
	Howard University College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences Department of Physician Assistant	Policy Number	PHAS - 002
	Academic Standards/Academic Progression (A3.15a, A3.15b)	Effective Date	08/01/2022
	Approved by: Gina S. Brown, Ph.D., MSA, RN, FAAN, FNAP, FADLN Dean, College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences	Last Reviewed	10/26/2022
		Revision Date	05/13/2025
		Next Review	05/12/2026

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I. PURPOSE

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

II. POLICY

To satisfactorily complete the program, students are expected to remain in good academic standing during their matriculation through the didactic and clinical phases of the Physician Assistant Program.

III. DEFINITIONS

N/A

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Grading Standards



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.

Grade	Score	Quality Points per Credit Hour
A	90 – 100%	4.0
B	80 – 89.99%	3.0
C	70 – 79.99%	2.0
D/F	≤69.99%	0

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

B. Academic Progression

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

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1. Progression within the Didactic Phase



Physician Assistant students must complete the following requirements at the end of each semester to successfully move forward to the next semester in good standing:

- a. Achieve/maintain cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater.
- b. Successful passage of all semester courses with minimum grade of 70%.
- c. Successful completion of clinical assessment course work, inclusive of written, oral, and clinical skills via practicum with a minimum score of 80%.
- 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 in good standing 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 of 3.0 or greater.
- b. Successful passage of all semester courses with minimum course grade of C.
- c. Successful completion of clinical assessment course work, inclusive of written, oral, and clinical skills via practicum with a minimum score of 80%.
- 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. Certificate of completion required for student file.
- i. Successful completion of the didactic phase summative examination with a minimum score of 70%.
- j. Certificate of health clearance from Student Health Center:
 - Current health insurance policy.
 - Up-to-date immunization status.
 - Negative tuberculosis screening.



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- Documentation of a negative drug screening.
- 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:

- Maintain/achieve cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater.
- Successful passage of all supervised clinical practice experiences courses with minimum course grade of C.
- Successful passage of all end of rotation examinations with minimum grade of 75%.
- Successful passage of all clinical assessment and practical examinations with minimum grade of 80%.
- Compliance and adherence to student code of conduct, including professionalism.
- Successful completion of the clinical phase summative examination with a minimum score of 75%.
- Successful completion of comprehensive clinical assessment course work, inclusive of written, oral, and clinical skills via practicum with a minimum score of 80%.
- Participation in annual IPE (Interprofessional Education) day activity. Certificate required.
- Participation in clinical phase activities as determined by program.
- Successful passage of all components of summative evaluation.
- Completed Student Progression form by academic advisor on file.
- Submission of 30 community service hours (voluntary, unpaid) with an organization that serves the needs of those who are marginalized or experiencing hardships/burdens serving one of the following groups:
 - Elderly, special-needs, veterans, housing insecure, migrants, etc.....
 - Documentation submitted on organization letterhead from supervisor (name/email) with a description of tasks and dates of service.
 - Hours may also be earned with participation in Department service activities (Student ambassador, HBCU Day on the Hill, Project Access, etc..)

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4. Graduation Clearance

- a. All components of the didactic and clinical phases of the program have been met at minimum 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 Faculty Advisor .
- 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 Service.
- g. Clearance of all financial obligations to the institution.
- h. Upon financial clearance, signed off by the Director of Academic Services for processing of degree.

C. Program 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 10 minutes after the start time.

For absenteeism, please refer to the Attendance and Punctuality Policy. Personal days and excused absence requests are to be submitted using the appropriate request forms. Notification is to be provided as appropriate to the course director and 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.