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		<i>Effective Date</i>	07/06/2020
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I. PURPOSE

To clarify the use of the Pass/Fail and tiered grading system across the four-year curriculum, and required procedures governing grade reporting to medical students and the Registrar.

II. AMENDMENTS DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE

As a response to suspension of all clinical activities for medical students during Quarter 4 of Academic Year 2020 (AY20), all for-credit courses, clerkships, and electives will be graded on a Pass/Fail (P/F) basis during Quarter 4 of AY20. Should a student receive a grade of F and need to remediate, the learning objectives for which they were deficient will be remediated, either in-person or on-line.

A Pass/Fail grading system will be used for core and advanced clinical clerkships from July 6, 2020, through August 6, 2021.


III. POLICY FOR ALL COURSES AND CLERKSHIPS

- The grading system, its requirements, components and their weights will be communicated to the students in the course syllabus and during the course/clerkship orientation.
- Grades for each component of the final grade (quizzes, mid-clerkship feedback, etc.) will be posted in the Blackboard grade book for each student as soon as they are available.
- Final grades must be reviewed and signed by the course or clerkship director and submitted to the Registrar within 5 weeks of the end of the course or clerkship. If the course director is unavailable, grades may be signed by the Assistant or Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education (UME).

IV. POLICY FOR ALL COURSES GRADED PASS/FAIL

Policy for all courses graded pass/fail, including:

- Scientific Foundations of Medicine (SFM)
- Clinical Foundations of Medicine (CFM)
- Foundations of Public Health, Ethics and Epidemiology (FPHEE)
- Genes to Society (GTS I, II, III, IV)
- Scholarly Concentrations (SC)
- Topics in Interdisciplinary Medicine (TIME)/Translational Science Courses (Years 1-4)
- Longitudinal Ambulatory Clerkship (LAC)
- Transition to the Wards (TTW)

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- Transition to Internship and Preparation for Life (TRIPLE) Grading Scale as determined by the School of Medicine
- Pass (P) = Student has met all requirements as outlined in the syllabus for the class.
- Unsatisfactory (U) = Student completion of some examinations or assignments is below passing level. These examinations or assignments must be remediated in order to convert to P. The U grade does not appear on the external transcript.
- Incomplete (I) = Student has missed required events or assignments because of illness or emergency. Student should meet with course director to plan make-up assignments. The grade will be converted to a P when all requirements have been successfully met, or F if not successfully met. Once converted to a P or F, the I will no longer be seen on the external transcript.
- Fail (F) = Student has failed significant required elements of the course, or has an average score below the passing level for the course. Student should meet with the course director to plan remediation; the learning objectives for which the student was deficient will be remediated, either in-person or on-line. The original F will appear on the external transcript, along with the P, if successfully remediated.

For the above courses, the passing grade will be the lower of either 70% or 1.5 standard deviations (SD) below the mean. See *Remediation and Make-Up Exams Policy* for procedures for students who fail a course or required course section. See *Clerkship and Non-Clerkship Attendance Policies* for attendance requirements.

For SFM, FPHEE, and GTS, if a student has an unexcused absence and misses a quiz or other required element of the final grade that individually counts # 10% of the grade, the student WILL NOT be allowed to make up the quiz/element and will forfeit those points in the calculation of their final grade. If they have missed the quiz/element due to one of the excused absence reasons (see *Attendance Policy*), they may either be allowed to make up the quiz/required element, or at the discretion of the course director, their grade will be calculated as if the quiz/element were not a component.


In addition to final examinations, frequent feedback (formative or summative) to learners in the form of faculty/peer assessments, self-assessments, quizzes and numerical scores on written tests is strongly recommended.

V. PROFESSIONALISM EXPECTATIONS

Adherence to the expectations for professional behavior are a non-compensatory part of the final grade for all courses/ clerkships. As with other graded components in the course, such as knowledge and skills assessments, students who deviate from the professionalism expectations *may* be referred to the Clerkship or Preclerkship Student Assessment and Formational Committee and *may* receive a grade of U until remediation is completed. Remediation requirements will be determined *in consultation* with the Office of Medical Student Affairs. Serious breaches of professionalism may result in failure of the course.

