School of Medicine – Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy

Federal regulations (CFR 668 – Student Assistance General Provisions, Sections 668.32(f), 668.16(e), and 668.34) require that all students receiving financial assistance from federal Title IV funds maintain satisfactory academic progress according to both qualitative and quantitative measures. The following policy presents the standards adopted by the School of Medicine at the University of Missouri. The policy applies to all students receiving financial aid.

The academic requirements for the M.D. degree include the satisfactory completion of the curriculum designated by the faculty. The progress of each student working toward an M.D. degree is monitored carefully by the Coordinator of Financial Aid. A student is said to not be making satisfactory academic progress if any “U” grades are still on record. At the end of the second and subsequent academic years, students must have academic standing consistent with the School of Medicine’s graduation requirements.

A student who does not satisfactorily complete all course requirements or who does not have academic standing consistent with graduation requirements may be permitted to remediate. In this case, a student is assigned a schedule that deviates from the norm. Those who earn satisfactory qualitative assessment in all courses for which they are enrolled will be deemed to be making satisfactory academic progress. Since the School of Medicine does not offer noncredit remedial courses, students who require remedial course work must make independent study arrangements with the School.

The normal time frame for completion of required course work for the M.D. degree is four academic years or up to ten semesters including two summers. Students are occasionally required to repeat all or part of a year of study (subsequent to incomplete or unsatisfactory course work). To be considered as making satisfactory academic progress, students must complete the first two years of the curriculum by the end of the third year after initial enrollment and the balance of the curriculum by the end of the fifth year after initial enrollment. The progress of each medical student will be monitored at the conclusion of each academic year to determine that the student is making sufficient progress to meet the time limits as specified. A student not making sufficient progress will be deemed not to be making satisfactory academic progress.

Financial Aid Probation
A student who fails to meet one or more of the standards of progress shall be placed on financial aid probation, and the Associate Dean for Student Programs will so notify the Coordinator of Financial Aid. While on probation, the student may receive financial aid for one semester. At the end of the semester, the student must have met the satisfactory academic progress standards. A student who does not comply with each standard by the end of the probationary period is suspended from financial aid eligibility. A student shall be reinstated for financial aid eligibility when he/she has satisfactorily completed sufficient course work to meet the standards of progress.
**Full-time Status**
The normal course load in the M.D. curriculum constitutes a full-time program. Students who receive only Federal Stafford Student Loans are required to take at least seven units per semester. Students who receive institutional aid are generally required to take at least 12 units per semester.

**Maximum Time**
A student is eligible for financial aid for a maximum of five years or twelve semesters of enrollment. This limit includes any semester in which the student was enrolled in regular coursework, whether or not the student received financial aid. The required number of units to be completed at the end of each enrollment period will vary in cases where the student is repeating work according to the portion of the curriculum that must be repeated. Students approved to repeat course work are meeting the school's standards for satisfactory academic progress as long as they are meeting the terms established by the Committee on Student Promotion. Students who voluntarily extend their program beyond four years (e.g., to do research) might receive only federal aid and not institutional aid for their fifth year, depending on availability of funds.

**Appeals**
The school is ready to respond to mitigating circumstances that may arise in individual situations (e.g. approved leave of absence). Students may appeal loss of eligibility for financial aid to the Coordinator of Financial Aid. The Associate Deans may advise the Coordinator of Financial Aid of mitigating circumstances that offer justification for altering customary standards of academic progress.

**Concurrent Degree Programs**
For students who pursue the M.D. and Ph.D. degrees concurrently, the maximum time period will be the sum of enrollment periods established by the School of Medicine for the M.D. degree and the Graduate School’s Office for the Ph.D. degree.

**Implementation**
The Associate Dean for Student Programs will monitor the student's qualitative and quantitative performance and will notify the Coordinator in writing if any students are not making satisfactory academic progress according to the requirements described above. The Coordinator shall notify students of implementation of financial aid probationary status or suspension from financial aid eligibility.

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