	<b>Howard University</b> <b>College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences</b> <b>Department of Physician Assistant</b>	<i>Policy Number</i>	PHAS - 006
		<i>Effective Date</i>	08/01/2022
Howard University College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences	<b>Remediation/Deceleration Policy (A2.05f, A3.15c)</b>		

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### **I. PURPOSE**

To establish the process to promptly identify physician assistant students who display academic (knowledge or skill) deficiencies and assist through an action plan to attain the requisite knowledge, skills, or behavior for academic success to meet program standards, competencies, and expectations.

### **II. POLICY**

It is the practice and procedure of the Howard University Physician Assistant Department to identify promptly and implement intervention to students who display academic deficiencies to assist with mastery of knowledge, skills, or behavior in identified areas. This policy is not intended to allow a student to remediate all graded activities or multiple assessment activities in multiple courses.


**To maintain good standing in the program, students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater and semester GPA of 3.0 or greater.**

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

**Remediation:** process intended to correct a student’s academic deficiencies and includes such activities as special assignments, examinations, tutoring, assessment, and development of study skills.


**Deceleration:** loss of a student from progressing with the entering cohort who remains matriculated in the Program. The student may be able to resume the program with the following cohort if the deficiency is adequately addressed.

**Content remediation:** process to correct a student’s academic deficiencies in the acquisition of knowledge or skill or both for a course-level examination or skill practicum.

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#### **IV. PROCEDURES**

1. Students are identified for content remediation by meeting one or more of the following criteria:
  - a. In the didactic phase, receiving a grade below 75% on written examinations (quizzes will not be remediated) or a grade below 80% on clinical/technical skill activities (OSCEs, clinical skills training, lab/clinical practical assessment, oral case presentations, or other assessment activities. (Preceptor evaluations will not be remediated).
  - b. In the clinical phase, receiving a grade below 75% on any clinical examination (EOR) or grade below 80% on any clinical or technical skill assessment activity. (Preceptor evaluations will not be remediated).
  - c. Mid-term course grade average below 75%
  - d. Students are identified for deceleration by the following criteria:
    - i. Final course grade below “C” ( $\leq 69.99\%$  total course score) in one didactic or clinical course.
  
2. During the didactic phase, remediation is allowed for three course examinations (one per semester) for the entirety of the program. Students are allowed to remediate and retake any examination or assessment apart from the summative examinations (written or clinical) and must achieve a grade of
  - a. 75% or higher for written examinations
  - b. 80% or higher for clinical/technical skill activities
 to raise the below competency grade for the activity to a passing grade of 75% or 80% respectively.
  
3. During the clinical phase, remediation is allowed for one end of rotation examination per semester. Students are allowed to remediate and retake any examination or assessment apart from the summative examinations (written or clinical) and must achieve a grade of 80% or higher to raise the below competency grade for the activity to a passing grade of 80%.
  - a. Minimum competency for end of rotation examinations will be defined as 75%.
  
4. Students will be notified by the course director or Didactic Education Coordinator or Clinical Education Coordinator to discuss student performance and need for remediation. The course director will actively participate in the process of remedial instruction. The course director (or proctor for a skill assessment) or Didactic Education Coordinator or Clinical Education Coordinator will review the failed


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assessment with the student, identify deficiencies, and provide a remediation plan and timeline. The student will be provided with a study guide and a structured learning activity to achieve knowledge and skill competency. Once the remediation plan is formulated, the student and faculty will sign a remediation plan agreement.

- a. The remediation plan may include any of the following:
    - i. Study skills: Topics including study tips, study skills, time management, note taking, stress management, lifestyle modifications and others, as identified
    - ii. Learning interventions: Topics for applied student learning or mastery-based learning through frequent knowledge-based assessment using Exam Masters or Rosh Review and reflective learning integrated with course content
    - iii. Content: Includes reinforcement of course content and subject matter through reinforcement with the course instructor(s) or advisor
  - b. The method of reassessment may be any of the following:
    - i. proctored oral or written exam using the same questions from the failed exam
    - ii. new exam with different questions covering the same material
    - iii. a new exam and questions covering the same material.
5. For written examinations, students will be reassessed by examination to demonstrate competency and mastery.
- a. The highest grade not exceeding 75% (80% for clinical phase) will be averaged into the course grade.
  - b. Students will not be able to achieve a grade of higher than 75% (80% for clinical phase) on a reassessment activity.
  - c. Students will have **one** attempt to remediate an examination
    - i. Clinical phase: In the event a student fails the end of rotation remediation examination, the student will be required to repeat the rotation the following clinical year or when placement is possible. This **will** subsequently delay graduation and sitting for the PANCE. The student **will** incur additional tuition and fees.

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6. For clinical or technical skills, students will be reassessed by observation of the competency of the skill.
  - a. The highest grade not exceeding 80% will be averaged into the course grade.
  - b. Students will not be able to achieve a grade of higher than 80% on a reassessment activity.
  - c. Students will need to demonstrate proficiency to progress to the next semester.
  
7. Students who require remediation are referred to their faculty advisor. The faculty advisor will complete a Student Advisement Encounter Form to document the session and provide guidance on time management, study skills, and reviews learning methods and styles. The faculty advisor will schedule a follow up meeting to assess progress during remediation.
  
8. Students are required to achieve 80% competency on the comprehensive written examination and clinical skills competency assessment for eligibility to graduate as stated in the College Admission, Graduation and Retention Policy. Failure to obtain this minimum competency will result in the following:
  - a. A second comprehensive examination given within ten days of receipt of initial examination score. Upon obtaining minimum competency on the first remake examination, recommendation for graduation will be made upon faculty approval.
  - b. Students not achieving the minimum competency on the first retake examination will receive an incomplete for the PHAS 709 course, recommendation for graduation will be withheld and be required to enroll in a Directed Independent Study (DIS) course for the upcoming Spring semester. The DIS course is designed by the faculty for remediation during that semester.
  - c. During enrollment in the DIS course, the student is provided an additional and final opportunity to achieve the minimum competency on the summative evaluation after remediation.
  - d. If competency is not achieved on the third comprehensive examination (second remake examination), recommendation for graduation will not be made. At this time, a faculty recommendation for dismissal from the Department will be forwarded to the Associate Dean and Dean of the College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences.
  - e. All summative evaluations and remediation actions are documented in the student's secure file.

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9. Successful remediation will result in an assessment grade of 75% or 80% respectively or course grade of “C” (70.0%).
  
10. All remediation plans and activities will be submitted to the Student Progress Committee for review and tracking.
  
11. Students who meet the criteria for deceleration will be required to do the following:
  - a. Meet with their faculty advisor to discuss course failure and deceleration process.
  - b. Withdrawal from the upcoming semester courses.
    - i. Students will enroll in external courses to maintain full-time or part-time status. Courses will be discussed with faculty advisor.
    - ii. Students will enroll in addition in a Directed Independent Study course and be provided with remediation plan.
  - c. Enroll in course at next course offering and enroll in Directed Independent Study Course to audit clinical skills courses to maintain clinical competency.
  - d. If a student opts to sit out the upcoming semester, a total withdrawal will need to be completed.
    - i. The student will need to reapply to the University for readmission
    - ii. Students will meet with the Program Director for this process.