

<p>UC Riverside, School of Medicine Policies and Procedures Policy Title: Grading Scales, Grading Criteria and Grade Reporting Policy Number: 950-06-012</p>
--

Responsible Officer:	Senior Associate Dean, Medical Education
Responsible Office:	Undergraduate Medical Education
Origination Date:	04/17/2014
Date of Revision:	04/26/2017 05/20/2021
Scope:	UCR SOM Undergraduate Students

I. Policy Summary

UCR SOM will ensure that students pursuing the MD degree maintain an acceptable rate of academic progress toward the completion of that degree and meet the expected academic standards.

II. Definitions

LACE: Longitudinal Ambulatory Care Experience

CBL: Case-Based Learning

III. Policy Text

Block Directors, Clerkship Directors and Faculty members with appropriate knowledge and expertise set the standards of achievement in each required learning experience in the UCR SOM education program. The Medical Education Committee and its subcommittees routinely review and approve the standards of achievement for courses and clerkships and for the overall curriculum.

IV. Procedures

A. MS1 and MS2 Years

a. Each block will conclude with the following:

1. A comprehensive final exam integrating all aspects of the course. This may include a laboratory practical component that is appropriate to the objectives of the course.
2. Individual clinical skills assessment (e.g. patient interviewing and/or physical examination). It is expected that the students' skills will grow throughout the year. Criteria for acceptable performance in each course will be published in advance.
3. During the course of each block, students are required to participate in case-based learning (CBL) sessions. Their performance in these CBLs will be evaluated by the faculty/clinician facilitator. In addition, students must complete the assigned number of required assignments.

4. Longitudinal Ambulatory Care Experience (LACE) – Students must complete the assigned number of office sessions and assigned deliverables.
 - b. In addition, there will be weekly on-line "self-assessments" Their primary purpose is to provide a "low stakes" method that will allow students to evaluate progress and will allow faculty to identify students who may need individual assistance. In order to accomplish these purposes, students are expected to complete each quiz in the prescribed timeframe. Although not counted into the course grade, first year students are required to complete every assessment. For second year students, these assessments count for 35% of the final grade. The Student Affairs Office will be provided these scores weekly in order to monitor the feedback process and student progress throughout the year.
 - c. The UCR School of Medicine grading policy has been established using competency-based criteria. For the first year, the minimum passing score for all blocks, including Didactic and Lab exams, Clinical Skills, Doctoring, CBL and LACE is 70%.
 - d. For second year, the minimum passing score for Didactic and Lab exams is 65% or two standard deviations below the class mean (whichever is lower), and the minimum passing scores for Clinical Skills, Doctoring, CBL and LACE is 70%.
 - e. Students who do not achieve the minimum passing score will be tracked using an internal failing grade. Unsatisfactory performance in one block will result in an end-of-year remediation period of a minimum of two weeks followed by re-examination. Unsatisfactory performance on the re-examination will require repetition of the entire academic year. Two unsatisfactory block performances in one academic year will necessitate repetition of the entire academic year. Students will not be allowed to advance to the next instructional year until all blocks have been successfully completed.
 - f. A comprehensive Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) will be held at the end of the first and second years. Students must pass each of these tests with an overall examination score of 70%. If a failure occurs in the Doctoring and Clinical Skills OSCE, remediation will occur in the proximate period after the failure.
 - g. Only two grades are possible in each pre-clinical block: Pass (Satisfactory) or Fail (No Credit). All block grades will be recorded internally as in progress (IP) until the end of the academic year. If a student fails one block, it will be recorded as IP-F. The student will be allowed to complete the academic year provided no additional failures occur. If more than one IP-F occurs within the academic year, student will receive the grade of Fail and the student must repeat the entire year, including all blocks previously passed.

- h. In order to receive a Pass for each block, students must complete each of its components in a satisfactory manner. In order to advance to the next year of instruction, students must satisfactorily complete all blocks during the academic year. Grades for preclinical years must be posted by the Friday of the week following finals, or prior to the start of the next block, whichever occurs first.
- B. MS3 and MS4 Years
- a. During the third and fourth clinical years, students may receive an Honors grade or a High Pass in addition to the Pass/ Fail designation.
 - i. MS3 Clerkships
 3. The grading scale for MS3 clerkships is Honor, High Pass, Pass and Fail.
 4. Grading in all third-year clerkships is comprised of the same three components with the same weighting:
 - a. Knowledge – 35% of the final grade
 - b. Clinical Performance – 45% of the final grade
 - c. Professionalism – 20% of the final grade
 5. Each clerkship director determines the appropriate assessment methods for each of the three components (e.g., Knowledge – SHELF exam, oral exam; Clinical Performance – Faculty rating of the student performance, oral presentation; Professionalism – Small group participation, timely completion of requisites, attendance)
 6. For a SHELF exam:
 - a. Passing
 - i. The minimum acceptable shelf exam score is the 6th percentile (nationally normed).
 - b. Failure
 - i. A failure of the shelf examination will require a satisfactory repeat of the shelf examination.
 - ii. The student has the option of a repeat SHELF administration during:
 - a. the next available MS3 Selective period(s) along the student's third year track
 - b. the Community-based Experience course if still forthcoming along the student's third year track
 - c. additional proposed remediations dates identified by the Office of Medical Education
 - iii. The timing for repeat administration may be modified with prior approval of the Clerkship Director, Block Director and Associate Dean for Clinical Medical Education.

