

Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) Policy

Title: Clerkship Grade Composition			
<i>Origination Date:</i> 6/01/2012	<i>Revision History:</i> 04/16/2026; 2/17/2022; 06/19/2020; 06/20/2019; 05/18/201	<i>Last amended/reaffirmed:</i> 4/16/2026	<i>Review frequency:</i> 4 years
Purpose:	To specify the grade composition for clerkships in the Long School of Medicine MD curriculum and benchmarks for assigning grades of Pass, High Pass, Honors, Remediated Pass, and Fail.		
Definitions:	National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) Subject Exam - provides subject examinations in the basic and clinical sciences for the purpose of assessing the educational achievement of individuals in specific subject areas. Subject examinations are primarily designed for use as final examinations after courses, clerkships, or other units of instruction.		
Policy:	<p>For all clerkships, the clerkship grade will be comprised of three components.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerkship Performance: 50 points will derive from a variety of workplace-based assessments, including standardized clinical performance evaluations, and non-workplace-based assessments as defined by each clerkship (e.g., standardized clinical evaluations, observed history and physical, OSCEs, quizzes, midterm exam) • NBME Subject Exam: Each clerkship will administer a subject specific NBME exam as part of clerkship assessment. • Professionalism: A Pass/Fail professionalism component will be defined by each clerkship. <p><u>Minimum Passing Standard:</u> To pass any clerkship, a student has to meet Minimum Passing Standards in every component of the grade. This will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earning at least 35.00/50 points within the Clerkship Performance category • Achieving the minimum passing standard on NBME subject exam • Passing the Pass/Fail Professionalism component <p><u>Benchmarks for “Honors” Grade Assignment:</u> A student achieves a grade of “Honors” in a given clerkship when all of the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earning at least 45.00/50 points within Clerkship Performance category • Achieving Honors-level benchmark score on NBME subject examination • Passing the Pass/Fail Professionalism component <p>Unless a student meets the “Honors” criteria within all three categories, the highest grade earned according to this policy will be assigned.</p> <p><u>Benchmarks for “High Pass” Grade Assignment:</u> A student achieves a grade of “High Pass” in a given clerkship when all of the following criteria are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earning 42.00/50 points within Clerkship Performance category • Achieving High Pass-level benchmark score for NBME Subject examination • Passing the Pass/Fail Professionalism component <p>Unless a student meets the “High Pass” criteria within all three categories, the highest grade earned according to this policy will be assigned.</p> <p>A grade of “Incomplete” will be temporarily assigned under the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for missed clinical time to be made up; • Ongoing appeal at the time grades are reported to and certified by the Student Progression and Promotions Committee; and/or 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to achieve at or above the designated passing score on the initial attempt of the NBME subject exam AND this is the student’s only grade component in which they failed to meet passing requirements for that clerkship. <p>Criteria to assign a grade of “Remediated Pass” will be assigned under the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achievement of a passing score on a single repeat attempt of an NBME Subject Exam for that clerkship, the student’s grade will be recorded as a “Remediated Pass.” • Successful remediation of a repeated clerkship that the student previously failed. The clerkship grade of Fail will remain on the student’s transcript from the original attempt at the clerkship. <p>Criteria to assign a grade of “Fail” will be assigned under the following circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to achieve a passing score on a second attempt on the NBME Subject Exam. • Failure to meet the minimum passing standard in the clinical or professionalism component(s) of the clerkship grade.
<p>Process:</p>	<p>Annually, each clerkship director will determine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the components of and criteria for Pass, High Pass, and Honors within the Clinical Performance criteria; and • the benchmark scores for Pass, High Pass, and Honors for the NBME Subject Exam • the specific criteria for Passing the Professionalism component. <p>The Office for Undergraduate Medical Education will review and approve each clerkship’s individual grading policy annually.</p> <p>The approved clerkship grading policy will be published in each individual clerkship’s student handbook.</p> <p><u>Establishing NBME Subject Exam Criteria Grade Determination:</u></p> <p>Prior to July 1 of each academic year, every clerkship will use the most current “Academic Year Norms” report published by the NBME to determine the benchmark scores for Pass, High Pass, and Honors for the NBME Subject Exam.</p> <p>The benchmark NBME subject exam score for a grade of “Pass” in a Clerkship will be set at the 5th percentile in the “Academic Year” column* on the most current annual Academic Year Norms report. If there is no score that sits at exactly the 5th percentile, the 4th percentile will be used. If two scores share the 5th percentile (or the 4th percentile where applicable), the lower of the two scores will be used as the cut-off.</p> <p>The benchmark NBME subject exam score for a grade of “Honors” in a Clerkship will be set at the 70th percentile* in the “Academic Year” column* on the most current annual Academic Year Norms report. If there is no score that sits at exactly the 70th percentile, the clerkship director can determine whether the score just above or just below the 70th percentile will be used. If two scores share the 70th percentile (or the alternate percentile where applicable), the clerkship director can determine which score will be used.</p> <p>The benchmark NBME subject exam score for a grade of “High Pass” in a Clerkship will be set at the 50th percentile* in the “Academic Year” column* on the most current annual Academic Year Norms report. If there is no score that sits at exactly the 50th percentile, the clerkship director can determine whether the score just above or just below the 50th percentile will be used. If two scores share the 50th percentile (or the alternate percentile where applicable), the clerkship director can determine which score will be used.</p>

* For the Emergency Medicine Advanced Clinical Exam, the percentiles for third-year students will serve as the standard. "Honors" benchmark is 50th percentile and "High Pass" benchmark is 30th percentile, or the score just above or below these percentiles if no score sits at exactly these percentiles, as determined by the clerkship director.

These scores will be verified by the Office for Undergraduate Medical Education (OUME) and subsequently communicated to clerkship students by way of the clerkship syllabus and will be reviewed during orientation. The benchmark scores will remain unchanged through the following June 30 and will apply to any student taking the clerkship during that timeframe, without regard to students' year of matriculation.

Approval Body: Long School of Medicine Curriculum Committee

CERTIFIED BY:

Curriculum Committee Chair

Name: Elizabeth Hanson, MD

Title: Professor, Pediatrics

Date

ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO:

Responsible Officer

Name: Deborah Conway, MD

Title: Vice Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education

Date

Responsible Executive

Name: Robert Hromas, MD, FACP

Title: Dean, Long School of Medicine

Date

Related regulations, policies, and accreditation standards:

LCME Element 9.6 Setting Standards of Achievement

[LSOM Code of Professional Conduct](#)

[Administration of Code of Professional Conduct for Students](#)

[Impact of Course Failure on Academic Progression](#)