



Graduation Requirements Policy

Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Person / Office
Policy Contact(s)	Associate Dean for Student Affairs
Responsible	Advancement Committee; Registrar
Accountable	Office of Student Affairs (OSA)
Consulted	Office of Medical Education (OME); MEAC; CCC
Informed	Medical Students; SOM Registrar; UMB Registrar; SOM Faculty

LCME Standards

8.4 Evaluation of Educational Program Outcomes

A medical school collects and uses a variety of outcome data, including national norms of accomplishment, to demonstrate the extent to which medical students are achieving medical education program objectives and to enhance the quality of the medical education program as a whole. These data are collected during program enrollment and after program completion.

LCME Element 9.9 - Student Advancement and Appeal Process

A medical school ensures that the medical education program has a single set of core standards for the advancement and graduation of all medical students across all locations. A subset of medical students may have academic requirements in addition to the core standards if they are enrolled in a parallel curriculum. A medical school ensures that there is a fair and formal process for taking any action that may affect the status of a medical student, including timely notice of the impending action, disclosure of the evidence on which the action would be based, an opportunity for the medical student to respond, and an opportunity to appeal any adverse decision related to advancement, graduation, or dismissal.

LCME Element - 10.3 Policies Regarding Student Selection/Progress and Their Dissemination

The faculty of a medical school establish criteria for student selection and develop and implement effective policies and procedures regarding, and make decisions about, medical student application, selection, admission, assessment, promotion, graduation, and any disciplinary action. The medical school makes available to all interested parties the criteria, standards, policies, and procedures regarding these matters.

Purpose and Scope

This policy establishes the requirements for graduation from the Doctor of Medicine (MD) program at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM). It applies to all students enrolled in the MD program. Dual-degree students may have additional conditions and requirements; please refer to the policies for the applicable dual-degree program. Graduation

from UMSOM signifies that the student has demonstrated the knowledge, skills, and professional behaviors required for entry into residency training and the practice of medicine.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Advancement, Graduation & Dismissal Policy, which governs the processes for advancement decisions, remediation, and academic actions.

Policy

To be recommended for the Doctor of Medicine degree, students must satisfy all of the following requirements within the parameters of the UMSOM MD curriculum and within the time limits established in the Advancement, Graduation & Dismissal Policy.

Students must meet the requirements for the cohort year in which they matriculate. Students who transfer cohorts (e.g., due to a leave of absence, year repeat, or dual-degree program) should consult OSA regarding which cohort requirements apply.

1. Academic Requirements

1.1 Good Academic Standing. Students must be in good academic standing as defined in the UMSOM Good Standing Policy at the time of graduation.

1.2 Resolution of Probation. Students must resolve all conditions of Academic and/or Disciplinary Probation before graduation, as outlined in the Probation & Special Placement Policy.

1.3 Pre-Clerkship Requirements. Students must successfully complete all required pre-clerkship courses in accordance with the Advancement, Graduation & Dismissal Policy.

1.4 Core Clerkship Requirements. Students must pass all required core clerkships, including any required shelf examinations. Clerkships other than Emergency Medicine and Neurology must be completed at least six (6) months prior to the anticipated graduation date, unless an exception has been granted by the Advancement Committee.

2. Clinical Phase Requirements

Clinical phase graduation requirements may vary by matriculating cohort. All clinical phase requirements must be completed no later than one (1) week prior to graduation.

- Pass all eight (8) third-year core clerkships, including shelf examinations
- Pass TWO (2) sub-internships*
- Pass FIVE (5) electives*
 - No more than TWO pre-clerkship equivalents may count toward the total elective requirement
 - No more than THREE extramural rotations (defined as clinical rotations not in our course catalog) may count toward the total elective requirement
- Pass ONE (1) ambulatory rotation* ^
- Pass ONE (1) PoM4: Transition to Residency or equivalent
- Complete an FRCT Scholarly Project
- Pass the Year 4 OSCE
- At least one clinical rotation (as designated via the "Clinical" tag in the course catalog) must be completed in the same semester as graduation.

***Holistic Care of the Patient Requirement:** one (4-week) of the above sub-internships, electives, or ambulatory rotation must satisfy the Holistic Care of the Patient requirement (as designated via the “Holistic Care” tag in the course catalog). This requirement cannot be fulfilled with a pre-clerkship elective. Note: this requirement is NOT in addition to the above but can fulfill a sub-internship, elective, or ambulatory requirement in the core clinical phase requirements.

^Ambulatory Requirement: A clinical phase rotation designated in the course catalog with the "Ambulatory" tag may fulfill this requirement. This requirement cannot be fulfilled with a pre-clerkship elective. In addition to the expectations of the elective, students will have designated curricular material to satisfy the ambulatory requirement; students must co-register for AMBL 540 or be registered for AHEC 548, ICME 543, or ICME 541.

3. USMLE Requirements

3.1 Students must pass USMLE Step 1.

3.2 Students must take USMLE Step 2 CK.

4. Administrative Requirements

Students must complete all of the following administrative requirements prior to graduation:

- Meet with an OSA Dean regarding post-graduate plans and the Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE)
- Complete an Exit Interview with UMB Student Financial Assistance, if applicable
- Satisfy all outstanding UMB financial and administrative obligations
- Resolve all conditions of Probation or Special Placement, if applicable
- Students must apply for graduation through the Registrar by the deadline published each academic year

5. Time Limit for Completion

Students must complete all requirements for the MD degree within six (6) years of their matriculation date, including any leaves of absence but excluding time spent in pursuit of a UMSOM-approved combined degree program. See the Advancement, Graduation & Dismissal Policy for additional details and the process for requesting exceptions.

Exceptions

None.

Definitions

Extramural Elective: A clinical rotation not listed in the UMSOM course catalog taken at another institution for graduation credit. See the Extramural Rotations Policy.

FRCT Scholarly Project: The research, community engagement, or clinical/translational project required of all MD students, completed under faculty mentorship.

Year 4 OSCE: Objective Structured Clinical Examination — a standardized clinical skills assessment required for graduation.

PoM4: Transition to Residency: A required fourth-year course designed to prepare students for residency training.

Pre-Clerkship Elective Equivalent: An elective completed during the pre-clerkship phase that may count toward the elective total, subject to the cohort-specific limits in Section 2.

Sub-Internship: An advanced clinical rotation in which students function at or near the level of a first-year resident under appropriate supervision.

Related Policies and Procedures

- Advancement, Graduation & Dismissal Policy
- Good Standing Policy
- Probation & Special Placement Policy
- USMLE Policy
- Extramural Rotations Policy
- Professionalism Policy

Forms

- Application to Graduate (through the Registrar)

History

Approved: [CCC, July 21, 2026]