Baylor College of Medicine

GI VI NG LIF E TO P O SS IB LE

Grading for the School of Medicine

Foundational Sciences Courses

Required and elective foundational science courses are graded Pass/Fail. The School of Medicine uses the following grades for the official transcript:

Pass*/P* *(The * indicates that the grade was issued for a Pass/Fail graded course)*	A Pass*/P* grade is recorded when a student meets or exceeds the threshold to pass for every grading component of a course, as specified in the Course Overview Document (COD). OR Upon successful completion of an Extended Learning Plan, as established by the Course Director, following a status of Deferred. The extended learning activities occur at a date and time set by the School of Medicine. If the student successfully completes the assigned Extended Learning Plan, then a grade of Pass*/P* will appear on the official transcript with the notation that the passing grade was earned during an "extended" course period. The standard for successful extended learning will be equivalent to the original standard to pass (e.g. an unrounded score of 70% or greater on a written assessment).
Fail*/F* (The * indicates that the grade was issued for a Pass/Fail graded course)	A Fail*/F* grade is recorded when a student does not meet the threshold to pass in **more than one** grading component of a course, as specified in the COD. A failing grade disqualifies the student from extended learning activities and will require repetition of the course. OR A Fail*/F* grade is recorded when a student has a cumulative average score in the "scored assessments" grading component that is less than 60% (i.e. an average score of 59.99% or lower) for the course, unless otherwise specified in the COD. OR A Fail*/F* grade is recorded when a student does not meet the established performance threshold for an Extended Learning Plan that was assigned following a grade of Deferred. The standard for successful extended learning is equivalent to the original standard to pass (e.g. an unrounded score of 70% or greater on a written assessment). OR Breaches of professionalism **alone** may result in a **failure** of any non-clinical course (independent of any other scores in the course). NOTE: • If a student earns a FAIL grade in the course, the student must retake the course.
Incomplete (I)	A grade of Incomplete is a temporary grade. With permission of the instructor, a grade of Incomplete should be recorded for a student who has been prevented from completing one or more required components of the course by the course end date. A designation of Incomplete should not be used as a placeholder grade if a student's performance in the course has been unsatisfactory.

Deferred (D)	Deferred is a temporary grade marked on the transcript when a student has not achieved the passing threshold for **one** of the grading components of the course, as specified in the COD, and has not yet completed an Extended Learning Plan. As noted above, an average below 60% (unrounded) for the scored assessments component will result in a grade of Fail*. Breaches of professionalism **alone** may result in a **failure** of any non-clinical course (independent of any other scores in the course). The Deferred grade will be immediately replaced by a Pass*/P* grade upon demonstration of course competencies by successful completion of the assigned Extended Learning Plan. If the established performance threshold for extended learning is not met, the Deferred grade will be replaced by a grade of Fail*/F* as described above. After a student successfully completes the assigned Extended Learning Plan, then a grade of Pass*/P* for the course will appear on the official transcript with the notation that the passing grade was earned during an "extended" course period.

- *Indicates that these courses are on a Pass/Fail grading system.
- For all minimum passing scores, the student's average score is truncated to a whole number (i.e. not rounded).
- Breaches of professionalism alone may result in a Failure in any Foundational Sciences course (independent of any other performance in the course).
- Students must earn a grade of Pass*/P* in all required Foundational Curriculum courses before advancing to the Basic Core Clinical phase.

Clinical Years

The School of Medicine uses the following grades for the official transcript:

For Core Clerkships, Emergency Medicine, and Transitions to Residency courses:

Grade	Description
Pass* (P*)	Satisfactory overall performance
Incomplete (I)	Temporary grade given when a student is unable to complete the requirements for a rotation because of illness or other extenuating circumstances AND is considered to be passing the rotation at the time the grade is given.
Deferred (D)	Temporary grade given when a student has not successfully passed all of the requirements at the end of the rotation AND requires remediation in order to meet the minimum rotation requirements (e.g., failing the National Board of Medical Examiners examination will result in a Deferred grade). The student will be given an opportunity to retake the failed element. If a passing score is obtained, the student will be issued a final course grade.
Fail* (F*)	Earning a failure in the clerkship by any of the following manners will require the student to repeat the course in its entirety: 1. Overall performance on the clerkship that is 2 SD below the mean will be reviewed and may result in failure. 2. Clinical performance alone, regardless of test scores, that is 2 SD below the mean will be reviewed and may result in failure. 3. Lapses or issues with professionalism alone, after confirmation by due process, independent of clinical performance. 4. Failing 2 or more components on the clerkship (i.e., the NBME and Standardized Patient (SP) exam) 5. Failing the clerkship SP or NBME Exam: a) 1st Failure: Failing the SP or the NBME exam will result in a Deferred grade to be submitted and the student is required to retake and successfully pass the exam. b) 2nd Failure: A second Fail of the SP or NBME exam will require the student to repeat the course in its entirety. An F will appear on the transcript. c) 3rd Failure: On repeat of the course, students who fail any SP or NBME exam on the overall third attempt will fail the course for a second time and be referred to the Student Promotions Committee for adjudication. If a student fails the NBME clinical subject exam or SP exam on the third attempt, he/she is subject to dismissal.

P*/F* = Pass/Fail grading system is used for Core Clerkships, Emergency Medicine clerkship, and the Transitions to Residency course and indicates that these courses are on a Pass/Fail grading system.

For Sub-Internships, Advanced Core Rotations, and Electives:

Grade	Description
Honors (H)	Exceptional performance in all areas
High Pass (HP)	Performance clearly exceeds the Pass requirements but does not reach Honors level
Pass (P)	Satisfactory overall performance
Marginal Pass (MP)	Performance meets the minimum rotation requirements
Fail (F)	Performance is clearly below the passing standards of the rotation
Incomplete (I)	Temporary grade given when a student is unable to complete the requirements for a rotation because of illness or other extenuating circumstances AND is passing the rotation at the time the grade is given.
Deferred (D)	Temporary grade given when a student has not successfully passed all the requirements at the end of the rotation AND requires remediation to meet the minimum rotation requirements. The student will be given an opportunity to retake the failed element. If a passing score is obtained, the student will be issued a final course grade.

Grading Guidelines for all clinical courses

Grading rubrics and graded components are determined by the individual course and course directors. Course directors must specify at the beginning of each rotation the grading standards and system by which students will be evaluated. Grading rubrics and components may not be changed once the course starts.

A final grade is not rendered until a student has successfully completed *and passed* all course requirements. If a student is unable to complete the rotation requirements because of an illness or extenuating circumstance AND is considered to be passing the rotation at the time of grade assignment, a grade of Incomplete (I) will appear on the transcript until the student successfully completes that component.

If a student does not successfully pass the repeated attempt of a failed component, he/she will receive a grade of Fail (F/F*) on their official transcript AND must repeat the course in its entirety. Upon repeating the course, a student may not receive a grade higher than a Pass (P/P*). Grades of Fail (F/F*) are permanent grades; these grades are not removed or replaced on the transcript after the course has been remediated or repeated. All attempts will appear on the transcript.

At the conclusion of each course, the respective course director will submit a grade and accompanying narrative summary of a student's performance to the Office of the Registrar. The final grade and narrative evaluation must be submitted to the Registrar within 4 weeks of the end of the course as per the BCM SOM Grade Submission Policy. The narrative summary, which includes comments from faculty and resident evaluators, is used to inform students of their academic progress, strengths, and weaknesses and for the Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE).

Breaches of professionalism alone may result in a Failure for the course (independent of any other performance in the course).