



Didactic Year Academic Policy

Applies To: Students

Date of Revision: August 22, 2023

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 (70% minimum) in any didactic course will be reported to the Student Progress Committee by the course instructor and the student's advisor 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, when the final grade was a C (70%). This is to garner the student's increase in necessary clinical knowledge, as well as to increase the cumulative GPA to a 3.0 or greater. By regaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, the student will be taken off academic probation ([per Graduate Studies Bulletin](#)) and continue to progress 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. Students are also given the opportunity to audit any course in the didactic curriculum that they have already completed and passed to enhance their existing medical/clinical knowledge. This can be accomplished by registering for PHA 694 (@3 credits) for each semester they choose to repeat via course audit.
- Failure to pass the same course the second time or failure of a second course (any) during the didactic year will result in **dismissal from the program and the student cannot** reapply to the CMU PA program. Likewise, failure of two courses during any time in the Didactic portion of the PA program also results in dismissal.
- Students must pass all courses with a C (70% 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 end of the summer semester prior to the clinical year (Summer II). If the student does not achieve the required cumulative GPA of 3.0, they will decelerate and retake courses that are below the standard to improve the 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 the Student Progress Committee and the student's advisor by the course instructor. Any **One-time** grade of F (below 70%), the student is decelerated to the next year to re-take that course. At this time, it is at the discretion of the Student Progress Committee that the student may audit further courses in that semester. Should the student fail the repeated course a 2nd, they will be dismissed from the



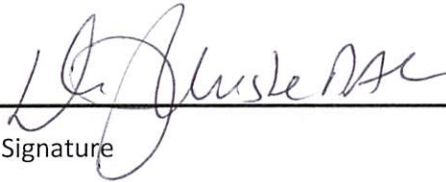
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program and cannot reapply to CMU PA program. Two failures of courses in a single semester, as well as a total of 2 failed courses during the didactic year, will **result in dismissal** from the CMU PA Program. The dismissed student is not allowed to re-apply to CMU PA program.

PROCEDURE:

It is the responsibility of the Instructor of Record to monitor all student's final grades. Any grade of C or less, the instructor of record will report the student grade to the Student Progress Committee and the student's advisor, for further recommendation by the committee. It is noted that students will be monitored if they receive a C in a course, in any semester and will warrant more frequent advising and possible remediation.

Approved by Faculty Executive Committee on August 22, 2023



Signature

8/22/23
Date

Debra Kimball-Christie, M.S., PA-C

CMU PA Program Director