	Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) Medical Students Policies and Procedures	<i>Policy Number</i>	MSPP009
		<i>Effective Date</i>	06/02/2022
	<i>Subject</i> Grading Policy	<i>Page</i>	1 of 4
		<i>Supersedes</i>	02/03/2022

Keywords: fail, grade book, grades, grading, grading policy, high pass, honors, pass, USMLE

Table of Contents	Page Number
I. <u>PURPOSE</u>	1
II. <u>AMENDMENTS DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE</u>	1
III. <u>POLICY FOR ALL COURSES AND CLERKSHIPS</u>	1
IV. <u>POLICY FOR ALL COURSES/CLERKSHIPS GRADED PASS/FAIL</u>	1
V. <u>PROFESSIONALISM EXPECTATIONS</u>	2
VI. <u>POLICY FOR ALL ROTATIONS GRADED HONORS, HIGH PASS, PASS, FAIL</u>	3

I. PURPOSE

To clarify the use of the Pass/Fail and tiered grading system across the four-year curriculum, and required procedures governing grade reporting to medical students and the Registrar.

II. AMENDMENTS DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

As a response to suspension of all clinical activities for medical students during Quarter 4 of Academic Year 2019-2020 (AY20), all for-credit courses, clerkships, and electives were graded on a Pass/Fail (P/F) basis during Quarter 4 of AY20. If a student received a grade of F and needed to remediate, the learning objectives for which they were deficient were remediated, either in-person or online.


III. POLICY FOR ALL COURSES AND CLERKSHIPS

- The grading system, its requirements, and its components and their weights will be communicated to the students in the course syllabus and during the course/clerkship orientation.
- Grades for each component of the final grade (quizzes, mid-clerkship feedback, etc.) will be posted in the Learning Management System for each student as soon as they are available.
- Final grades must be reviewed and signed by the course or clerkship director and submitted to the Registrar, according to LCME accreditation standards, within six weeks of the end of the course or clerkship. Course and clerkship directors are strongly encouraged to submit their final grades to the Registrar within five weeks of the end of the course or clerkship. The Registrar's Office will communicate with course and clerkship directors who do not submit their final grades by that time, reminding them of the six-week deadline.
- If the course or clerkship director is unavailable, grades may be signed by the Assistant or Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education.

IV. POLICY FOR ALL COURSES/CLERKSHIPS GRADED PASS/FAIL

Includes:

- Scientific Foundations of Medicine (SFM)
- Clinical Foundations of Medicine (CFM)
- Foundations of Public Health, Ethics and Epidemiology (FPHEE)
- Organ Systems Foundations of Medicine (OSFM)
- Scholarly Concentrations (SC)

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	<i>Subject</i> Grading Policy	<i>Page</i>	2 of 4
		<i>Supersedes</i>	02/03/2022

- Topics in Interdisciplinary Medicine (TIME) and Translational Science Courses
- Longitudinal Ambulatory Clerkship (LAC)
- Transition to the Wards (TTW)
- Core Clerkships
- Advanced Clerkships (Advanced Clerkship in Critical Care and Advanced Ambulatory Clerkship)
- Transition to Residency and Internship and Preparation for Life (TRIPLE)

Grading Scale as determined by the School of Medicine

- Pass (P) = Student has met all requirements as outlined in the syllabus for the class, including successful remediation of any required components as outlined in the Remediation and Make-Up Exams Policy.
- Incomplete (I) = Student has not successfully completed all required components for the course as defined by the syllabus. Student should meet with course or clerkship director to plan make-up or remediation assignments as guided by the Remediation and Make-Up Exams Policy. The grade will be converted to a P when all requirements have been successfully met, or F if not successfully met, within the timeline as outlined in the Remediation and Make-Up Exams Policy. Once converted to a P or F, the I will no longer be seen on the external transcript. When a student has an Incomplete grade for a course/clerkship, the student will be referred for discussion at Pre-Clerkship or Clerkship Student Assessment and Formational Committee.
- Fail (F) = Student has completed the steps as outlined in the Remediation and Make-Up Exams Policy, but has not achieved a passing grade after the allowed number of remediation attempts. The original F will appear on the external transcript, along with a P if the student successfully repeats the course/clerkship. Any student with an F will be referred for discussion at Promotions Committee.


The definitions and requirements to achieve a grade of Pass (P) or Fail (F) will be outlined in each course or clerkship syllabus.

