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|  | <b>Howard University</b><br><b>College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences</b><br><b>Department of Physician Assistant</b> | <i>Policy Number</i>  | PHAS - 003 |
|  |  | <i>Effective Date</i> | 08/01/2022 |
| Howard University<br>College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences               | <b>Academic Probation, Dismissal and Deceleration Policy</b><br>(A3.15c, A3.15d)   |                       |            |

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**I. PURPOSE**

To establish the Howard University Physician Assistant Program policy regarding physician assistant academic probation, academic dismissal, and student withdrawal.

**II. POLICY**


It is the practice and procedure of the Howard University Physician Assistant Department to clearly provide guidance for academic expectations for successful matriculation.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

Academic probation: A physician assistant student placed on academic probation will continue to matriculate. The student has earned a cumulative GPA of less than 3.0. The student must achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater within 2 consecutive semesters to continue matriculation. If the student has not achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater by the end of the didactic curriculum or within 2 semesters, the student may be subject to additional academic action.

Academic deceleration: A physician assistant student who is subject to academic deceleration will not continue matriculation with his/her cohort. The student resumes their matriculation at the beginning of the semester in which they decelerated with the intent of program completion with a subsequent cohort. Students will be required to be enrolled full-time unless other accommodations are in place.

Academic dismissal: A physician assistant placed on academic dismissal has been recommended to discontinue matriculation due to failure to meet the program academic standards of a cumulative GPA of 3.0.

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### Academic Actions

#### **1. Academic Probation**

- a. A physician assistant student who fails to meet the minimum semester grade point average (GPA) in the 1<sup>st</sup> didactic semester or semester GPA requirement of 3.0 will be placed on academic probation.

#### **2. Academic Deceleration**

- a. A physician assistant student who receives a final course grade below “C” will be recommended for academic deceleration.


#### **3. Academic Dismissal**

- a. While on academic probation, the student has two consecutive semesters to raise their cumulative GPA to 3.0 or greater.
  - i. If a student fails to meet this requirement or has another semester of less than a 3.0 GPA, the student may be subject to deceleration or dismissal from the program.
  - ii. If a physician assistant student fails to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater by the end of the didactic phase of the program, a recommendation for academic dismissal will be made.
- b. A physician assistant student who receives a final course grade of “F” in 2 or more courses will be recommended for dismissal from the program.

- Student progress will be discussed and recommendations for academic probation or academic dismissal will be made by Student Progress Committee, Didactic or Clinical Education Coordinators, respectively to the Program Director.
- The Program Director will review each student file and may accept or deny the final academic action.
- All academic actions will be forwarded to the College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences Student Affairs Committee.
- Students may appeal the program decision for academic dismissal at the level of the Dean.

### **IV. PROCEDURES**

1. A student falling below a cumulative GPA of 3.0, in any given semester, may be placed on academic probation.

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2. To be removed from academic probation, the student must attain a cumulative GPA at or above 3.0 within two semesters.

3. Students who earn a final course grade below “C” in one course will be recommended for deceleration.

4. Students who earn a final course grade below “C” in 2 or more courses will be dismissed from the program.

5. A student, who does not obtain a GPA of 3.0 or greater, by the end of the didactic year of instruction, will be recommended for dismissal from the PA program. Such dismissals shall be done in a timely fashion, but no later than three weeks after the completion of the phase.

6. The Student Progress Committee makes recommendations of probation or dismissal to the Program Director.

7. The Program Director may accept or deny the recommendation and any recommendation for dismissal is forwarded to the Dean for final academic action.

8. A decision to dismiss by the Dean may be appealed to the Office of the Provost.