



## **POLICY: Requirements for Progression In and Completion of the PA Program**

### **Progression in the Didactic Phase**

In order to progress through the didactic phase of the program, students must maintain an *average* of a 3.0 GPA per term and must pass each course with an overall minimum grade of “C” (75%).

- Students that *do not* achieve an overall 3.0 GPA will be placed on academic probation.
- Students must demonstrate continual improvement to remain in the program as defined as an improving GPA.
- Students who fail to improve their overall GPA from the previous term will be referred to the ASRC for recommended dismissal.

Students must have a *cumulative* 3.0 GPA at the completion of the didactic year to begin clinical rotations.

- Any student who fails to achieve this 3.0 GPA cannot proceed and must be recommended by the ASRC for dismissal from the program.

In addition to having an overall 3.0 GPA, all students are required to pass a **didactic summative examination** prior to entering supervised clinical practice experiences.

- Remediation for failure of the summative examination is required and will consist of remedial training followed by a retest of information similar in both content and construction to the original summative examination.
- Students who fail to successfully remediate a failed didactic phase summative examination will be referred to the Academic Support and Remediation Committee with a recommendation for dismissal from the program.

The graduate school does not allow grade substitutions for failed didactic courses.

- All completed didactic courses will be reflected on student transcript.
- Students who repeat a course due to deceleration must be considerate of this when returning for the following cohort and must continue to complete all minimum GPA requirements.
- Failing grades received prior to deceleration will remain on the official transcript.

### **Progression in the Clinical Phase**

In order to progress through the clinical phase of the program, students must maintain a 3.0 GPA and must pass each SCPE with an overall minimum grade of “B” (83%).

- Since students must enter the clinical phase of the program with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA and students must achieve a minimum grade of “B” (83%), there is no possibility of a student GPA falling below 3.0.
- If the student fails a SCPE they will be required to complete remediation and must repeat the entire rotation, including the End of Rotation Examination.
- Students may not repeat more than one rotation.

All students are required to pass a clinical summative examination within four months of graduation before the Program Director can grant a recommendation for Program graduation to the registrar.

- Remediation for failure of the clinical summative examination is required for Program completion and will consist of a supplemental assignment followed by retesting of information similar in both content and construction to the original clinical summative examination.
- Students who fail to successfully remediate a failed didactic phase summative examination will be referred to the Academic Support and Remediation Committee with a recommendation for dismissal from the program.

#### Grade Replacement Policy – Supervised Clinical Practice Experiences (SCPEs)

- During the clinical year, the minimum required grade to pass each SCPE is a “B” (83%). Failure to obtain a “B” will necessitate repeating the failed rotation. Failing the repeat clinical rotation will result in dismissal. No more than one clinical rotation may be repeated; failing more than one clinical rotation will result in dismissal. The repeated SCPE is subject to this Grade Replacement Policy:
  - This policy can be applied to a maximum of one SCPE – no more than one SCPE may be repeated.
  - For purposes of GPA calculation, the grade earned during the first SCPE enrollment will stand until the recording of the final grade in the second enrollment is completed. When the second enrollment is completed, the grade for that second enrollment will become the grade used in all GPA calculations.
  - The transcript will record both course enrollments and the grade earned in each enrollment. The first attempt will be marked with an X to indicate grade replacement (e.g., XF, XC).
  - Students will not be allowed to apply the grade replacement policy to a course in which there has been documented academic dishonesty that has not been reversed on appeal.
  - If a student takes an approved leave of absence from the PA Program during a clinical rotation, the student will receive a grade of “Incomplete (I)” for that SCPE and may not restart the PA Program prior to the start of the next term; the soonest the student could resume clinical rotations would be whichever established SCPE block occurs first in the next term. The Incomplete SCPE must be repeated prior to completion of the Program and will likely take place at the same clinical site.
  - This Grade Replacement Policy is unique to the SCPE (clinical rotation) courses in the PA Program and is applied automatically upon completion of the repeated (remediation) SCPE.

#### Requirements for Completion of the Program

If the student fails to meet criteria for progression and decelerates, all coursework/required program components must be completed within five years of initial matriculation.

Only courses taken and credits received in the Bryant University PA Program are included in the computation of the Program GPA.

All failed courses, except as noted above, are maintained on the student transcript and cannot be substituted for repeat or remedial coursework.

All final grades will be calculated into the overall student cumulative GPA.

In order for the program to certify students for graduation, candidates must have an overall 3.0 GPA, have successfully completed all required coursework in the five (5) year timeframe, completed both the didactic

and clinical year summative written and practical examinations successfully, and complied with any documentation requirements of the program (i.e., student evaluations, portfolios, or exit surveys.)

- Honors at Graduation

To graduate with academic honors, a student must attain a grade point average of 3.75 or better. Academic honors candidates will wear a double yellow cord at graduation

- Pi Alpha

Pi Alpha is the national Physician Assistant honor society organized for the promotion and recognition of both PA students and graduates.

- Membership signifies the inductee's significant academic achievement and honors them for their leadership, research, community/professional service and other related activities.
- The society also encourages a high standard of character and conduct among students and graduates. Current students of accredited PA programs with chapter status through Pi Alpha may be considered for student membership by demonstrating the following:
  - Minimum GPA of 3.5
  - Excellence in research, publishing, community/professional service, or leadership activities.
- Pi Alpha selection will be based on recommendations submitted by the class. All final approvals for recommendation are submitted after discussion with the approval of the entire faculty

**Standard A3.17 (c)** The program must make student admission decisions in accordance with clearly defined and published practices of the institution and program. (c) requirements for progression in and completion of the program

**ANNOTATION:**

Review: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

- Medical Director
- Director of Clinical Education

Forwarded for Approval: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

- Associate Program Director

Approved: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

- Program Director