

Calculating & Recognizing Student Achievement

LCME Standards

11.1 Academic Advising

11.2 Career Advising

11.4 Provision of MSPE

Policy Statement

The School of Medicine grade point averages (UMSOM GPAs) are calculated at the conclusion of the Clerkship Phase and include all required courses completed to that point. UMSOM GPAs are used only for three purposes:

1. Creating comparative data of students when producing the Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) for residency.
 - a. Students are ranked relative to other students of their same graduating class.
2. Determination of commencement honors (*summa, magna, and cum laude*)
 - a. Determination is made relative to other students within the same graduating class.
 - b. Student performance is reviewed first by the Medical Education Advisory Committee and the Advancement Committee for determination of commencement honors and sent to the School of Medicine Executive Committee for approval.
3. Nomination of students for election to Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society
<https://www.medschool.umaryland.edu/osa/handbook/Honor-Societies/Alpha-Omega-Alpha/>
 - a. GPAs for Junior AOA nominations are calculated using Pre-Clerkship courses only.

UMSOM GPAs are calculated using only the required courses and clerkships from the Pre-Clerkship and Clerkship Phases. Courses graded with 2-tier Pass/Fail are not entered into GPA calculations. Grades are weighted by course credit value. For any courses that are repeated, the GPA will include an average of the two course grades. Clerkships are given an additional weighting factor.

- For classes prior to the Class of 2024, the clerkship weighting factor is achieved by using the formula: $GPA = (\text{Pre-Clerkship Phase} \times 0.435) + (\text{Clerkship Phase} \times 0.565)$.
- Starting with the Class of 2024, the clerkship weighting factor is achieved by multiplying each clerkship's credits by 1.5 prior to calculating a standard GPA.

The School of Medicine does not publish UMSOM GPAs or report them to residency programs.

Transfer Students

Transfer and advanced standing students with an exemplary performance may be considered for senior Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society nomination and/or awarding of commencement honors; however, there is inherent difficulty in comparing the content, rigor, and grading of coursework taken at other institutions with that taken at UMSOM. Efforts will be made to accurately judge the relative academic merits of these students in this process.

MSPE

A Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) that conforms to AAMC guidelines will be provided for each student.

History

Revised: May 16, 2023

Approved: September 11, 2018

Review Cycle