UNIVERSITY OF
South Carolina
School of Medicine Greenville

Policy Title
Clerkship and Post Clerkship Phase Grading System

Identifier
USCSOMG – UME– 3.00

Prepared by: Assistant Dean for Clerkship and Post Clerkship Education	
Reviewed by: Clerkship and Post-Clerkship Subcommittee	Reviewed Date:
Approved by: Curriculum Committee	Approved Date:
	Effective Date: 03/01/2027

LCME Standards
9.4 – Narrative Assessment
9.6 – **Transparent and Timely Summative Assessment**

Scope
University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Greenville (SOMG) faculty, staff, and students

Policy Statement
All students are assessed using the program level objectives as defined by the Curriculum Committee. The overall assessment of a learner is based on a demonstration of knowledge and skills outlined in the competencies needed for the professional practice of medicine. Progressive mastery of these competencies is what differentiates satisfactory and unsatisfactory progress of a student toward becoming a graduate physician. The faculty of the USC School of Medicine Greenville are committed to the philosophy that a well-rounded physician will have broad-based mastery of biomedical principles and clinical practice knowledge and skills. Students must meet expectations for conduct as stated in the Expectation of Personal and Professional Conduct policy (USCSOMG – STAF – 5.01). No single course, clerkship, or area of study is deemed more important than any other. The required courses and clerkships of the curriculum are all essential for the practice of medicine, regardless of the student's future specialty choice.

Some courses require students to pass multiple/all components. Refer to the course syllabus for details on all components that contribute to the final grade. Students receive a final grade upon completion of each course in accordance with the Timeliness of Grades policy. All grades are finalized by the Module/Clerkship Director. The Learning Management System,, can be used to report grades on quizzes or other components contributing to the final grade. Official grades will be posted in Oasis and Banner.

Reason for Policy

This policy defines the grading system used by USC School of Medicine Greenville to assess students in a competency-based curriculum and ensure consistency and fairness of grades. Faculty members with appropriate knowledge and expertise set standards of achievement in each required learning experience in the medical education program. A medical school has in place a system of fair summative assessment of medical student achievement in each course and clerkship of the medical education program.

Procedures

Integrated Practice of Medicine (IPM)

All IPM modules (I-IV) are graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. A student is eligible to receive an Unsatisfactory (U) for unprofessional behavior as determined by the course director. Students receive a temporary grade of No Report (NR) if any component of the grade is incomplete due to an excused absence.

For IPM III, and IV, students must fulfill the obligations of the course and meet the minimum passing threshold for each course component, as defined in the syllabi. Students who do not meet the passing threshold in any IPM course receive an I_PF in the course and must remediate. Not successfully completing remediation results in an Unsatisfactory (U).

All Required Clerkships (except PCAT clerkships) will follow these grading requirements:

All clerkships have multiple components that contribute to the grade. Clinical evaluations are one component of every clerkship grade, which must be passed to pass the clerkship. In addition, 6- and 8-week clerkships include a written knowledge exam and a practical skills exam, and both of these components must be passed to pass the clerkship. Some clerkships include additional components that contribute to the final grade. Please refer to the course syllabus for details.

A student receives an "Incomplete" if the student receives one of the following:

- a NBME shelf exam grade less than the 5th percentile of the national average updated annually.
- a score on theend of clerkship clinical skills testing below the passing threshold as stated in the syllabus. failure to complete Core Clerkship requirements, such as patient encounter data, submitted histories and physicals, required online cases, case presentation, etc as outlined in the course syllabus.

Additionally, a student receives a "Failure" if any of the following apply:

- Meeting two or more of the above criteria.
- Failure to successfully remediate an incomplete grade

Additionally, at the discretion of the Clerkship Director, a student is eligible for an "Incomplete" or "Failure" if any of the following apply:

- Documented unprofessional behavior.
- One (1) or more ratings of "Unsatisfactory" in the clinical evaluation by a faculty or resident.
- Three (3) or more ratings of "Below Expectations" in the clinical evaluation by a faculty or resident

PCAT Clerkships: https://academicbulletins.sc.edu/medicine/school-medicine-greenville/course-descriptions/
PCAT Clerkships are graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis. Students are expected to achieve a passing grade on all components of a required clinical rotation as detailed in the syllabus.

A student receives an "Incomplete" if the student receives one of the following:

- a NBME shelf exam grade less than the 5%ile of the national average updated annually.
- a score on the end of clerkship clinical skills testing belowthe passing threshold as stated in the syllabus.
- failure to complete Core Clerkship requirements, such as patient encounter data, submitted histories and physicals, required online cases, case presentation, etc as outlined in the course syllabus.

