

LSU Health | School of Medicine

Policy Name:	Grading System
Original Approval Date:	09-18-2020
Approving Officer/Committee:	Medical Curriculum Committee
Revision Dates and Notes:	
Related LCME Element(s) (if any):	9.6

A. Policy – Student performance is evaluated by the course director(s) and teaching faculty of each course. Final grades are based on a composite score derived from written, oral, and practical examination scores, and the score from other required activities. The course director(s) is responsible for final determination of each student's final grade.

- B. Purpose The purpose of this policy is to delineate how grades are determined for medical students.
- **C. Scope** This policy applies to all School of Medicine students.

D. Procedure/Process –

Recorded grades for all MSI; MSII and MSIV courses will be P (Pass)/F (Fail).

- The grading scale is:
 - o Pass for overall performance greater than or equal to 70%
 - o Fail for overall performance less than 70%

Recorded grades for all courses in the MSIII year are based on Honors (H), High Pass (HP), P (Pass)/F (Fail).

- The grading scale is:
 - o Honors for overall performance greater than, or equal to 89.5%,
 - High Pass for overall performance greater than or equal to 79.5%, but less than 89.5%
 - o Pass for overall performance greater than or equal to 69.5%, but less than 79.5%
 - o Fail for overall performance less than 69.5%

For all students, the grade of I (Incomplete) is recorded for a student whose academic work is incomplete at the time grades are recorded. Failure to complete academic work by the specified time will result in the grade of F.

A passing grade or the successful remediation of a failing grade must be earned in all courses for a student to be promoted and to graduate. The earned grade of F is not removed from the transcript or calculation of class rank, although successful remediation is noted. Course directors and teaching faculty determine the remediation plan and assessment instrument.

The grade of W (Withdraw) is recorded for a student who officially withdraws from a course in progress.

Grading of MSIII Courses

- The grade in a MSIII Course is based on the student's overall performance in the educational program objectives.
- A mid-course assessment for each student is required for all core courses (not elective courses). The student's performance must be reviewed in a face-to-face meeting with a clinical teacher, and the student and clinical teacher must sign the Mid-Course Assessment form prior to the course midpoint. The signed forms must be stored and available for review.
- The final grade will be determined based on a composite score derived from the clinical score, exam score, and the score from other required activities.
- The student will fail the course if he/she:
 - o receives a failing score on their clinical performance evaluation,
 - o receives a failing score on their professionalism performance evaluation
 - o fails the final exam retake, or
 - o receives a total course score of less than 70% (fail).
- Course Directors will report final grades to the Registrar within four (4) weeks of the end of the course.
- The Incomplete designation may be assigned by the Course Director if:
 - o The student has not completed all required activities.
 - The student has passed clinically but has failed the final examination and not yet completed the retake.
- A letter grade to replace an Incomplete will be posted within two (2) weeks after receipt of the following:
 - o Evaluation from the course preceptors.
 - o Completion of the required activities.
 - o Receipt of the score on the retake of the final exam.
- A student who retakes an examination due to failure on the first attempt is not eligible for a final Course grade of H (Honors) or HP (High Pass).
- A student who fails a course final exam on the first attempt must schedule a retake and successfully complete the exam within the semester of the failed attempt. A student will fail the course if he/she fails the final exam retake.