

**College of Veterinary Medicine, Graduate Professional (DVM) Academic
Policy and Guidelines for Academic Recommendations**

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The Michigan State University (MSU) College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) Graduate Professional (DVM) Academic Policy outlines college standards for good academic standing, substandard academic performance, probation, deferred completion of a course, recess, and dismissal in the DVM degree program.

1 General Guidelines, Preclinical and Clinical Phases of the Curriculum

1.1 Requirements for Graduation

A student must be in good academic standing to graduate from the DVM program. Hence, a student must have cumulative grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.00 and satisfactory completion of all required preclinical courses, all required clerkships, and all elective clerkships/externships in the DVM degree program to graduate with a DVM.

1.2 Maximum Duration of the DVM Program

The standard duration of the curriculum leading to the DVM degree is four (4) years.

The maximum allowable time to complete the MSU CVM DVM degree program is six (6) years. The maximum allowable time is inclusive of personal or medical leaves of absence, academic recess, and/or other reasons.

Interpretation: DVM course requirements must be completed within a maximum of six (6) years. A student can, at a maximum, be absent from the program for consecutive or non-consecutive period(s) of two (2) years. Any absence exceeding two (2) years will result in dismissal from the program. A student dismissed from the program due to consecutive or non-consecutive absence(s) exceeding two (2) years who wants to return to the program must reapply and enter the program at day one (1) of semester one (1).

1.3 Maximum Duration of the Dual-degree Programs

For students enrolled in a dual DVM/PhD or a dual DVM/MS/MSFA or MPH degree, the standard duration of the curriculum leading to the DVM degree is four (4) years, and the DVM program requirements must be met within a maximum of six (6) years, which may be non-consecutive.

1.4 The Curriculum

The DVM curriculum consists of a total of nine (9) semesters of preclinical and clinical education; five and a half (5.5) preclinical semesters and three and a half (3.5) clinical semesters.

1.5 Preclinical Phase of the Curriculum

The preclinical phase of the DVM curriculum is defined as semesters one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4), five (5) and the first eight (8) weeks of semester six (6).

1.6 Clinical Phase of the Curriculum

The clinical phase of the curriculum is defined as the last nine (9) weeks of semester six (6), semester seven (7), eight (8) and nine (9) (the following Summer, Fall and Spring semesters).

1.7 Good Academic Standing

To be in good academic standing in the DVM program, a student must:

- pass all required preclinical courses with a grade of at least 1.50 (72.00%), and
- pass all required and elective clinical courses with a grade of at least 1.50 (72.00%), and
- maintain a term and cumulative GPA of at least 2.00 in semesters one (1) through nine (9) of the curriculum.

Should the university institute additional or optional grade options due to unforeseen national or global emergencies, the CVM will continue to use only the actual numerical grades when determining good academic standing.

1.8 Substandard Academic Performance

Substandard academic performance is defined as not meeting one (1) or more criteria of good academic standing in any given semester(s). Not meeting one (1) or more of the criteria of good academic standing results in one (1) or more Substandard Academic Performance Events (SAPes). Substandard Academic Performance Events are cumulative within and/or across semesters one (1) through six (6).

Examples of Substandard Academic Performance Events include:

- Completing a course with < 1.50 (72.00%)
- Cumulative GPA < 2.00 (76.00%), which is calculated prior to the successful remediation of any failed course(s)
- Term GPA < 2.00 (76.00%), which is calculated prior to the successful remediation of any failed course(s)

A student with substandard academic performance is placed on academic probation.

A student must be in good academic standing at the end of the preclinical phase of the DVM curriculum to matriculate to the clinical phase of the curriculum.

Substandard Academic Performance Events are cumulative throughout the preclinical curriculum and are not expunged by any or all of the following:

- remediation or repetition of a course(s), and/or

- raising a term or cumulative GPA to at least 2.00

Substandard Academic Performance Events (SAPEs) will be recorded and maintained by the Committee on Student Performance (CSP).

1.9 Academic Probation

A student who does not meet the criteria for good academic standing is automatically placed on academic probation. A student placed on academic probation for any reason is required to meet with the CVM Committee on Student Performance (CSP). Academic probation places non-academic restrictions on the student, see DVM student handbook.

