at risk” designation include:
 - Any student who has a “C” grade in HSC 630 -Regional Anatomy.
 - Any student who has decelerated during the program.
 - Any student who has ≥ 2 final course “C” grades during the didactic curriculum.
 - Referral of a student by faculty or academic advisor with concerns about student’s academic trend or ability to remain successful in the program.



Didactic Academic Policy

- These students, along with those on academic probation, will receive additional interventions, monitoring and have **requirements** to attend study halls, exam reviews, etc. as deemed appropriate by faculty advisors, the program director, and the director of didactic education.
 - They will also be required to enroll and pay for 1 credit hour of PHA694 (starting Fall 2026).
- 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.
- 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 course grade of E (below 74%), the student is decelerated to the next year to re-take that course. At that time, the student may audit further courses in that semester at the discretion of the Student Progress Committee. Any student dismissals related to academic or course failures will follow the Graduate Studies Policy.

PROCEDURE:

The Instructor of Record is responsible for monitoring students' final course grades. Any final grade of C or lower must be reported to the Program Director, Director of Didactic Education, and the student's academic advisor for review and recommendations. Students who earn a final course grade of C in any semester will be subject to increased academic monitoring, which may include more frequent advising and consideration of remediation requirements.

Approved by Program Faculty March 4th, 2026

Kathleen Flannery, DMSc, PA-C

Signature

3/4/2026

Date

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CMU PA Program Director