

## ACADEMIC STANDING & PROGRESS

### Good Standing and Satisfactory Academic Progress

**Good Standing:** Students maintain good standing by displaying SAP as defined below, complying with all other academic rules and regulations, and by remaining current with financial obligations. RUSM reserves the right to withhold services, transcripts and certifications from students who are not in good standing.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress:** SAP represents an acceptable level of performance in meeting degree requirements within specified time periods. It is used in both academic evaluation and in determination of financial aid eligibility. Students maintain SAP by meeting the requirements listed under the Promotions Policies.

SAP is evaluated at the end of the student's academic year (normally two semesters) according to the following criteria:

### Qualitative and Quantitative Measures

At the end of each **academic year** each student's academic progress is evaluated by RUSM. This evaluation involves two metrics, one quantitative and one qualitative.

- The quantitative measure evaluates the student's Pace of Progression (PoP) through the medical education program with the maximum timeframe. The PoP is calculated by dividing the cumulative course credits or clinical weeks that the student has successfully completed by the cumulative course credits or clinical weeks that the student has attempted.
- Students in their first academic year are subject to a pace of progression rate of 50%. Students in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year or higher are subject to a pace of progression of 67%. Please note that courses with a grade of W, WP, WF, R and I are not counted in the cumulative GPA but are counted in the total attempted credits. Transfer credits accepted will count as attempted and completed credits for the calculation.
- The qualitative measure evaluates the student's cumulative GPA. Students are required to maintain a 2.00 cumulative GPA in order to meet the qualitative measure at the time of review.
- Students completing semester one in May 2013 or later, may receive academic amnesty for NP and F grades that are repeated and passed. Classes that are replaced as part of academic amnesty are counted in the quantitative measures (PoP) but are not counted in the qualitative measure (cumulative GPA).
- Students repeating semester one will not have a calculated GPA at the end of the academic year. SAP will only be measured based on the progression rate as specified above.

### Failure to meet the SAP criteria

#### Academic and Financial Aid Probation

If the results of the SAP evaluation indicate that a student has not met either one of the qualitative or quantitative measures, the student will be notified in writing that he/she is not eligible for federal financial aid and is subject to dismissal from RUSM. A student receiving such notification may appeal the determination and request reinstatement on academic/financial aid probation and will be issued an academic plan based on RUSM's guidelines.

- Students making an appeal must submit a written statement including information on why he/she failed to make SAP and what changes will be made that will allow him/her to demonstrate SAP at the next evaluation (i.e. student habits, unusual circumstances encountered, etc.).
- Students should submit their appeal to [PromotionAppeals@RossU.edu](mailto:PromotionAppeals@RossU.edu).
- If the student appeals the adverse SAP determination and Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs or his/her designee determines that the student should be able to make SAP during the subsequent(s)

term(s) of enrollment and meet RUSM's SAP standards as stated in the academic plan developed for that student, that if followed, will ensure that the student is able to meet RUSM's SAP standards by a specific point in time, then RUSM may place the student on academic/financial aid probation.

- A student whose appeal is approved and is reinstated on academic/financial aid probation may receive federal financial aid for an additional term of enrollment or timeframe as stated on the academic plan. While a student is on academic/financial aid probation, RUSM will require the student to fulfill specific terms and conditions in accordance with the academic plan, such as engaging in certain recommended RUSM activities designed to improve performance.
- At the end of the one term of enrollment while on academic/financial aid probation, in order to remain enrolled at RUSM and qualify for future federal financial aid funds, the student must meet RUSM's SAP standards OR must meet the requirements of the academic plan developed by RUSM.
- A student on academic/financial aid probation may still be dismissed if he/she fulfills the criteria for academic dismissal (See Academic Disciplinary Actions section of this Student Handbook)
- Special Note: Students that fail a semester and repeat it will have not earned a GPA for the academic year as all of the courses are Pass/Fail courses. These students will not be considered to be failing the quantitative component (GPA). These specific sets of students are expected to have a GPA of 0.0.
- Students withdrawing in the second half of the academic year will not be measured for SAP until they complete the 2<sup>nd</sup> full semester. A full academic year history is needed to evaluate SAP criteria.

#### **Academic Progress Standards for Clinical Students**

In addition to the SAP criteria above, the following are additional required criteria for measuring good academic standing for students in the clinical phases of their training:

- Passing the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) Comprehensive Basic Science Examination (CBSE) in no more than three consecutive attempts and within the prescribed timeframe for each attempt.
- Taking the USMLE Step 1 within six months of becoming eligible.
- Passing the USMLE Step 1 in no more than six attempts.
- Passing all clinical core NBME Subject Clerkship Exams (see page 124)
- Taking the USMLE Step 2 CK within six months of completing the required clinical core clerkships.
- Taking the USMLE Step 2 CS within one (1) year of completing the required clinical core clerkships.
- Passing the USMLE Step 2 CK and CS in no more than six attempts.

#### **Maximum Timeframe for SAP**

Students who completed their first semester prior to May 2013 must complete the entire MD program in a maximum of 210 instructional weeks of attendance. Students who completed their first semester on or after June 2013 must complete the entire MD program in a maximum of 225 weeks. Any student who does not complete the program within the appropriate timeframe will no longer be eligible to receive federal financial aid. Once it becomes mathematically impossible for a student to complete within the maximum timeframe, the student will be dismissed.

**Note:** This refers to actual attendance in regular or remedial semesters, as well as actual instructional weeks of attendance in the clinical training segment. It does not include the following:

- Periods when the student is on an AA for preparation and time needed to schedule and take the USMLE Steps 1, 2 CK and 2 CS (See Handbook for **Absences, Withdrawals and Deferrals**); or
- The time of regularly scheduled breaks between semesters; or
- While pending assignment to a scheduled clinical clerkship; or
- A semester during which an AA is taken, or in which the student withdraws prior to the end of week two of the semester, will not be counted toward the limit for meeting the above requirements.

Students who do not meet the standards for SAP are subject to dismissal. However, under very unusual circumstances, the Student Promotions Committee may determine, on an individual basis, that a student may continue at RUSM for one semester (on Probationary status).

### **Probation**

Students may be placed on academic probation for academic issues. Academic Probation is based on both course work and professional behavior, and is recommended by the Promotions Committee to the Dean. Academic Probation may be imposed in any semester, including clinical semesters.

RUSM grants professional degrees, and thus professional behavior is as important as academic performance.

Students may also be placed on Non-Academic Probation for professionalism or behavioral problems, upon recommendation of the Grievance Committee or Honor Council to the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs.

Non-Academic Probation is based on a student's behavior which does not meet one or more of the requirements in this Student Handbook (See Handbook for **Code of Conduct**), and can be imposed in any semester, including the clinical semesters.