For the above courses (except the core and advanced clerkships), the passing grade for a course, or for each individual assessment that is graded on a 100-point scale and is a non-compensatory component graded as described in the syllabus, will be the lower of either 70% or 1.5 standard deviations (SD) below the mean. See Remediation and Make-Up Exams Policy (MSPP016) for procedures for students who do not achieve a passing grade in a course after a first attempt at completing requirements for a course.. See Clerkship Curriculum Student Attendance Policy (MSPP004) and Non-Clerkship Student Attendance Policy (MSPP013) for attendance requirements.

For SFM, FPHEE, and OSFM, if a student has an unexcused absence and misses a quiz or other required element of the final grade that individually counts for less than or equal to 10% of the grade, the student **WILL NOT** be allowed to make up the quiz/element and will forfeit those points in the calculation of their final grade. If they have missed the quiz/element due to one of the excused absence reasons (see the Non-Clerkship Student Attendance Policy), they may either be allowed to make up the quiz/required element, or at the discretion of the course director, their grade will be calculated as if the quiz/element were not a component.

V. PROFESSIONALISM EXPECTATIONS

Adherence to the expectations for professional behavior is a non-compensatory part of the final grade for all courses/clerkships. As with other graded components in the course, such as knowledge and skills assessments, students who deviate from the professionalism expectations may be referred to the Clerkship or Preclerkship Student Assessment and Formational Committee and may receive a grade of U until remediation is completed. Remediation requirements will be determined in consultation with the Office of Medical Student Affairs. Serious breaches of professionalism may result in failure of the course.

	Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) Medical Students Policies and Procedures	<i>Policy Number</i>	MSPP009
		<i>Effective Date</i>	06/02/2022
	<i>Subject</i> Grading Policy	<i>Page</i>	3 of 4
		<i>Supersedes</i>	02/03/2022

The course/clerkship syllabus outlines expectations for professional behavior based on the AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) sub-competencies in professionalism, the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (JHUSOM) Medical Student Accountability Policy (MSPP001), and the JHUSOM Medical Student Honor Code (MSPP037), as well as examples of serious breaches of professionalism.

As with other graded components, it is expected that feedback will be provided to students whose behavior indicates challenges in the domain of professionalism to allow for growth during the course/clerkship. Course leaders must document feedback given in the professionalism domain in relation to issues that arise that could affect a student's grade.

Core Clinical Clerkships and Required Advanced Clerkships

The grading system will be consistent across all sites within each core or required advanced clerkship. For core or required advanced clerkships that involve multiple sites, clerkship directors will assure assessment and grading consistency between sites, subject to oversight from the Office of Medical Student Curriculum (OMSC).

Grades for core clerkships will include, at a minimum, a standardized clinical performance evaluation and a written knowledge examination. The written exam will count as 25% of the final grade. When available and appropriate, the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) clinical subject examination will be used. Regardless of the level of performance reflected in their clinical performance evaluations, core clerkship students must pass the written knowledge examination to successfully pass the clerkship. For NBME clinical subject examinations, students must score > 5th percentile (1.65 SD), based on "total year" of nationally posted reference ranges for the most recent academic year reported by NBME. For JHUSOM internally developed written examinations, a passing score will be considered any score greater than or equal to 60%.

VI. POLICY FOR ALL ROTATIONS GRADED HONORS, HIGH PASS, PASS, FAIL

Clinical or Research Rotations Graded Honors, High Pass, Pass, Fail, include:


- Sub-internships
- Clinical and research rotations

The definitions and requirements to achieve a grade of Honors (H), High Pass (HP), Pass (P) or Fail (F) will be outlined in each subinternship or elective syllabus.

Sub-Internships and Clinical Electives

Clerkship directors may design a grading schema that is appropriate to the sub-internship or elective objectives, subject to the following principles:

1. The final grading scale will consist of Honors, High Pass, Pass, or Fail.
2. Grades should assess multiple competencies relevant to the practice of medicine and science.
3. Multiple forms of assessment should be utilized, including, if possible, objective medical or scientific knowledge examinations.
4. When equivalent sub-internships are offered at multiple sites (for example, various clinical sites), clerkship directors will assure assessment and grading consistency between sites, subject to oversight from the Office of Medical Student Curriculum.
5. Adherence to the expectations for professional behavior is a non-compensatory part of the final grade.

 JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICINE	Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) Medical Students Policies and Procedures	<i>Policy Number</i>	MSPP009
		<i>Effective Date</i>	06/02/2022
	<i>Subject</i> Grading Policy	<i>Page</i>	4 of 4
		<i>Supersedes</i>	02/03/2022