



SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

**STANDARD FOR SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS FOR FINANCIAL AID
ELIGIBILITY FOR STUDENTS PURSUING THE M.D. DEGREE AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

Academic Standards of Progress for Financial Aid Eligibility for Medical Students

I Introduction

This policy has been developed to ensure that the Student Financial Aid Program meets or exceeds requirements set forth by federal regulations governing academic standards of progress for financial aid eligibility.

II Scope

This policy applies to all students pursuing the M.D. degree in the School of Medicine.

III General Requirements

A. Time Limits on Financial Aid Eligibility

A student pursuing the M.D. degree is allowed 6 calendar years from the date of matriculation to complete 4 academic years of degree requirements. With approval from the Associate Dean for Student Affairs students may enter decelerated status paying full fees and half tuition during that period; or, they may enroll in research/special studies status paying full fees and no tuition. With approval they may withdraw and be readmitted. Students in the combined M.D./Ph.D. program must complete their basic science courses and pass USMLE Step 1 within 4 calendar years following matriculation, and they must complete all requirements for both degrees within 8 years. Students making progress toward their Ph.D., but not able to complete both degrees within 8 years, may petition the Medical Scientist Training Committee and the Office for Medical Student Affairs for one year extensions on a yearly basis.

| | <u>Standard</u> | <u>Maximum</u> |
|---|-----------------|----------------|
| Doctor of Medicine | 4 years | 6 years |
| Doctor of Medicine/Doctor of Philosophy | 6 years | 8 years |

For students transferring after completing their basic science requirements at another LCME-approved medical school, a total of 4 years is allotted for completion of the M.D. degree.

A student failing to meet these standards will be suspended from financial aid eligibility.

B. Completion of Course Requirements

Students pursuing the M.D. degree are required to enroll in a minimum of 8 semesters in which they pay tuition. Students required to repeat an academic period must pay full tuition and fees for that period.

Students in the combined M.D./Ph.D. program are required to complete a minimum of 6 semesters in the School of Medicine (during Ph.D. studies they are registered in the UVA Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.)

IV Academic Requirements

- A. The School of Medicine “Policy on Academic Deficiencies” is available at: <http://www.med-ed.virginia.edu/handbook/policy/>. The section under **Student Promotions** defines remediation for students with one or more deficiencies. Students must remove all deficiencies before they are promoted to the next academic year in the curriculum. The Student Promotions Committee can prescribe individualized remediation in extenuating circumstances. The “Appeals Process” is outlined in the attachment and at the site above.
- B. Any student required to remediate as defined above will be placed on financial aid probation.
- C. A student placed on probation for financial aid eligibility must, by the end of the probationary enrollment year, advance to the next year of the curriculum.

V Appeals of Financial Aid Probation or Suspension

A student on probation or suspended may appeal in writing to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs stating (a) reasons why he/she did not achieve minimum academic standards and (b) reasons why his/her aid eligibility should not be terminated or should be reinstated. Each appeal will be considered on its own merit. Individual cases will not be considered as precedent.

- A. The Associate Dean of Student Affairs will review the appeal within three weeks of its receipt and determine whether financial aid probation or suspension is justified. The student will be advised in writing of the decision within one week of the appeal's consideration.
- B. A student wishing to appeal the Associate Dean's decision may do so in writing to the Dean of the Medical School in accordance with these procedures:

1. A written appeal must be delivered to the Dean of the Medical School within two weeks of the Associate Dean's decision.
2. The Dean of the Medical School will review the student's appeal and notify the student in writing of a final decision within 4 weeks.

VI Reinstatement

A student shall be reinstated for financial aid eligibility at such time as he or she successfully completes remediation of their academic deficiencies as outlined in the "Policy on Academic Deficiencies" and is then advanced to the next year of the curriculum. It is the student's responsibility to notify the Financial Aid Office at the time he/she has met remediation requirements for reinstatement.

VII Enforcement

The Associate Dean for Student Affairs shall have responsibility for enforcement of this policy in the school of medicine in accordance with policies developed by the University of Virginia Registrar. The Financial Aid Office shall provide a copy of this policy to each student at the time of initial enrollment. The Financial Aid Office shall ascertain at the time of disbursement of funds and prior to certification of the student loan application that the student is in compliance with the policy.

The above policy was developed in accordance with guidelines presented in the booklet "Satisfactory Academic Progress for Receipt of Title IV Student Aid -A Guide for Medical Schools", published by the Association of American Medical Colleges in February 1992.

Effective December 10, 2004, the Standards of Academic Progress above will replace the previous version.