



College of Veterinary Medicine Policies and Procedures

Subject: Academic Performance Standards

Section: Student Policy & Procedures

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To Be Reviewed Yearly by: Academic and Student Affairs (Significant changes reviewed by MSU General Counsel)

Source:

Cross Reference:

Academic Performance Standards

Degree Requirements

Once a student has started the DVM program, a maximum of 60 consecutive months will be allowed to achieve the DVM degree.

Mechanism of Evaluation

Course leaders establish evaluation methods based upon course goals and learning objectives. Requirements for satisfactory completion of a unit of instruction are clearly stated in the course syllabus or communicated by the course leader to the class. At the end of each course or rotation, students are asked to complete a course evaluation. These evaluations will not be available to instructors until after the instructor's grades are submitted. Individual course syllabi will include the numerical equivalent to letter grades.

Phase I and Phase II Standards

Courses will be graded on the following scale:

- A = 4 grade points
- B = 3 grade points
- C = 2 grade points
- D = 1 grade point
- F = 0 grade points

Specific grading standards for Pass/Fail courses are published in the respective course syllabi.

Phase I - Freshman and Sophomore Standards and Academic Actions

Student standards and academic actions are defined as follows:

- Giles Scholar - cumulative grade point average of 3.80 or better
- Wise Scholar - cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or better, but less than 3.80
- Good Standing - cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better
- Academic Probation - semester or cumulative grade point average less than 2.0
- Academic Probation with Failure of Admission to Phase 2
 - Cumulative GPA below 2.0 at the completion of Year 2
- Dismissal from the Professional Program
 - Students on probation for 2 consecutive semesters
 - Students that receive an "F" grade in any course
 - >3Ds in Phase I

Phase 2 – Junior and Senior Year Requirements/Policies

All students must successfully complete at least 36 credit hours of required junior year clinical rotations, 12 credit hours of required senior year courses and 34 credit hours of Phase 2 electives prior to graduation. Junior students "on-break" from clinical rotations may take up to 6 credit hours of Phase 2 electives with no additional fees.

Junior students cannot participate in externships or advanced clinical rotations prior to completion of all required junior year clinical rotations.

No Phase 2 student can enroll in more than 1 course during the same 2, 4 or 6 week block.

Phase 2 students on academic or disciplinary probation will not be eligible for externships or off-campus advanced clinical rotations.

Junior Year Standards and Academic Actions

Student standards and academic actions are defined as follows:

Giles Scholar - cumulative grade point average of 3.80 or better

Wise Scholar - cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or better, but less than 3.80

Good Standing - cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better

Academic Probation - A semester or cumulative grade point average of less than 2.0.

Denial of Admission to Senior Year

- 1) A grade of "D" in 2 or more junior courses or clinical rotations during the year.
- 2) A grade of "F" in 1 junior course or clinical rotation during the year.
- 3) A cumulative grade point average of less than 2.0 at the end of the junior year.
- 4) Failure to complete all junior year required clinical rotations

Dismissal from the Program

- 1) A grade of "F" in 2 or more junior courses or clinical rotations during the year.
- 2) A grade of "F" in the same course two times.
- 3) A grade of "D" in 3 or more junior courses during the year.
- 4) Failure to achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 after completion of prescribed remedial activity.
- 5) Students on probation for 2 consecutive semesters.

Deficiencies resulting in "Denial of Admission to Senior Year" must be corrected in a manner approved by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the appropriate clinical faculty. Minimally, these corrective measures will require that the student repeat any required junior course(s) in which a grade of "D" or less is obtained. Repeat of the course must be completed prior to enrolling in any senior year required rotations, externships, or off-campus advanced clinical rotations.

Senior Year Standards and Academic Actions

The senior year has been designed to provide flexibility in student scheduling. Senior students are required to successfully complete 46 credit hours prior to graduation.

Student standards and academic actions are defined as follows:

Giles Scholar - cumulative grade point average of 3.80 or better

Wise Scholar - cumulative grade point average of 3.50 or better, but less than 3.80

Good Standing - cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better

Academic Probation - A semester or cumulative grade point average of less than 2.0.

Denial of Permission to Graduate

- 1) A grade of "F" in any senior course.
- 2) A cumulative grade point average of less than 2.0.
- 3) Inability to obtain the necessary credits (46) required.
- 4) A grade of "D" in 2 senior courses.
- 5) Failure to enroll in and participate in a 4-week NAVLE prep course, if in the bottom quartile of the class at the end of the sophomore year.