1.10 Grade Point Average (GPA)

The term and cumulative GPA are calculated using all numerical grades reported to the Registrar's Office.

1.11 Deferred Completion of a Course(s)

If a student for physical and/or mental health conditions or other exceptional personal circumstances cannot complete a course, the student may seek deferred completion of that course. This option is only available to students who cannot complete a course. For example, a student who tries to complete a course during an extended health crisis but earns < 1.50 (72.00%) in the class, will not be offered this option. Deferred completion of a course entails completion of the entire course within one (1) year of the initial course offering. If a student does not finish the deferred completion of the course within one (1) year of the initial course offering, the student will face dismissal from the DVM degree program. If a student is in a situation in which deferred completion is needed for two (2) or more courses, the student must choose to take a personal or medical leave, an academic recess, or face dismissal from the program.

2 Preclinical Curriculum

2.1 Academic Recess and Dismissal

2.1.1 Academic Recess

To continue in the DVM program, an eligible student must accept the conditions of the academic recess, as outlined below, or face dismissal from the program. The academic recess contract must be approved by the Dean and the Associate Dean of Student Engagement and Success (or equivalent).

2.1.1.1 Semesters one (1) through six (6):

In the preclinical curriculum, a student will recess to the class below if the student:

- has two (2) substandard academic performance events in one (1) academic semester
- does not earn at least a 2.00 (76.00%) in any remediated course(s).

A student may finish the semester in which they have a second SAPE, knowing the academic year will need to be repeated, and they will face dismissal if they receive an additional SAPE during the same semester.

Academic recess incurs additional tuition payments for the student.

2.1.1.2 Academic Recess Requirements

When the student joins the class below by accepting an academic recess:

1. the student must repeat all courses in which the original grade was < 2.00 (76.00%); the original grades are replaced with the grades received after recess upon successful repetition of a course(s).
2. original grades 2.00 (76.00%) and above stand.
3. the student must earn at least a 2.00 (76.00%) in all repeated courses or face dismissal from the program.

2.1.2 Dismissal

2.1.2.1 Semesters one (1) through six (6)

A student will face dismissal from the DVM Program for any of the following reasons if the student:

- has three (3) substandard academic performance events.
- does not successfully complete a repeated course within a one (1)-year time limit.
- does not earn at least a 2.00 (76.00%) in all repeated courses.
- does not successfully complete a course for which deferred completion was granted within a one (1)-year time limit.
- declines an academic recess.

2.2 Remediation and Repetition of Courses

2.2.1 Remediation

- A student who earns < 1.50 (72.00%) in a single course can be offered a remediation attempt regardless of academic standing.
 - o The offering of a single remediation spans the entirety of the preclinical curriculum, i.e., semesters one (1) through six (6).
- Students are not guaranteed remediation attempts in any additional/subsequent course in which they earn < 1.50 (72.00%). A remediation attempt in a second course in which the student earned < 1.50 (72.00%) is only permitted if the student has earned at least a 2.00 (76.00%) in all other courses for the academic year, which excludes the initial course in which the student earned < 1.50 (72.00%). Note, earning < 1.50 (72.00%) in two (2) courses in a single semester leads to automatic recess.

2.2.1.1 Remediation Requirements

- A student must earn at least a 2.00 (76.00%) in all remediated courses.
- Remediation of a course cannot be rescheduled/postponed. If remediation cannot be completed when offered, the student must repeat the course when it is offered in the subsequent academic year.
- If a student earns < 1.50 (72.00%) in a course in a semester and accepts a remediation contract, and the student earns < 1.50 (72.00%) in another course in the same semester, the contract from the previous course in which the student earned < 1.50 (72.00%) is automatically cancelled.

Please see the College Curriculum Committee (CCC) Policy on remediation for specific requirements and guidelines regarding remediation practices.

2.2.2 Repetition of a Course

If a student does not remediate a course in which they earned < 1.50 (72.00%), the course must be repeated. The most current grade and credits earned in a repeated course replace the previous grade in the satisfaction of academic requirements and in the computation of the cumulative grade-point average. Both the original course grade and repeated course grade will be present on the student's transcript.