The course/clerkship syllabus outlines expectations for professional behavior based on the AAMC (Association of American Medical Colleges) subcompetencies in professionalism, the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (JHUSOM) Medical Student Accountability policy, and the JHUSOM student honor code, as well as examples of serious breaches of professionalism.

As with other graded components, it is expected that feedback will be provided to students whose behavior indicates challenges in the domain of professionalism to allow for growth during the course/clerkship. Course leaders must document feedback given in the professionalism domain in relation to issues that arise that could affect a student's grade.

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VI. POLICY FOR ALL SUB-INTERNSHIPS/CLERKSHIPS/ELECTIVES GRADED HONORS, HIGH PASS, PASS, FAIL

Sub-internships/Clerkships/Electives Graded Honors, High Pass, Pass, Fail, include:

- Core Clinical Clerkships (Medicine, Neurology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, Surgery, Women’s Health)
- Emergency Medicine
- Advanced Clerkship in Critical Care (ACCC)
- Advanced Ambulatory Clerkship (AAC)
- Sub-internships (Advanced Clerkships)
- Elective clinical and research rotations

Core Clinical Clerkships and Emergency Medicine Clerkship

The grading system will be consistent across all sites within each core or required advanced clerkship. For core or advanced required clerkships that involve multiple sites, clerkship directors will assure assessment and grading consistency between sites, subject to oversight from the Office of Medical Student Curriculum (OMSC)


The definitions and requirements to achieve a grade of Honors (H), High Pass (HP), Pass (P), or Fail (F) will be outlined in each clerkship syllabus.

Grades for core clerkships will include, at a minimum, a standardized clinical performance evaluation and a written knowledge examination. The written exam will count as 25% of the final grade. When available and appropriate, the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) clinical subject examination will be used. Regardless of the level of performance reflected in their clinical performance evaluations, core clerkship students must pass the written knowledge examination to successfully pass the clerkship. For NBME clinical subject examinations, students must score \geq 5th percentile (1.65 SD), based on “total year” of nationally posted reference ranges for the most recent academic year reported by NBME. For JHU SOM internally-developed written examinations, a passing score will be considered any score \geq 60%.

For AY19-20 and FY20-21, the written (NBME) exam in the Emergency Medicine Clerkship will count as 15% of the final grade, and the requirement to score above the fifth percentile is waived.

A student who fails the written medical knowledge exam will have a U grade submitted to the Registrar, and will be discussed at the next Formational Committee meeting. They will be given the opportunity to sit for the examination up to two additional times within six months of the first attempt, provided they remain enrolled as full time JHU SOM students in good academic standing. Scheduling of these examinations will follow the guidelines for off-cycle examination administration (see *Summative Assessment Policy* for procedures). The U will remain on the student’s record until remediation is complete or an F grade is submitted. Upon successful passage of the examination, the student’s core clerkship grade can be changed to no higher than Pass. If the student has not successfully completed this remediation within six months, without permission to delay from the Associate or Assistant Dean for Medical Student Affairs, or if they fail the remediation exam twice, the U grade will be changed to an F. Any student who fails the medical knowledge exam three times will need to repeat the clerkship.

Advanced Clerkships, Sub-Internships, Clinical Electives

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Clerkship directors may design a grading schema that is appropriate to the clerkship or elective objectives, subject to the following principles:

1. The final grading scale will consist of Honors, High Pass, Pass, or Fail.
2. Grades should assess multiple competencies relevant to the practice of medicine.
3. Multiple forms of assessment should be utilized, including, if possible, objective medical knowledge examinations.
4. When equivalent clerkships are offered at multiple sites (for example, various sub-internships or different critical care units), clerkship directors will assure assessment and grading consistency between sites, subject to oversight from the Office of Medical Student Curriculum.
5. Adherence to the expectations for professional behavior are a non-compensatory part of the final grade.