

Policy Name:	NBME Final Exam Grading & Remediation Policy
Original Approval Date:	01-15-2021
Approving Officer/Committee:	Medical Curriculum Council
Revision Dates:	11-19-2021, 10-26-2022, 11-03-2022
Related LCME Element(s) (if any):	

- A. **Policy** – Students must successfully pass the NBME Final Examinations in Module II Courses and Clerkships to meet the requirements for academic progression.
- B. **Purpose** - To outline the criteria for successful completion of the NBME exams and the steps to take to successfully remediate NBME exams.
- C. **Procedure/Process**

PRE-CLERKSHIP COURSES

Student performance is evaluated by the course director(s) and teaching faculty of each course. The passing score for NBME Final examination is determined by the individual course director based on the class mean on the NBME final exam.

If a student scores more than 2 standard deviations below the class mean AND less than a 70% on the NBME final exam, he/she will be required to remediate the NBME exam regardless of overall performance in the course. The student will receive an Incomplete grade in the course until the NBME final exam has been remediated.

- If a student’s score on the second attempt falls within 1 standard deviation of the class mean OR the total percentage score is 70% or greater, he/she will receive a pass (P) in the course and keep the original overall percentage score earned in the course.
- If a student’s score on the second attempt falls more than 1 standard deviation below the class mean, OR the total percentage score is less than 70%, he/she will receive a grade of F in the course and will be required to remediate the course. See policy on Course Remediation.

Second Course NBME Exam Failure

A student who fails an end of course NBME final exam in a second course BEFORE remediating the first failure must meet with the Chair(s) of the Academic Success Council to agree upon a plan for the student to complete the Retake Exams.

If a student must schedule more than one Retake Exams, she/he must pass all of them before progressing to the next semester. All retake examinations must be completed before the first day of the semester that follows the semester in which the initial failed exam was taken.

Third Course NBME Exam Failure

A student who fails an end of course NBME final exam in 3 courses during an academic year will be required to repeat the entire academic year.

A passing grade or the successful remediation of a failing grade must be earned in all courses for a student to be promoted and to graduate.

CLERKSHIPS

The passing score for NBME subject examinations (Shelf Exams) is set by the individual clerkship director and published in the clerkship syllabus.

First Clerkship Shelf Exam Failure

If the student fails the NBME Shelf Examination but has completed all the other requirements of the clerkship, the final clerkship grade is an Incomplete. The student will be referred to the Learning Specialist to create a learning plan and will be provided resources for study skills as indicated.

The student must remediate the examination before the end of the semester in which the failing grade was earned. The student must provide his/her desired remediation date to the clerkship director at least two weeks in advance. Once the student chooses a date, it cannot be canceled or rescheduled without the approval of the clerkship director. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the clerkship director.

- A student who passes the NBME Self Exam remediation will receive a grade of P (70%) in the clerkship. They will not be eligible for High Pass or Honors.
- A student who fails the NBME Self Exam remediation will receive a grade of F in the clerkship. The student will be referred to the Academic Success Council. See policy on Course/Clerkship Remediation policy.

Second Clerkship Shelf Exam Failure

A student who fails an NBME Shelf exam in a second clerkship BEFORE remediating the first failure must stop his/her academic progress and meet with the Academic Success Council to agree upon a plan for the student to complete the remediation exams.

The student must pass all remediation exams before resuming his/her clinical training. All remediation examinations must be completed before the final day of the semester in which the clerkship was taken.

Third Clerkship Shelf Exam Failure

A student who fails an NBME Shelf exam in a third course (even if the first two failed exams were successfully remediated) will be required to repeat the entire MSIII Year of medical school.

If a student fails an additional NBME Shelf exam while repeating the MS III year, he/she will be dismissed from the MD Program.

All MSIII Courses must be successfully completed before progressing to the MSIV Year.

D. Policy History

- a. 11-19-2021 – wording added to clarify grading process and remediation
- b. 10-26-2022 – added wording inadvertently omitted during previous revision.
- c. 11-03-2022 – wording added to clarify Second Clerkship Shelf Exam Failure and Third Clerkship Shelf Exam Failure