2.2.2.1 Repetition Requirements

- A student must earn at least a 2.00 (76.00%) in all repeated course or face dismissal from the program.
- Repetition of a course must be completed within one (1) year of the semester that led to the repetition, or the student will face dismissal from the program.

2.3 The Committee on Student Performance (CSP)

A student who has triggered a Substandard Academic Performance Event (SAPE) must meet the CSP within 10 university business days of final course grades being reported. The CSP reviews each student's case and recommends a course of action to the Dean and the Associate Dean of Student Engagement and Success (or equivalent).

2.4 CSP: Request for Exemption

Students may request the CSP grant an exemption to the recommended course of action based on extraordinary circumstances, including physical and/or mental health, financial, or other exceptional personal circumstances. A student who wishes to request an exemption must submit to the Office of Student Engagement and Success their request in writing, including a detailed explanation of why the exemption is warranted and what specific steps the student has taken or will take to return their performance to acceptable standards.

3 Clinical Phase of the Curriculum

3.1 Matriculation to the Clinical Phase

A student must be in good academic standing to matriculate to the clinical phase of the curriculum. If a student is on probation at the end of the preclinical phase, the student must take necessary action to return to good academic standing before being permitted to matriculate to the clinical phase.

If remediation, repetition or deferred completion is granted within one (1) year prior to the clinical phase, the remediation, repetition or deferred completion must be successfully completed before the student can matriculate to the clinical phase of the curriculum.

3.2 Academic Probation and Dismissal During the Clinical Phase

A student whose academic performance during the clinical phase is substandard will face academic probation and/or dismissal.

3.2.1 Academic Probation

A student who earns < 1.50 (72.00%) or an “F” grade in a clerkship must request a meeting with the clerkship moderator and the Director of Clinical Education (or equivalent) to review what remedial measures may enhance the student’s prospects for successfully repeating the clerkship in which they earned < 1.50 (72.00%) or an “F” grade if that option becomes available.

A student who earns a < 1.50 (72.00%) or an “F” grade in a clerkship, and/or a term GPA < 2.00, must meet with the CSP, who shall review the student’s cumulative record, including the preclinical phase, to formulate a recommendation as to whether the student should be permitted to continue in the program. The CSP seeks to determine whether the poor performance is due to a fundamental shortcoming that cannot likely be overcome, or if there exists a reasonable likelihood that the student would successfully complete the program with additional clinical experience afforded by repeating the clerkship in which the student earned < 1.50 (72.00%) or an “F” grade. The CSP forwards their recommendation to the Associate Dean of Student Engagement and Success (or equivalent) and the Dean for a final decision. The Associate Dean and the Dean shall report their final decision to the CSP.

A decision to permit the student to continue in the program, on academic probation, shall be subject to such remedial conditions as the Associate Dean of Student Engagement and Success (or equivalent) determines are reasonable and appropriate. Academic probation continues until the clerkship in which the student earned < 1.50 (72.00%) or an “F” grade is rescheduled and successfully completed, and the new grade is reported to the Office of Student Engagement and Success.

3.2.2 Dismissal

Any clerkship in which a student earns < 1.50 (72.00%) or an “F” grade must be successfully repeated before a student can be eligible for the DVM degree. If the CSP recommends dismissal, and the Dean concurs with dismissal, the student must request in writing to meet with the Associate Dean to receive input regarding the recommended dismissal action. The Associate Dean and the Dean’s decision shall be conveyed in writing.

Dismissal from the DVM program for substandard academic performance shall result when a student has received < 1.50 (72.00%) or an “F” grade in any two (2) clerkships or twice earns a term GPA < 2.00. In such instances, dismissal occurs without review. All students retain the right to contest academic decisions as provided by established procedures as described in the MSU Medical Student Rights and Responsibilities (MSRR) document.

3.3 Substandard Grade(s) in a Clerkship

Students in good academic standing that earn a 1.50 in one (1) or more clerkships must meet with the Director of Clinical Education (or equivalent).