College of Osteopathic Medicine
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Date Revised
May 2026

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Summer 2026

Policy Approval
Policy Committee

Evaluation of Student Performance and Academic Standing Policy

Policy Category:	Academic
Policy Applies To:	Students in the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (DO) Program
Policy Contact:	COM Registrar

References and Related Policies:

- See also: MSUCOM Policy on Grades, Grading, and Remediation
- See also: MSUCOM Policy on COMLEX
- See also: MSUCOM Policy on Maximum Duration
- See also: MSUCOM Policy on COSE
- See also: MSUCOM Student Professionalism Policy
- See also: MSUCOM Common Ground Professionalism Initiative

PURPOSE

MSUCOM has the responsibility and authority to set standards for performance in the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine (D.O.) degree program, and to regularly assess the performance and progress of each student enrolled in the program. This assessment will be conducted by the Committee on Student Evaluation (COSE; see COSE policy for details). Whereas professionalism is one of the osteopathic core competencies, the COSE will review all aspects of academic performance, including professional conduct. Upon reviewing performance, including current and cumulative grades, and professionalism, the COSE will determine the academic standing of each student as noted in this policy.

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Professional Conduct

Each MSUCOM student must adhere to a standard of professionalism described in the D.O. Program Student Handbook, professionalism policy, and the Common Ground framework that provides a set of guiding, foundational principles that underpin professional conduct and integrity. While some professional conduct issues may be addressed through coaching, recurring incidents or a single egregious incident will be reviewed formally through the College Hearing Committee and COSE. The outcome of formal reviews will result in a written professional conduct citation to the student, which will be placed in the student's permanent file and will be described on the student's Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE).

COSE Determination of Academic Standing

The COSE will review the recent and cumulative academic performance and professional conduct of each student in the DO program following each semester. Academic standing will be assigned based on the following categories and descriptions. The COSE may issue an academic warning, probation, or make a recommendation for dismissal in response to continuous unprofessional behavior and/or continual course failures. In extreme cases, dismissal may be recommended at any point based on the student's professional and/or academic

performance.

Definition of Course Failure

To monitor academic performance and assign academic standing, the Office of the COM Registrar will track the number of course failures (required and elective courses), including first-attempt courses and repeated courses. Successful remediation of a non-passing grade (N grade, below 70%) does not invalidate the original course failure for academic standing purposes, nor does it remove the original N grade from the official transcript.

ACADEMIC STANDING

Good Academic Standing

A student who earns a passing grade (70% or above or a P) in each course and meets expectations for professional conduct will be deemed by the COSE to be in "good academic standing" and will be permitted to progress to the next semester or phase of the curriculum. The Office of the COM Registrar will notify students of their standing via email.

Academic Warning

A student will be placed on academic warning for having up to two course failures (including courses passed through remediation, see course failure definition above), a professional misconduct citation, or a combination of one course failure and one professional misconduct citation within the most recent semester. Students placed on academic warning will receive official written notification and must meet with academic advising to review expectations for academic improvement and identify available resources and support services. Students will return to good academic standing in the subsequent semester upon earning passing grades in all core courses and demonstrating appropriate professional conduct throughout the semester.

Academic Probation

A student will be placed on academic probation under any of the following circumstances: two semesters with at least one failed course (including courses passed through remediation), three or more course failures (including courses passed through remediation) within a single semester, or a serious professional conduct citation. Students placed on academic probation will receive official written notification and be required to meet with the Associate Dean of Admissions and Student Affairs. Additionally, students receiving financial aid may need to complete a Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) appeal with their academic advisor. The nature and duration of academic probation will be documented in the student's Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE). Students will be restored to good academic standing in the subsequent semester upon earning passing grades in all core courses and demonstrating appropriate professional conduct throughout the semester.

