

APPLIES TO: Students

DATE OF REVISION: July 18, 2025

BACKGROUND:

The Central Michigan University (CMU) Physician Assistant (PA) Program utilizes a Credit/No Credit grading system throughout the clinical year. In order to progress to the clinical phase, students must successfully complete all didactic coursework and maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. Successful completion of PHA 690, PHA 691, and PHA 692 are a required component of graduation. Credit is awarded to students who achieve a minimum overall grade of 74% in each clinical rotation.

Student performance during the clinical phase is evaluated based on four primary criteria: End of Rotation Exams (EOREs), final preceptor evaluations, completion and timeliness of patient logging, SOAP notes, and other required forms in Typhon, as well as attendance and participation in callback learning activities. The grading breakdown for each rotation is as follows: 30% from the EORE, 30% from the final preceptor evaluation, 30% from patient documentation (logging, SOAP notes, forms), and 10% from participation in callback activities. For elective rotations, which do not include an EORE or weekly SOAP note requirements, the final preceptor evaluation constitutes 60% of the final grade, while documentation completion accounts for 30%, and callback participation remains 10%.

PURPOSE:

To clearly define the grading components and performance expectations required for successful completion of the clinical year in the Central Michigan University (CMU) Physician Assistant (PA) Program.

DEFINITIONS:

SCPE: Supervised Clinical Practice Experience.

EORE: End of Rotation Exam.

Remediation: The program-defined process for addressing deficiencies in a student's knowledge and skills, such that the correction of these deficiencies is measurable and can be documented. (A2.05f)

Callback: The week between each rotation in which the students return to CMU Campus for testing and lectures.

POLICY:

EORE

Students are required to take an End of Rotation Exam administered through the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) at the conclusion of each core rotation. These exams are conducted the week following the completion of the rotation and cover the seven core disciplines: Family Medicine (three versions available), Internal Medicine, Women's Health, Psychiatry, Surgery, Pediatrics, and Emergency Medicine.

Students will be allowed a maximum of two attempts to pass an EORE specific to each of the 7 required disciplines. If they do not pass the second version of the exam, they will fail the rotation.

Minimum acceptable pass scores will be published at the beginning of each clinical year in the clinical year handbook as new rotation/exam specific national mean data is provided by PAEA. Students will pass the EORE if their score is within 1.5 standard deviations below the determined national mean for the discipline-specific exam.

If a student scores between 1.25 and 1.5 standard deviations below the national mean, students will pass but be required to participate in a targeted academic intervention outlined by the PA Program Faculty. This intervention will be designed on a case-by-case basis dependent on the student's deficiencies. PAEA feedback will be taken into consideration.

If a student fails a clinical rotation due to inadequate performance on the End of Rotation Exam (EORE), they will be permitted to proceed to their next scheduled rotation. However, the failed rotation must be repeated later in the clinical year, including sitting for a new EORE. The exam version will be determined by either the Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) or the PA Program.

Should a student fail to achieve the minimum passing score on the EORE of a subsequent rotation—following a previously failed rotation—they will be paused from continuing to the next scheduled five-week rotation. During this period, the student will be required to participate in a structured remediation plan led by the Director of Clinical Education and other PA program faculty.

For further details, students should refer to the Clinical Year Remediation Policy and the Clinical Year End of Rotation Exam Failure Remediation Policy.

FINAL PRECEPTOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT

The Final Preceptor Evaluation of Student serves as a comprehensive assessment of the student's performance during each clinical rotation. This evaluation addresses key competencies including medical knowledge, history taking and physical examination

skills, clinical decision-making, procedural and technical skills, written and oral communication, professionalism, and interpersonal communication. It is strongly recommended that the preceptor and student formally discuss the evaluation prior to its submission to ensure mutual understanding and constructive feedback.

To successfully pass a rotation, students must achieve a score of at least 74% on their final preceptor evaluation. This requirement applies to all rotations, including electives. Failure to meet this benchmark places the student at risk for dismissal from the program. Students should consult the Clinical Year Remediation Policy for further guidance and remediation options.

Final preceptor evaluations must be submitted by 2:00 PM on the final Friday of the rotation. It is the student's responsibility to monitor the status of the evaluation in Typhon during the final week of the rotation. Students must communicate professionally—not excessively or inappropriately—with their preceptors regarding timely completion. If the evaluation is not visible in Typhon by the final Friday, the student must notify the Clinical Coordinator (CC) before 2:00 PM on that day, confirming that the evaluation has been discussed with the preceptor and is pending completion.

PATIENT LOGGING, SOAP NOTES, FORMS

At the conclusion of each Supervised Clinical Practice Experience (SCPE), students are responsible for ensuring that all required documentation, evaluations, and assignments are accurately and thoroughly completed and entered into the Typhon system. This includes, but is not limited to, patient logs, time logs, SOAP notes, and student self-reported evaluations. All patient logging, SOAP notes, and associated forms must be fully completed and submitted to the PA Program office by the designated due date.

Submission of incomplete documentation, failure to submit required materials, or failure to communicate proactively with the program—such as sending a timely reminder email—by the established deadline is considered unprofessional conduct. This will result in a grade of zero for that specific component of the SCPE. Targeted academic assignments and remediation assignments also fall under the “Patient Logging, SOAP Notes, and Forms” category and are held to the same standards. Additionally, students who do not meet documentation requirements by the assigned deadline will not be permitted to begin their next clinical rotation until full compliance is achieved.

Professionalism, accountability, attention to detail, effective communication, and initiative are essential throughout the clinical year, and are expected of all students to ensure readiness for clinical practice and successful completion of program requirements.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION IN CALLBACK LEARNING ACTIVITIES

After the completion of each five-week rotation, students are required to return to campus for scheduled events. This is a mandatory component of the PA Program's clinical year (*Standard B4.01 The program must conduct frequent, objective, and documented evaluations of student performance in meeting the program's learning outcomes and instructional objectives for both didactic and supervised clinical practice experience components. The evaluations must: a) align with what is expected and taught and b) allow the program to identify and address any student deficiencies in a timely manner*).

The callback days include end of rotation exams (EORE) as well various educational and professional events, seminars, ongoing review and assessment of clinical and presentation skills, student-advisor meetings, summative testing, and Capstone project presentations. Attendance is REQUIRED for callback days and all scheduled events on those days. If a student chooses not to attend a callback day or is tardy without advanced notice and approval from the Director of Clinical Education (DCE), a referral will be made to the Student Progress Committee for possible disciplinary action. Callback is an assessment component and an unexcused absence will result in failure of the course

PROCEDURE:

1. The Director of Clinical Education serves as the instructor of record for PHA 690, PHA 691, and PHA 692, and is responsible for monitoring all components of each student's performance and final grade throughout the clinical year.
2. Progression through the clinical year is contingent upon successful completion of each course in sequence. Specifically, a student must earn a passing grade in PHA 690 to advance to PHA 691, and must pass PHA 691 to continue on to PHA 692.
3. The student must pass at least 50% of each assessment component to earn credit for the course as a whole. This will be monitored by the Director of Clinical Education at the end of each SCPE.

Approved by Clinical Committee July 18, 2025

Kathleen Flannery, PA-C

Signature

7/18/2025

Date

Kathleen Flannery, PA-C
CMU PA Program Director