	<b>Howard University</b> <b>College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences</b> <b>Department of Physician Assistant</b>	<i>Policy Number</i>	PHAS - 002
		<i>Effective Date</i>	08/01/2022
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/Howard University College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences	<b>Academic Standards/Academic Progression (A3.15a, A3.15b)</b>		

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**I. PURPOSE**

To establish the program academic standards and progression for the Howard University Physician Assistant Program.

**II. POLICY**


It is the practice and procedure of the Howard University Physician Assistant Department to have students remain in good academic standing during their matriculation through the didactic phase and the clinical phase to satisfactorily complete the program.

Students are expected to maintain a minimum semester and cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0. The GPA is the ratio expressed by the sum of the quality points divided by the sum of the credits attempted

**Grading Standards**

Grade	Score	Quality Points per Credit Hour
A	90 – 100%	4.0
B	80 – 89%	3.0
C	70 – 79%	2.0
F	≤69.94%	0

*\*\*Pass/Fail grading is not a component of the Howard University Physician Assistant Department grade computation. \*\**

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### **III. DEFINITIONS**

N/A

### **IV. PROCEDURES**

#### **Academic Progression**

To meet the requirements for continuance and progression in the Howard University Physician Assistant Program, students must meet the following criteria:

#### **1. Progression within the Didactic Phase**


Physician Assistant students must complete the following requirements at the end of each semester to move on the next semester:

- a. Maintain cumulative GPA (Grade Point Average) of 3.0 or greater
- b. Successful passage of all semester courses with minimum grade of 70% (C)
- c. Successful passage of all written and practical examinations with minimum grade of 70% (C)
- d. Demonstration of required skills and competencies as required
- e. Compliance with Howard University and program policies
- f. Compliance and adherence to student code of conduct, including professionalism

#### **2. Progression from Didactic Phase to Clinical Phase**

To meet the program requirements for progression to the clinical phase of the Howard University Physician Assistant Program, students must meet the following criteria after 3 didactic semesters:

- a. Maintain cumulative GPA (Grade Point Average) of 3.0 or greater
- b. Successful passage of all semester courses with minimum course grade of C.
- c. Successful passage of all written and practical examinations with minimum grade of 70% (C)
- d. Demonstration of required skills and competencies as required
- e. Compliance with Howard University and program policies
- f. Compliance and adherence to student code of conduct, including professionalism
- g. Successful completion of all didactic phase courses.
- h. Participation in annual IPE (Interprofessional Education) day activity.
- i. Successful completion of the didactic phase summative examination with a minimum score of 75%.
- j. Successful completion of comprehensive assessment of history, physical and clinical skills via practicum with a minimum score of 80%.
- k. Certificate of health clearance from Student Health Services:

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- i. Current health insurance policy
- ii. Up-to-date immunization status
- iii. Negative tuberculosis screening (2-step PPD, QuantiFERON assay or chest radiograph)
- l. Documentation of a negative on drug screening as required by clinical rotation site(s).
- m. Completion of any additional clinical rotation site requirements (credentialing process).

### **3. Progression from Clinical Phase to Graduation**

To meet the program requirements for program completion/graduation of the Howard University Physician Assistant Program, students must meet the following criteria by the end of the final semester of the program:

- a. Maintain cumulative GPA (Grade Point Average) of 3.0 or greater
- b. Successful passage of all supervised clinical practice experiences courses with minimum course grade of C.
- c. Successful passage of all end of rotation examinations with minimum grade of 70% (C)
- d. Successful passage of all practical examinations with minimum grade of 80% (B)
- e. Compliance and adherence to student code of conduct, including professionalism.
- f. Successful completion of the clinical phase summative examination with a minimum score of 75%.
- g. Successful completion of comprehensive assessment of history, physical and clinical skills via practicum with a minimum score of 80%.
- h. Participation in annual IPE (Interprofessional Education) day activity
- i. Participation in clinical phase activities as determined by program.
- j. Successful passage of all components of summative evaluation.
- k. Completed Student Progression form by academic advisor on file.

\*\*Any student who fails to meet the minimum GPA requirement and/or minimum competency may be subject to academic action to include but not limited to academic probation, academic remediation, or academic dismissal.

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#### 4. Graduation Clearance

- a. All components of didactic and clinical phases of program met at minimum at competency.
- b. Student file reviewed by Student Progress Committee for recommendation for December graduation.
- c. Completion of CNAHS graduation clearance form signed by Department Chair and CNAHS SAC Coordinator.
- d. Graduation Clearance form submitted to CNAHS Director of Student Affairs for final review.
- e. CNAHS approval of December graduation recommendation pending financial and academic clearance
- f. Graduation Clearance form submitted by CNAHS Director of Student Affairs to Office of Registrar and Student Financial Services.
- g. Clearance of all financial obligations to the institution.
- h. Upon financial clearance, signed off by Director of Academic Services for processing of degree.

#### Attendance

Due to the academic intensity, pace, and demand of the physician assistant curriculum attendance is **mandatory** for all didactic courses, supervised clinical practice experiences and related activities, laboratory, and academic activities. This practice applies to both in-person and virtual courses. Students are expected to be punctual for classes. At the discretion of the instructor, students will not be permitted into classes 15 minutes after the start time. For absenteeism, please refer to the Absenteeism Policy. Excused absence requests are to be submitted to the Didactic or Clinical Education Coordinators, respectively who will provide notification to the Program Director. All other absences will be deemed as unexcused absences. Medical emergencies and emergent absences will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.