- iv. A student who fails the SHELF twice must successfully repeat the entire clerkship experience and requisites again.
- 7. Students who do not meet satisfactory performance criteria must have their performance issues fully remediated prior to advancing to the fourth year.
- ii. Third Year LACE
 - The grading scale is Honors, High Pass, Pass, or Fail. For the third and final year of LACE (LACE 3), students must complete the assigned number of clinical sessions and required deliverables within each thread:
 - 1. LACE Ambulatory Clinic: attendance for 100% of sessions is required to 'Pass' the clinical thread.
 - 2. The assigned deliverables for M3 LACE include:
 - a. LACE Clinical Reasoning: submission of monthly reflective writings (Powerwrites). The minimum passing score is 70%, with submission of 100% earning 'Honors' for the thread.
 - b. LACE Practice Improvement Projects (PIPs): submission of final paper and presentation of project at annual "Quality Improvement Conference." The minimum passing score for the PIP is 70%, with score of 90% or higher earning 'Honors' for the thread.
 - 3. In order to pass the LACE course, students must achieve minimum passing score in each of the LACE domains (Ambulatory Clinic, Practice Improvement, Clinical Reasoning); To achieve "Honors" grade for LACE 3 Course: students must achieve 'Honors' grade in both LACE Clinical Reasoning and LACE Practice Improvement threads and 'Pass' in LACE Ambulatory Clinic; To achieve "High Pass" grade for LACE 3 Course: students must achieve 'Honors' grade in one of LACE Clinical Reasoning or LACE Practice Improvement threads and 'Pass' in LACE Ambulatory Clinic.
 - 4. Failure of any one component of LACE (Ambulatory Clinic, Practice Improvement, Clinical Reasoning) will result in failure of the LACE 3 Course.
- iii. Community-Based Learning Experiences (CBE)
 - No grade is assigned for CBE, but students must successfully complete all components of CBE to be promoted to the 4th year.
- iv. MS4 Subinternship and Electives
 - The grading scale is Honors, High Pass, Pass, or Fail. The grade is a composite grade based upon clinical performance assessments completed by clinical supervisors during the

rotation. The final grade is calculated by the UCR SOM 4th Year Director, which includes local and away rotations.

The following criteria are used to determine the composite grade.

Honors = 4.5

High Pass = 4.0-4.4

Pass = 3.9-1.5

Fail = <1.5

v. Radiology

The grading scale is Honors, High Pass, Pass, or Fail. The grade will be a composite grade based upon pre-quizzes, post-quizzes, exams, cases, class attendance and participation. The Radiology course director will provide the final grade for students.

Grade distribution per block

Honors: Top 20% of the class

High pass: top 50% of the class

Pass: above 70% absolute score

vi. Back to Basics

The grading scale is Pass/Fail. Students must attend assigned activities including lectures, patient simulations, small group sessions, and self-directed online learning. A grade of passing will be earned by a student after they have successfully attended and completed all required activities assigned to them OR after they have been excused from any activities not completed OR after they have completed an appropriate make up for any activity, they neither attended nor were excused from. The decision to excuse a student from an activity, as well as the nature of any make up assignment, will be at the discretion of the course director.

vii. ICU Selectives

The grading scale is Honors, High Pass, Pass, or Fail. The grade will be a composite grade based upon the following: clinical performance (50%) using end of rotation assessment forms, non-clinical performance that includes participation in small groups, completion of online learning modules, completion of critical care procedure and diagnosis log and duty hour logs, and a final presentation. The ICU course director will provide the final grade for students.

V. Related Information

Medical Student Handbook

Block Director Handbook (Pre-Clerkship)

Approvals:

COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE ()

PAUL HACKMAN, J.D., C.H.C.
COMPLIANCE AND PRIVACY OFFICER,
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

BRIGHAM C. WILLIS, MD, MED
SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN, MEDICAL EDUCATION
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

DATE

DEBORAH DEAS, M.D., M.P.H
DEAN, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
CEO, CLINICAL AFFAIRS