

Academic Remediation Policy

Failed Examination Within Block/Course/Clerkship

The NSU MD curriculum is fast-paced and demands a high level of preparation and participation for student success. Any student who scores below a passing grade on any major examination in the blocks or clinical courses in the pre-clerkship curriculum must meet with the block/course director to discuss his or her performance and learning strategies. Students will be contacted by the block or course director or another responsible faculty member to discuss potential reasons for the failure and, if appropriate, to establish an initial plan to correct the deficiency. The block or course director will confer with the student's Learning Community Mentor and the ADASA to formulate strategies to assist the student. The block or course director will then meet with the student to discuss correction strategies tailored to the student's individual needs, including tutoring and/or an individual educational program. The goal is to provide prompt and effective intervention to correct academic deficiencies to help prevent failure of the overall block or course. A plan for correction within a block, course or clerkship is not subject to appeal.

Failed Block/Course/Clerkship General Procedure

If a student fails a block, course or clerkship and requires formal remediation to achieve a passing grade, the student will be presented to SPAC for review. While some remediation activities/examinations may be given at the end of the respective RIA for the block, most remediation attempts for failed blocks or courses in the first year of the curriculum will take place during the summer break between first and second year. Remediation attempts for failed blocks or courses during the second year will generally take place at least two weeks after the end of the second-year blocks, during winter vacation or Step 1 study time. Remediation for clerkships will be determined by and at the discretion of SPAC.

Pre-clerkship Blocks and Clinical Courses

If a student's initial performance is unsatisfactory in one of the blocks, courses, or competencies, his or her academic performance will be reviewed by SPAC. The block or course director, after consultation with the student and other faculty as described above, will present a plan for remediation, which will be reviewed by the Committee. The remediation plan may be as straightforward as an Individualized Learning Plan or an independent study, followed by re-examination during an appropriate opportunity (such as, potentially, the winter or summer break). Alternatively, successful remediation may require repeating the entire block or year.

Students may only begin the clinical clerkships after all foundational blocks and courses have been satisfactorily completed and the student's promotion is approved by SPAC.

Clinical Clerkships

Students must pass all components of each clerkship, including clinical evaluations, NBME subject exam, professionalism, and other assignments, to pass the clerkship. Failure of the NBME subject exam will result in a grade of In Process providing that performance in all other components of the clerkship is judged satisfactorily. Passing a re-examination will enable the In Process grade to be converted to Pass. If a student fails on re-examination, the grade will be converted to Fail.

If a student who fails a clerkship or receives an unsatisfactory rating in any of the clinical competencies, her or his academic performance will be reviewed by SPAC. The clerkship director, after consultation with the student and other faculty, will present a plan for remediation, which will be reviewed by the committee. The remediation plan may range from remediation of specific components of the clerkship to repeating the entire clerkship. The committee must formally approve the remediation plan. Poor performance in the clinical clerkships may result in an adverse academic action such as probation or, if repeated or if egregious circumstances exist, dismissal from school.