Suspension

A student who is alleged to have engaged in behavior that creates an urgent concern for the safety of patients or others in the learning environment, or actions/inaction of a student not following expected requirements protocol(s) may be placed on suspension. Suspension will permit a timely investigation of the reported conduct. A recommendation for suspension may follow the review of academic and professional conduct by the COSE or College Hearing Committee upon the reported behavior to a College administrator. A fact-finding hearing will be convened within three (3) class days, as outlined in the Medical Student Rights and Responsibilities. Upon a recommendation of suspension, the student will be notified by email and will cease all COM-related courses, including clerkship rotations if applicable, and all COM-related activities until further notice.

Suspensions must be approved by the College Dean; if the suspension is not approved, the College Dean may direct that another sanction be imposed. The student will be entitled to due process as defined by the Medical

Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Dismissal

A recommendation for dismissal will be made when a student has failed at least one course (including courses passed through remediation) across three semesters, fails a second attempt on any course, commits an egregious incident of professional misconduct, has a history of course failures in at least two semesters and has a professionalism citation, exceeds the maximum program duration through course failures or delays in progression due to COMLEX failure(s), has a third and final failed attempt on either COMLEX-USA Level 1 or Level 2-CE or fails to pass either examination within college-established deadlines (refer to the COMLEX policy for specific details and timelines).

A student who is on academic probation and incurs an additional course of failure in the subsequent semester will be notified of the opportunity to submit a one-page written statement to COSE. This one-page statement should address the circumstances contributing to prior course failures and outline the specific steps the student will take if permitted to remain on probation and continue to the following semester.

In an instance where the COSE makes a recommendation for dismissal, the COSE Coordinator will submit the recommendation and supporting documentation to the College Dean (see COSE policy for details). The recommendation will be reviewed by the Dean, and if the Dean approves, the recommendation will be sent to the MSU Provost. Upon endorsement of the Dean and the MSU Provost, a written notice of dismissal will be sent to the student from the Office of the Dean, and the student will be invited to meet with an administrator.

Review and Resolution of Academic Standing

The performance of students who were designated as having other than "good academic standing" will be reviewed at the next meeting of the COSE, which occur after each semester concludes. A student will be returned to "good academic standing" upon demonstrating a semester of improved academic performance with no additional course failures or any professional conduct recorded in their student file.

Due Process

The right of the student to due process is defined in the MSU Medical Student Rights and Responsibilities (MSRR) policy. The student shall have the right to file a grievance, as defined in Article 5 of the MSRR.

The enrollment status of "academic extension" may not be appealed, as it represents the inability of the student to progress in the curriculum due to failure to meet a degree requirement (see extension policy for details).

A dismissal based on a third failure on COMLEX-USA Level 1 or COMLEX-USA Level 2CE will not be considered grounds for grievance, as this represents an objective, published academic standard of the DO program.

REPORTING ACADEMIC STANDING

NBOME Examinations

The National Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners requires the College to attest to each candidate's academic and professional standing to determine eligibility for the COMLEX-USA examination series. A standing of suspension or dismissal will be reported to NBOME, and the student may be deemed temporarily or permanently ineligible to sit for the examination.

Medical Student Performance Evaluation – MSPE

The MSPE is a document, prepared by the College and is for submission to residency application platforms, which describes the enrollment and performance of a student in the D.O. program and is part of their residency application. Relative to academic standing, the following will be reported on the MSPE at any time while in the

program.

1. Initial program matriculation date and anticipated date of graduation
2. Academic extensions, personal leaves of absence, or other enrollment gaps
3. Professional conduct citations
4. Compliance citations
5. Academic probation

Verification of Enrollment

A student, or former student, may authorize the release of their academic record, which may include matriculation date, enrollment dates, academic standing, academic probation or dismissal status, and any timeline extensions or leaves of absence within the D.O. program. Third-party requests submitted on behalf of a former student must include the student's written authorization.

HISTORICAL CHANGES TO THE POLICY

Effective Summer 2026

- Clarity of academic standing definitions
- Removal of compliance information and migration to the new Compliance Policy

Effective Summer 2024

- Having language to explain professional conduct or compliance conduct will be listed on the MSPE.
- Remove “good standing with monitoring” from the list of academic standing.
- Define an N grade.
- Align the academic standing to the satisfactory academic progress policy through financial aid.
- Confirm how the college will report a student’s status to third parties.