

Policy Title: Grading Policy	
Policy Leader(s): Senior Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs	Reviewed By: MD Policy Review Committee Pre-Clerkship Curriculum Subcommittee Clinical Curriculum Subcommittee
Approved By: Executive Education Committee	Approved Date: 7/10/26

PURPOSE AND SCOPE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear, transparent, and rigorous grading standards across the ASCEND curriculum. This policy outlines the criteria for student assessment, grade assignment, transcript notation, and academic expectations.

RELEVANT LCME STANDARD(S):

- LCME Element 9.4: Assessment System
- LCME Element 9.6: Setting Standards of Achievement
- LCME Element 9.9: Student Advancement and Appeal Process

POLICY:

Progression through the curriculum is governed by distinct grading schemas tailored to the educational objectives of each training phase. The following sections delineate the specific grading scales, standards of achievement, and remediation protocols required for successful completion of Phase 1, Phase 2, and Phase 3.

Phase 1 Pre-Clerkship Phase

- Phase 1 modules are graded strictly on a Pass/Fail basis. The specific criterion for passing each module and the passing cutoff are provided to students in the Module Information Sheet at the start of the module. Final module grades are reported by the Office of Curricular Affairs to the Registrar and are reflected on the student's transcript. Upon successful remediation of a failed module, a separate "Pass" grade is reported to the Registrar, but the original "Fail" grade remains on the transcript.

Phase 2 Clerkship Phase

Required clerkships and clinical electives (2 weeks) are graded as Honors/Pass/Fail. 1-week clinical electives, non-clinical electives, and specific curriculum modules are graded on

a Pass/Fail or Successful Completion basis. Specific grade criteria vary and are outlined in each clerkship's Clerkship Information Sheet (CIS). Final grades include narrative feedback from the Clerkship Director and are included in the Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE). Incompletes convert to a final grade once outstanding requirements are filled. A student who fails a required clerkship or elective must remediate the course as outlined in the Phase 2 Remediation Policy. Upon successful remediation of a failed clerkship or elective, a separate "Pass" grade is reported to the Registrar, but the original "Fail" grade remains on the transcript.

Phase 3 Acting Internships and Transitions Phase

- Required curricular experiences, including advanced clerkships, acting internships, and electives (2 weeks), are graded as Honors/Pass/Fail. 1-week clinical electives, non-clinical electives, and specific curriculum modules are graded on a Pass/Fail or Successful Completion basis. Grading criteria are criterion-based and outlined in each rotation's information sheet. Outstanding requirements will result in an Incomplete until fulfilled. Any failure within required curricular experiences, acting internships, or electives necessitates formal remediation according to institutional progression policies. Upon successful remediation of a failed clerkship, acting internship or elective, a separate "Pass" grade is reported to the Registrar, but the original "Fail" grade remains on the transcript.

POLICY ADHERENCE:

The Office of Curricular Affairs, in coordination with Module and Clerkship Directors, will continuously monitor compliance with all grading schemas, standards of achievement, and submission timelines across all three phases of the curriculum. Comprehensive data regarding grading distribution, timeliness of grade submission, and student remediation rates will be compiled and evaluated throughout the academic year. This performance and adherence data will be formally reported quarterly to the Executive Education Committee (EEC) to ensure institutional accountability, continuous quality improvement, and ongoing alignment with LCME accreditation standards.

RELATED POLICIES:

- Student Progression Policy
- Grade Review and Appeal Policy
- Academic Remediation Policy