

Policy Title: Curricular Standards for Academic Progression, Promotion, and Completion of the Program
APR-PA Accreditation Standards for Physician Assistant Education, 6th Edition
Standards Addressed: A3.14a, A3.14b
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ARC-PA Standard(s) Addressed

A3.14 The program publishes, consistently applies, and makes readily available to enrolled and prospective students:

- a) any required academic standards to maintain enrollment and progress in the curriculum
- b) requirements and deadlines for completion of the program

Policy

Progression and continuance in the TNU PA Program occur based upon successfully achieving all program competencies and learning outcomes in the didactic and clinical years. Students must demonstrate proficiency and competency in the areas of medical knowledge for practice, interpersonal and communication skills, patient-centered care, practice-based learning and improvement, and professionalism. A student who does not successfully complete all requirements for each semester or clinical rotation will not progress to the next semester or rotation without remediation and approval of the Student Progress Committee (SPC).

The TNU PA Program is a cohort-based curriculum and requires students to progress through as a cohort. Any student who does not meet the requirements for progression to the next semester or promotion to the next phase of the Program with their cohort will be required to meet with the SPC for either deceleration or dismissal from the Program.

The following criteria are requirements for advancement:

Semester to Semester Progression

- Complete semester with all final course grades 75% or above.
- Passage of all pass/fail courses.
- Receive a satisfactory SPC professionalism review based on the student's file.
- Receive recommendation from the SPC for progression to the next semester.

Didactic Year to Clinical Year Promotion

- Successfully pass all courses with a grade of 75% or higher for the didactic year.
- Achieve the minimum 75% score for all formative evaluations/examinations at the end of the didactic year.
 - Achieve a minimum of 75% for the Observed Standardized Clinical Examinations (OSCE).
- Successfully complete remediation in all core content in specified time.

- Receive a satisfactory SPC professionalism review based on the student's file for the entire didactic year.
- Complete the PACKRAT I exam for self-evaluation.
- Update any required immunizations and/or titers for the clinical year e.g., flu shot, Hep B, and any other vaccines that may need updating due to absence of titers.
- Complete all required training for the clinical year and provide proof of BLS/ACLS/PALS, HIPPA, and OSHA regulations, and bloodborne pathogen trainings.
- Receive recommendation for progression to the clinical year from the SPC.

Clinical Year Progression

- Complete all Supervised Clinical Practical Experiences (SCPEs) with a passing preceptor evaluation of a 3 or better on all learning outcomes on a 5-point Likert Scale.
- No rotation grades below 75%.
- Obtain a passing grade on all end-of-rotation examinations.
- Achieve a satisfactory score for professionalism by the preceptor.
- Successfully complete remediation in all core content in the specified time.
- Receive recommendation from the SPC for progression to graduation.

Clinical Year to Graduation Promotion

- Successfully complete all courses and clinical rotations with a minimum grade of 75%.
- Successfully complete all requirements for the didactic phase of the Program.
- Successfully complete all requirements for the clinical phase of the Program.
- Successfully complete the clinical formative OSCE with a score of 80% or above.
- Successfully complete the PACKRAT II exam for self-evaluation.
- Successfully complete remediation for all core content as required.
- Successfully complete all components of the clinical summative evaluation.
- Be in good standing with Trevecca Nazarene University Registrar and Financial Aid concerning all tuition, fees, fines, or requirements.
- Satisfactory scores maintained for professionalism throughout the Program.
- Successfully complete the PA program within 48 months of matriculation.
- Receive recommendation for graduation from the SPC.

All students entering the Trevecca Nazarene University PA Program will have a total of 48 months to complete the Program.

Academic Warning

The Program will utilize an academic warning system to early identify students who are at risk of failing out of the Program. This action is taken to assist them in identifying areas in need of improvement in their academic skills. An academic warning may be given after the completion of a didactic semester or clinical rotation. The student will have until the end of the following didactic semester or clinical rotation to be removed from this status. If the conditions for removal from academic warning are not met, the student will continue on academic warning for the next semester.

Academic Monitoring and academic warnings are not recorded in the student's permanent file. It is a process used to assist students in achieving success in the Program.

Didactic Phase Academic Warning

Causes:

- One or more courses with final course grade < 80%.

Academic Warning Process

Students placed on academic warning will be required to complete the following:

- Meet with the course director and/or advisor to discuss an individualized remediation plan which is required to be completed to be removed from academic warning.

Outcomes:

- To be removed from the academic warning status, a student must successfully complete the individualized remediation plan and complete the next semester with no course final grades below 80%.
- A student who fails to meet the requirements to be removed from academic warning will be required to meet with the Student Progress Committee to discuss their progress.

Clinical Phase Academic Warning

Causes:

- A final clinical rotation grade of < 80%.
- Final preceptor rotation evaluation score < 80%.
- Failure of end-of-rotation exam.
- Two end-of-rotation exam scores below the national average.
- End-of-curriculum exam score below the national average.

Academic Warning Process

Students placed on academic warning will be required to complete the following:

- Meet with the Clinical Director and/or advisor to discuss an individualized remediation plan which is required to be completed by the end of the next clinical rotation.

Outcomes:

- To be removed from the academic warning status, a student must successfully complete the individualized remediation plan, the next clinical rotation, and successfully pass the EOR exam.
- A student who fails to meet all requirements to be removed from academic warning will be required to meet with the Student Progress Committee to discuss their progress.

Academic Probation

To remain in satisfactory academic standing, students must demonstrate sufficient academic progress and pass all courses or clinical rotations. A student who fails a course at the end of a semester or a clinical rotation will be placed on academic probation by the Student Progress Committee (SPC) for the remainder of his/her time in the program. Academic probation status is recorded in the student's permanent file. Failure of a second didactic course during the didactic phase will result in dismissal from the PA Program. Failure of two clinical rotations during the clinical phase will result in dismissal from the PA Program.

Process of Placing a Student on Academic Probation

- The Student Progress Committee (SPC) will review the student's progress in the Program.

- The SPC will meet with the student and also provide the student with written notification of their probation status.

Academic Probation Process

Didactic phase:

- Students placed on academic probation will be required to meet with their advisor, and/or the Academic Director on a regular basis to review their progress.
- Students must participate in an academic improvement plan for the remainder of their time in the didactic phase.
- Students must complete a comprehensive didactic course remediation and reassessment exam.

Clinical phase:

- Students placed on academic probation will be required to meet with their advisor, and/or the Clinical Director on a regular basis to review their progress.
- Clinical students must participate in an academic improvement plan for the remainder of their time in the clinical phase.
- Students must repeat the clinical rotation in the clinical phase.

Outcomes

Academic probation is recorded in the student's permanent file.

Didactic phase:

- Didactic students must pass a comprehensive course remediation and reassessment exam with a score of 75% or above to continue in the Program.
- Failure of the comprehensive reassessment exam will result in a meeting with the SPC to recommend either.
 - Deceleration (when a student fails one course and does not successfully complete the comprehensive remediation and reassessment process).
 - Dismissal (when a student on academic probation due to a prior course failure fails a second course, or when a student fails two courses within the same semester).

Clinical phase:

- Clinical students must pass the repeated clinical rotation with a score of 75% or above.
- Failure of the repeated clinical rotation will result in dismissal from the Program.