Title: Impact of Course Failure on Academic Progression			
Origination Date: 11/15/2012	*Revision history: 07/16/2026; 04/16/2026; 2/17/2022; 6/20/2019; 11/19/2018; 01/01/2016; 02/01/2013*	*Last amended/ reaffirmed: 07/16/2026*	*Review frequency: 4 years*

Purpose:

Effective performance as a physician demands a high standard of achievement sustained over time. Repeated demonstration of an inability to meet minimum passing standards for acceptable performance by a medical student is cause for concern, and it is incumbent upon the Long School of Medicine (LSOM) to have a process in place to review such students for their suitability to continue on the path to a medical degree.

Definitions:

Failed course - student failed to meet minimum passing standards at the conclusion of coursework*. This definition applies regardless of whether the student successfully remediates the component(s) that led to the failure.

***Conclusion of course/coursework**:

- In modules, this refers to the point at which a student has completed and received scores from all graded components of the module as listed in the module grading policy.
- In clerkships, this refers to the point at which a student is expected to have completed and received scores from all graded components of the clerkship. For the NBME Subject Exam component, this may derive from a second attempt of the exam in accordance with the Clerkship Grade Composition Policy.
- In Exploring Clinical Medicine and electives, this refers to the last day of the course per the academic calendar.

Academic phases - Preclinical Phase, Clinical Phase.

Academic Year – typically refers to the period of a year, usually starting July 1st and concluding June 30th of the following year. There may be slight variations based on student's year (1-4) in the Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree program.

Policy:

A student who has three failed courses (by the definition in this policy) of any type between the time of matriculation and graduation meets criteria for dismissal.

No student will be allowed to participate in either the first-year curriculum or the second-year curriculum more than two times. Failing to meet benchmarks for progression to the next level of training during a second encounter with the first- or second-year curriculum meets criteria for dismissal.

Students who are repeating an entire academic year or phase must meet established benchmarks for promotion to the next academic year or phase wholly within the repeated academic year or phase. Prior passing grades from the initial unsuccessful academic year or phase will not carry forward. In this situation, any failure of a previously passed course will count as a failed course and be subject to this policy.

A student who is repeating a preclinical module, elective course, or core clerkship due to previous failure of that same module, course, or clerkship, and who fails a second time, meets criteria for dismissal.

Preclinical Phase

A student's first occurrence within one academic year of a failure to meet minimum passing standards of a course will result in the student having one opportunity to demonstrate competency/meet the benchmark(s) before a final grade is issued. The final grade will be determined by the outcome of the remediation, according to the *Preclinical Grade Composition Policy.*

Failure to successfully remediate a preclinical module will result in the student repeating all modules of that year.

A student who fails to meet minimum passing requirements in more than one course in Year 1 will repeat all courses within Year 1.

	A student who fails to meet minimum passing requirements in more than one course in Year 2 will repeat all courses within Year 2. • In Year 2, a student who fails to meet minimum passing standards in both the Clinical Skills module and no more than one other Year 2 module will be permitted to attempt to remediate each course in order to progress to the Clinical Phase. <u>Clinical Phase</u> A student who fails to meet the minimum passing standard on the NBME Subject Exam will be allowed to remediate their performances(s) by repeat examination(s) according to the *Clerkship Grade Composition* policy if the NBME Subject Exam is the only component of the grade in which the student failed to meet the minimum passing standard. • If a student does not meet the minimum passing standard on their remediation NBME Subject Exam attempt, they will repeat that clerkship in its entirety or be eligible for dismissal in accordance with applicable policies. A student who fails to meet the minimum passing standard on the NBME Subject Exam for three or more clerkships will be presented to the Student Progression and Promotion Committee. A student who fails more than one clerkship or elective based entirely or in part on performance in the clinical or professionalism portion of the grade meets criteria for dismissal.
Process:	Students are identified as meeting the criteria delineated above by the Office for Undergraduate Medical Education and outcomes are reported to the Student Progression and Promotions Committee (SPPC). The SPPC manages these reports in accordance with their policies and procedures (e.g., Academic Grievance Policy; Adverse Action Policy).

Approval Body: Long School of Medicine Curriculum Committee

CERTIFIED BY:

Elizabeth Hanson — Digitally signed by Elizabeth Hanson Date: 2026.07.22 15:04:01 -05'00'

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Curriculum Committee Chair ***Date***

Name: Elizabeth Hanson, MD
Title: Professor, Pediatrics

ACCEPTED AND AGREED TO:

Deborah Conway — Digitally signed by Deborah Conway Date: 2026.07.23 13:28:37 -05'00'

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Responsible Officer ***Date***

Name: Deborah Conway, MD
Title: Vice Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education

Robert Hromas — Digitally signed by Robert Hromas Date: 2026.07.23 14:18:29 -05'00'

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Responsible Executive ***Date***

Name: Robert Hromas, MD, FACP
Title: Dean, Long School of Medicine

Related policies, regulations and/or accreditation standards:

LCME Element 10.3 Policies Regarding Student Selection/Progress and Their Dissemination
Preclinical Grade Composition Policy
Clerkship Grade Composition Policy
Remediation Framework in Preclinical Modules
General Academic Progression and Professionalism Requirements for Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) Degree Program
Graduation Requirements for the Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) Degree