Denial of Permission to Participate in Graduation Ceremonies

- 1) Failure to obtain at least 34 of the 46 required credits by the end of the academic year in which participation is requested.
- 2) Inability to obtain 46 credits by the end of the summer semester

Dismissal from the Program

- 1) A grade of "F" in 2 or more senior courses.
- 2) A grade of "F" in the same senior course two times.
- 3) A grade of "D" in 3 or more senior courses.
- 4) Failure to achieve a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 after completion of prescribed remedial activity.
- 5) Students on probation for 2 consecutive semesters.

Deficiencies resulting in "Denial of Permission to Graduate" must be corrected in a manner approved by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Minimally, these corrective measures will require that the student repeat any required senior course(s) in which a grade of "D" or less is obtained. Academic deficiencies in an elective course(s) may be determined by the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and the appropriate course leader to be irrelevant if that student has the satisfactory number of senior credits and GPA of 2.0 or better. If determined relevant, it is not mandatory for the student to repeat the same elective course in order to correct the deficiency.

Students in the bottom quartile (based upon GPA) of the class at the end of their second year are required to complete a four-week review and NAVLE prep course during the fall semester of their fourth year. Seniors who do not report passing the fall offering of the NAVLE will not be approved for externships or other off-campus electives during the spring semester.

Academic counseling for at-risk students

All Phase I students who receive an examination grade of D or lower and/or have an average grade of D or lower in a Phase I course will be notified of their performance by the course leader. The course leader will also inform the Assistant Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs. The Assistant Dean for Admissions and Students Affairs or his/her designee will then schedule a mandatory meeting with the student. The student will be encouraged to seek advice from the course leader or instructors in the course(s) that he/she is at risk of failing.

The purpose of this requirement is to aid the student in his/her academic progress. All discussions between the Assistant Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs and the student are confidential.

Academic Probation Policy

Academic Probation is a mechanism to alert a student of less than satisfactory academic performance. It is used to assist the student in understanding the seriousness of academic deficiencies. Students will be notified in writing of academic deficiencies.

Disciplinary Probation

Disciplinary probation exists to serve as a warning to a student that certain actions, behaviors, or attitudes are in violation of acceptable professional conduct and will not be tolerated.

The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Assistant Dean for Admissions and Student Affairs, or the appropriate academic committee, on a case-by-case basis, recommends disciplinary probation. The specific elements of disciplinary probation will be communicated in writing to the affected student.

Academic/Disciplinary Review

The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will review a student's performance or status in the following circumstances:

1. Academic deficiencies (as described above)
2. Repeated unexcused absenteeism or tardiness
3. Failure to benefit from instruction.

Following review of a student's performance and discussion of the case with the appropriate instructors and/or other related parties, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs has wide latitude. Actions may include the following:

1. Requirement to improve class attendance and/or behavior.

2. Academic or disciplinary probation.
3. Remedial activity.
4. Requirement to repeat specific courses or activities.
5. Refer student to the Academic Standards and Professional Ethics Committee for a personal interview. This committee will make a recommendation for action and forward it to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for a final decision.
6. Dismissal from the program.

Appeal Procedure

1. The student is to take the complaint in writing to the instructor involved.
2. If the student does not obtain satisfaction, the student may acquire a grade appeal form from the Academic Affairs Office or from the Registrar's Office, fill it out, and take it to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs within 30 days of notification of the grade or academic/disciplinary action. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall acknowledge the receipt of the form and return the duplicate to the student. The complaint should be described fully on the grade appeal form, and the nature of this complaint shall remain constant throughout the appeal process.
3. The Associate Dean for Academic Affairs will rule on the appeal. Either the student or the instructor may appeal this ruling to the Dean. If appealed, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs shall immediately forward the appeal form with a letter of recommendation to the Dean. Both the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Dean's review will occur within a reasonable time and in ordinary circumstances will take no longer than two weeks for each level.
4. The Dean will rule on the appeal. The Dean shall determine the merits of the appeal and act upon the materials presented or request the review and recommendation of a select committee. The Dean's decision will be communicated to the student in writing. Students may appeal this decision to the university Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The reviewing Dean shall immediately forward the appeal form, a letter of recommendation, and the complete case file to the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs may then refer the case to the Academic Review Board within two weeks. Note: If the appeal was to arrive in the Provost Office with less than two weeks left in the spring semester, the appeal would be referred to the Academic Review Board at the beginning of the following fall semester.

For additional information, see www.policies.msstate.edu/policypdfs/1314.pdf. for university Academic Operating Policy and Procedure 13.14—Grade Appeal and Academic Review Board.

Approved: Kent H. Hoblet 9-25-2017
 Kent Hoblet, Dean Date
 College of Veterinary Medicine