Additionally, a student receives a "Failure" if any of the following apply:

- Meeting two or more of the above criteria.
- Failure to successfully remediate an incomplete grade

Additionally, at the discretion of the Clerkship Director, a student is eligible for an "Incomplete" or "Failure" if any of the following apply

- Documented unprofessional behavior.
- One (1) or more ratings of "Unsatisfactory" in the clinical evaluation by a faculty or resident
- Three (3) or more ratings of "Below Expectations" in the clinical evaluation by a faculty or resident

All Acting Internships follow these Grading requirements:

Students are expected to complete all components of a required Acting Internship. Refer to course syllabus for details on components contributing to the final grade.

At the discretion of the Acting Internship Director, a student is eligible for an "Incomplete" or "Failure" if one or more of the following apply:

- One (1) or more ratings of "Unsatisfactory" by a faculty or resident
- Three (3) or more ratings of "Below Expectations" by a faculty or resident
- Documented unprofessional behavior on the part of the student
- Failure to complete Acting Internship requirements, such as patient encounter data, submitted histories and physicals, required online cases, case presentation, etc, as outlined in the course syllabus.

Clerkship and Post-Clerkship Elective and Selective courses
Electives and selectives are graded on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory basis. Refer to course syllabus for details on components contributing to the final grade.

Additionally, a student is eligible for an "Incomplete" or "Failure" at the discretion of the Course Director if the student receives one or more of the following:

- One (1) or more ratings of "Unsatisfactory" by a faculty or resident

- Three (3) or more ratings of "Below Expectations" by a faculty or resident
- Documented unprofessional behavior on the part of the student
- Failure to complete course requirements, such as patient encounter data, submitted histories and physicals, required online cases, case presentation, etc, as outlined in the course syllabus.

Final Grade for Letter Graded Courses: percentage point accumulation corresponds to the following grade:

	GPA	Numerical Grade
A	4.0	89.45-100
B+	3.5	84.45-89.44
B	3.0	79.45-84.44
C+	2.5	74.45-79.44
C	2.0	69.45-74.44
F	0.0	Below 69.45

Other Symbols:
Other symbols used in the grading system are defined below. These grades do not carry grade points.

- **W**: Withdrawal passing, or without penalty, from a module, course, or clerkship
- **WF**: Withdrawal failing, or with penalty, from a module, course, or clerkship
- **AUD**: Student participated in the course as an auditor, with no assessment.
- **NR**: No report; to be used in the absence of any of the above grades; a temporary mark, to be replaced subsequently by a regular grade, which can be used only when no grade has been assigned.

Weighted Average and Class Rank
A student's cumulative weighted average is maintained by the Office for IDEAS and is posted in a central grade submission tracking system upon completion of the of the M1, M2 and M3 academic year.

Sanctions

If a student receives a grade of Fail (F) or Incomplete (I) or Unsatisfactory (U), or Incomplete_Pass/Fail (I_PF), the Student Evaluation and Promotions Committee (SEPC) has the authority to address the failure. Refer to Student Evaluation, Remediation, and Requirements for Promotion Policy.

Additional Contacts

Office for Medical Education
Office for Students Affairs

Related Information

USCSOMG – UME – 4.01 Good Standing
USCSOMG – UME – 3.05 Clerkship and Post-Clerkship Phase Timeliness of Grade Reporting
USCSOMG – UME – 2.07 Review of Grade and Narrative Assessment
USCSOMG – UME – 4.00 Student Evaluation, Remediation, and Requirements for Promotion and Appeal

USCSOMG – STAF – 5.01 Expectation of Personal and Professional Conduct
USCSOMG – STAF – 5.03 Honor and Professionalism

History

Date	Change
March 2027	Split policy into Clerkship and Post Clerkship Phase. Updated identifier
July 2026	Added IPM III and IV, updated link to program level objectives
July 2025	Minor edits for clarity
April 2025	Updated grading scheme for clerkships for Incomplete and Failing grades. Strengthened language in response to policy audit. Clarified criteria for clinical evaluation contributing to an Incomplete or Failing grade.
July 2024	Added the grading option to use NR for students with an incomplete grade due to an excused absence. Added expectations for PCAT program, eliminated redundant language regarding communication of grades. Updated timing of M3 NBME Shelf percentile analysis to an annual basis.
May 2023	Updated for branding and updated M3 core clerkship expectations
Oct 2021	Updated grading for EMT module.
June 2020	Clarified calculation of weighted average and class rank
July 2019	Changed policy title to Grading System. Clarified process to communicate a failure. Consolidated content from previous policies, added IPM and EMT, and components in M3 core clerkships. Moved remediation actions to Student Evaluation, Remediation, and Requirements for Promotion Policy.
July 2018	Moved to standardized template as part of LCME CQI