

Guidelines for Grading, Remediation and Deceleration in the Revised First Year Block Curriculum

CO Grades

The condition (CO) grade is for those who have reached near proficiency of the material but have not yet developed sufficient mastery to pass the course. CO grades are generally used in cases when a student's achievement in a course is not satisfactory (not sufficient to meet the criteria for passing) yet the student's performance in the course suggests that he or she should be able to pass a re-examination after a **brief independent review** of the course material. This grade will normally be reserved for students who are within a point or two of the Pass/Fail cut-off and who only had difficulty with some topic areas within the Block or only failed a single exam.

Remediation of Condition Grades

Condition grades must be made up within three weeks of the end of the course or, at the discretion of the course director, within four weeks after the end of the semester. Faculty are not required to provide a formal review session for students receiving COs. The CO must be cleared by a passing performance on an evaluation instrument either comparable to the original evaluation(s) or limited to the content areas of deficit for that student at the discretion of the Course Director (CD). The CD may select items from previously existing make-up examinations in preparing the exams(s) for clearing the CO grade. Students passing the evaluations will have a grade of CO/P (Pass) and students failing the reevaluation will receive a CO/F (Fail).

The Student Promotions Committee will review the records of students receiving COs.

Grades of CO Block 1 will be remediated during Fall Break or Winter Break

Grades of CO in Block 2 will be remediated during Winter Break

Grades of CO in Block 3 will be remediated during Spring Break or within the first four weeks following the end of the Spring semester

Grades of CO in Block 4 will be remediated within the first four weeks following the end of the Spring semester

Failing Grades

A failing (F) grade is used when a student's performance is unsatisfactory, generally accepted to be a grade of less than 70% that is more than two standard deviations below the mean, but may vary depending on the circumstances of the course and the decision of the CD.

Remediation of Failing Grades

The Student Promotions Committee (SPC) will review the student's record to determine whether the student will remediate a failing grade by retaking the course in Summer Review or in a decelerated curriculum.

- Summer Review is a second formal registration for a given course, for which the student pays tuition and fees, and receives credit as reflected on his/her transcript. It is either a structured or semi-structured guided independent study of the course material. The summer review CD will set dates for formative and final assessments, may assign homework, may hold formal sessions, and will inform students of resources (including faculty) that are available. No more than one Block may be remediated in Summer Review.

- Deceleration is the distribution of the courses of the first two years of the curriculum over a three year period. A decelerated curriculum may be planned for students who have approval to proactively modify the distribution of their preclinical curriculum (voluntary deceleration) or for students who need to remediate unsatisfactory performance in a course or courses. Schedules for deceleration are individualized and will be determined by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs. Decelerated students taking Block 1 or Block 3 will generally attend all scheduled classes during the block and then will review the material with a tutor and take the exams and other assessments during the second half of the semester. Decelerated students taking Block 2 or Block 3 will generally preview the class material with a tutor during the first half of the semester and will attend all scheduled classes and take exams and other assessments during the block. Decelerated students will generally take ICM and Medicine and Society during the first year of deceleration and ICM 1.5 and the Clinical Case Correlations course in the second year of deceleration. In general, Blocks 1 and 4 or Blocks 2 and 3 will be taken during the same year in a decelerated curriculum.

Condition Grade	SPC Review; remediate within 4 weeks of end of semester
Fail one Block	SPC Review; summer review, decelerate, leave of absence, dismissal
Fail two Blocks	SPC Review; decelerate, LOA, student withdraws from medical school, dismissal

Examples of Decelerated Schedules in the Block Curriculum

Student A – remediation of one course that was significantly unsatisfactory performance
Fall 2005
Block 1 Pass
Block 2 Fail
Failed 2 of 3 midterm assessments and the final

Deceleration Plan

Spring 2006

Delay Block 3; withdraw from Clinical Case Course
 Continue in ICM, Medicine and Society and Block 4.
 Receive tutoring and reading assignments for Block 4 during the period of Block 3

Fall 2006

Repeat Block 2
 Receive tutoring and reading assignments for Block 2 during the period of Block 1
 ICM 1.5
 Clinical Cases

Spring 2007

Block 3.

The exams for Block 3 would be scheduled during the period of Block 4 and the student would receive tutoring during the period of Block 4.

ICM 1.5

Clinical Cases

Humanities and Social Science (HSS - second year curriculum)

Fall 2007

Full second year curriculum

Spring 2008

Full second year curriculum minus HSS

Student B – Student seems socially isolated, may be depressed, seems to have low energy, overwhelmed, really wants to pursue career goal but not sure if Admissions Committee made a mistake admitting him/her.

Fall 2005

Block 1 CO/P

Block 2 Fail

Deceleration Plan

Spring 2006

Take Leave of Absence spring semester to regroup, reflect, and get support if necessary...

Fall 2006

Repeat Block 2

Receive tutoring and reading assignments for Block 2 during the period of Block 1

ICM 1.5

Clinical Cases

Spring 2007

Block 3

Block 4

ICM 1.5

Clinical Cases

Fall 2007

Full second year curriculum

Spring 2008

Full second year curriculum

Student C – Proactive Deceleration – Student requests decelerated schedule because of ailing family member or other family concern, (young family, pregnant, bereavement) English is a second language, health concern, disability.

Deceleration Plan

Fall 2005

Block 1

Delay Block 2

Continue to work on Block 1 course content during the period of Block 2, possibly with the guidance of a tutor. Schedule assessments and/or final during the period of Block 2 to allow additional time to master the material. CD may use makeup exams. MSTL will administer the exams.

ICM

Medicine and Society

Spring 2006

Block 4

Delay Block 3

Preview material of Block 4 during the period of Block 3, possibly with the guidance of a tutor. Exams would be administered as regularly scheduled.

ICM

Medicine and Society

Fall 2006

Block 2

Preview the content of Block 2 during the period of Block 1 (Receive tutoring and reading assignments for Block 2 during the period of Block 1)

ICM 1.5

Clinical Cases

Spring 2007

Block 3

Continue to work on Block 3 content during the period of Block 4, possibly with the assistance of a tutor. Schedule assessments and/or final during the period of Block 4 to allow additional time to master the material. CD may use makeup exams. MSTL will administer the exams.

ICM 1.5

Clinical Cases

HSS or elective

Fall 2007

Full second year curriculum

Spring 2008

Full second year curriculum minus HSS