



**Policy Title:**  
Academic Probation Policy

**Policy Identifier:**  
PA100

<b>Prepared by:</b> PA Program Faculty	Creation Date: 01/01/2026
<b>Reviewed by:</b> PA Program Executive Committee	Review Date: 01/01/2026
<b>Approved by:</b> PA Program Executive Committee	Effective Date: 01/01/2026
<b>Category:</b> Academic Standards and Progression Policies	

**Related 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 School of Medicine Columbia Physician Assistant (PA) Program are required to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.00 (B) to remain in good academic standing. A student whose GPA falls below this threshold will be placed on Academic Probation and provided an opportunity to remediate academic deficiencies within a defined period. Failure to meet academic expectations may result in dismissal from the program, subject to review and appeal procedures outlined herein.

**Reason for Policy**

To ensure compliance with ARC-PA standards requiring published academic performance policies that clearly define procedures for probation, dismissal, and appeal. This policy establishes fair, consistent processes to promote academic accountability and student success while maintaining program standards of excellence.

**Definitions**

- **Good Academic Standing:** A status indicating that a student maintains a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher.
- **Academic Probation:** A temporary status applied to a student whose GPA falls below 3.00, allowing one semester to meet the required standard.
- **Student Progress and Promotions Committee (SPPC):** The program committee responsible for reviewing academic performance, making recommendations for continuation or dismissal, and considering appeals.
- **Extenuating Circumstances:** Documented personal, medical, or academic factors



beyond the student's control that may warrant continued probation or reinstatement.

## **Procedures**

### **1. Placement on Academic Probation**

- Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.00 (B) to remain in good standing.
- A student whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.00 will be placed on Academic Probation for one semester.
- During this period, the student must raise the cumulative GPA to 3.00 or higher to continue in the program.
- Students who do not meet this standard after the probationary semester will be dismissed from the program unless extenuating circumstances are presented and accepted by the SPPC and/or Program Director.

### **2. Incomplete (I) Grades**

- If a student receives an Incomplete (I) in a course and the conversion of that grade causes the cumulative GPA to fall below 3.00, the student will be placed on Academic Probation for one semester following the posting of the final grade.

### **3. Review and Monitoring**

- The Program Director will review student academic performance at the end of each semester and notify students in writing of their probationary status, conditions for continuation, and potential consequences for noncompliance.

## **Appeals for Extension of Probation**

### **1. Appeal Process**

- Students who wish to appeal a decision regarding academic probation or dismissal must follow the USC Graduate School policies for appeal. See related policy A3.14h.
- Appeals are reviewed sequentially by:
  1. The Student Progress and Promotions Committee (SPPC)
  2. The Program Director
  3. The Assistant Dean for Clinical Graduate Programs
  4. The Dean of the Graduate School
  5. The Provost (final review)
- Appeals must be submitted in writing and include:
  - Student's full name and USC ID number
  - Student's signature
  - A detailed explanation of the circumstances leading to the appeal

### **2. Grounds for Appeal**

- The Graduate School will consider appeals only when one or more of the following apply:
  - Inequitable application of academic regulations
  - Evidence of bias or procedural error
  - Conflict with established policies
  - Extenuating circumstances impacting academic performance

Appeals related solely to disagreement with a course grade must be directed to the course



instructor, not to the Graduate School.

### 3. Reference

More information can be found in the [USC Graduate Academic Regulations](#) under *Appeal of Academic Decisions*.

### Enforcement and Accountability

Students on academic probation who fail to meet GPA requirements within the defined timeframe are subject to dismissal. All decisions regarding probation, continuation, and appeals are made in accordance with USC SOMC and Graduate School academic policies.

### Contacts

Program Director  
USC School of Medicine Columbia  
Physician Assistant Program

### History

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