

Student - Policy on the Standards and Procedures for the Graduation of MD Student Class of 2025 & 2026



Policy Number: 100.1065.113
Policy Category: General Administrative
Policy Owner: Vice Dean

Policy Revision Date: 5-24-2022

Policy Audience: Students, Faculty

1. Definitions:

2. Review:

Date of last review: May 24, 2022

3. Introduction / Purpose:

Students must meet the following criteria listed in the policy below in order to obtain a MD degree.

4. Governance and Enforcement:

Vice Dean for Medical Education

5. Policy:

A. Policy on the Standards and Procedures for the Graduation of MD Students

Students must meet the following criteria in order to obtain a MD degree:

- Achieve an integrative mastery of the discipline of medicine, maintain the motivation to gain such mastery, develop the professional skills required for the MD degree and demonstrate professional responsibility in the practice of medicine
- Be considerate towards patients, instructors, staff and each other
- Fulfill the criteria and requirements for satisfactory academic progress and successful completion of the medical curriculum as stated in Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine Academic Requirements and Promotions Requirements, Student Bulletin and in the syllabus of each course
- Comply with the rules of procedure, conduct and appearance required by the Administration of the College for all academic settings and by the faculty for any course or clinical rotation
- Comply with all the rules of procedure, conduct and appearance required by offices and institutions in which students work, fulfilling a requirement or elective of the medical curriculum
- Follow the standards set forth in the Student Code of Academic and Professional Integrity of the College.
- Comply with the laws of the United States; the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, local city, county and municipal ordinances; the policies, rules and regulations of GCSOM Board of Trustees and Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine; the lawful direction and orders of the officers, faculty and staff of the College who are charged with the administration of institutional affairs
- By enrolling in the College, the student accepts these academic requirements, standards and criteria for successful completion of the curriculum
- It is the student's responsibility to know and meet these requirements, standards and criteria and promptly to inform the Office of Student Affairs of any serious impediment (such as illness, etc.) hindering satisfactory academic progress. Failure to meet the requirements listed above, as judged by the faculty of the College, may lead to academic penalties and/or remedial changes in the student's curriculum
- All Stafford and Graduate PLUS loan borrowers are required to complete an exit interview. Information regarding Federal requirements and the specific dates for completion will be sent directly from the Financial Aid Office

- Discharge all financial obligations to the College including, but not limited to:
 - College Library
 - Office of Academic Affairs
 - Bursar's Office
 - Safety Office
 - Financial Aid Office
 - Registrar's Office

Develop and achieve the following abilities:

1. Medical Knowledge - Students must demonstrate knowledge about established and evolving biomedical, clinical and cognate (e.g. epidemiological and social-behavioral) sciences and the application of this knowledge to patient care.
2. Patient Care - Students must be able to provide patient care that is compassionate, evidence based, appropriate, culturally sensitive and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.
3. Effective Communication and Interpersonal Skills - Students must listen attentively and communicate clearly with patients, families and the health care team in a sensitive and appropriate manner.
4. Basic Clinical Skills - Students must demonstrate the ability to obtain an appropriate history and performs a skillful, comprehensive examination in a variety of patient encounters.
5. Using science in the practice of medicine - Students must recognize and explain health problems based upon current scientific understanding and develop a plan for intervention that utilizes scientific understanding.
6. Diagnosis, Management and Prevention - Students must demonstrate the ability to diagnose, manage and present the common health problems of individuals, families and communities in a collaborative relationship.
7. Lifelong Learning - Students must be aware of the limits of their personal knowledge; must actively set clear learning goals, must pursue those goals and must apply the knowledge gained to their professional practice.
8. Professional Development and Personal Growth - Students must practice medicine with an awareness of his/her strengths and weaknesses; seek help for difficulties; develop appropriate coping strategies and respond appropriately to constructive criticism.

9. Social and Community Contexts of Healthcare - In addressing the broader context of medicine, students must respond to non-biological factors that influence health; utilize community resources to support patients; advocate for better patient and community health.
10. Moral Reasoning and Clinical Ethics - Students must recognize the ethical dimensions of medical practice and health policy; identify, analyze and effectively carry out a course of action that takes account of this ethical complexity.
11. Problem Solving - Students must consistently recognize problems and take effective steps in developing a plan of action to address these problems.

Because the Doctor of Medicine degree assumes a level of competence across all disciplines, the College assumes responsibility for determining the overall competence of the students. A student is awarded the MD degree after approval by a consensus vote of the Faculty Council of the College and approval of the Dean and Board of Directors. Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine reserves the right to withhold a degree from any candidate whom the Academic Standards and Promotions Committee has not certified for graduation on the grounds of personal or physical unfitness for the profession of medicine.

Students who have not completed all requirements for graduation, but can reasonably be expected to meet all requirements prior to October 31st of the calendar year, in which the graduation ceremony for their class occurs, will be allowed to participate in their class graduation ceremony. Actual awarding of the diploma will occur following successful completion of all requirements.

- Participation in the graduation ceremony does not imply that the degree will be awarded nor that the student has fulfilled all requirements to receive the M.D. degree.
- Those students who will not complete graduation requirements prior to December 31 of the calendar year in which their assigned class will graduate may elect to participate in the next scheduled graduation ceremony.
- Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine will award academic degrees upon successful completion of the curriculum. D
- Degrees can be conferred in absentia upon prior approval obtained from the Office of the Dean.
- Candidacy for the MD degree may not extend longer than six years from the date of first entry into the program including any approved leave of absences

6. Key Stakeholders:

Students Faculty

