



Policy Title:

Program Progression Requirements Policy

Policy Identifier:

A3.14a

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Category: Academic Standards and Progression Policies	

ARC-PA Standards

A3.14a

Scope

University of South Carolina School of Medicine Columbia (USC SOMC) PA students.

Policy Statement

Students enrolled in the USC SOMC PA Program must meet and maintain established academic and professional standards to remain in good standing and progress through the curriculum. These requirements ensure that students achieve the competencies necessary for successful completion of the program and professional practice readiness.

Reason for Policy

To ensure compliance with ARC-PA Standard A3.14a by publishing and applying consistent academic standards for maintaining enrollment and progression in the PA curriculum. This policy outlines the criteria for academic performance, professional conduct, and participation required for continued enrollment and progression through the program.

Definitions

- **Good Standing:** A status indicating that a student meets all academic, professional, and financial requirements necessary for progression.
- **Academic Probation:** A temporary status applied to a student whose cumulative GPA falls below the program’s required minimum.
- **Student Progress and Promotions Committee (SPPC):** The committee responsible for reviewing student academic and professional progress and making recommendations regarding promotion, remediation, or dismissal.

Procedures

1. Academic Performance Standards



- Students must successfully complete all required coursework each semester, earning a grade of “C” or better in every course.
- Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (B) throughout the program.
- Students with a cumulative GPA below 3.00 will be placed on Academic Probation and allowed one semester to raise the GPA to 3.00 or higher.
- Failure to meet this standard may result in dismissal from the program unless extenuating circumstances are presented and accepted by the SPPC or Program Director.

2. Competency and Professional Expectations

- Students must demonstrate proficiency in all program-defined competencies, including medical knowledge, clinical reasoning, communication, professionalism, and patient care.
- Students must adhere to all professional behavior and ethical standards outlined in the USC SOMC PA Program Handbook and institutional policies.
- Failure to meet professional or behavioral expectations may result in referral to the SPPC for remediation, probation, or dismissal.

3. Financial and Administrative Standing

- Students must maintain good financial standing with the University, resolving all tuition, fees, and other institutional obligations each semester.
- Students with outstanding financial obligations may be prohibited from registering for courses or participating in program activities.

4. Participation Requirements

- Students are required to attend and participate in all mandatory program activities as designated by faculty. These may include, but are not limited to orientation, lectures and clinical skills sessions, professional meetings and workshops, White Coat Ceremony, Grand Rounds presentations, or other educational or professional development events identified by the Program.

5. Progression and Review

- Academic and professional performance is reviewed each semester by the program faculty.
- Recommendations for continuation, remediation, or dismissal will be based on the student’s adherence to the standards outlined in this policy and all other program policies.

Enforcement and Accountability

Students failing to meet the academic or professional standards set forth in this policy are subject to review by the SPPC. Actions may include remediation, probation, suspension, or dismissal in accordance with program and university procedures.

Contacts

Program Director
USC School of Medicine Columbia
Physician Assistant Program

History



Date of Change	Change
01/01/2026	Policy drafted into new template