

UMES – Policy on Minimum Academic Standards for Students Enrolled in a Professional Program

Effective Date: December 9, 2025

Applicable Group(s): All Faculty, Staff, and Students involved with Professional Programs at UMES

Responsible Office: Academic Affairs

I. Policy Statement

In accordance with the University System of Maryland Board of Regents Policy on Curricular and Degree Requirements (III-7.00), the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) has adopted this policy to define the minimum academic standards for students enrolled in a professional degree program. All students in professional programs at UMES must maintain the minimum standards as defined in the provisions of this policy in order to remain in good academic standing. Students who fail to achieve these minimum standards will be subject to academic probation or dismissal as outlined in each program's academic policies.

II. Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish clear and consistent academic standards for students enrolled in professional programs at UMES. By defining the minimum grade point average and course performance expectations required to remain in good academic standing, the policy aims to promote academic excellence, support student success, and ensure that graduates are adequately prepared for the professional responsibilities in their professional program of study. This framework also provides guidance for academic interventions and decisions related to probation, remediation, and dismissal, thereby maintaining the integrity, rigor, and quality of the professional programs.

III. Definitions

- **Professional Programs:** Includes the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) degree in the UMES School of Pharmacy and Health Professions (SPHP) and the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree in the School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM).

IV. Policy Provisions

To ensure the academic integrity and professional readiness of students enrolled in the professional programs at UMES, the following standards define the minimum academic requirements for maintaining good academic standing:

1. **Minimum Grade Point Average (GPA):**
Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of **2.50 or higher** on a 4.00 scale throughout their enrollment in their professional program.
2. **Course Completion Requirements:**
Students must achieve a grade of **C or higher** in all required courses for the professional program of study. A grade below C in any required course may result in academic probation, remediation, or dismissal, depending on the program's academic policies.
3. **Academic Probation:**
Students whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.50 or who fail to meet course completion requirements will be placed on academic probation. Probationary students must meet conditions outlined by the program's Student Academic Progression Committee (or its equivalent) to return to good standing.
4. **Dismissal Criteria:**
Students may be subject to dismissal from the program if they:
 - Fail to raise their GPA to the minimum standard within the designated probationary period.
 - Accumulate multiple course failures.
 - Violate academic integrity or professional conduct standards.

V. Appeal Process

Review and Appeals:

Students have the right to appeal academic standing decisions in accordance with the program's academic grievance procedures.

VI: Communication and Outreach

UMES will ensure all affected students, faculty, and staff are aware of this policy through:

1. **Orientation sessions** for new students.
2. **Updates on the university website and student portal.**
3. **Updates in the Program Student Handbooks.**
4. **Workshops and training sessions** for faculty and staff.

VII. Related Policies

- **BOR III-7.00** – Curricular and Degree Requirements

- **UMES SA-V-406** – Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy for Grad/Undergraduate Students
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Approved by:

Dr. Lakeisha Harris, Dean, School of Graduate Studies / Graduate Council
University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Date: November 28, 2025

Reviewed & Approved by:

Matthew Taylor, General Counsel
University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Date: December 9, 2025

Implementation and Review

This policy will be implemented by the Office of Academic Affairs in collaboration with other departments such as the Registrar, Financial Aid, and the Bursar's Office. The Deans of the SPHP and SVM will be responsible for oversight of the policy within their respective programs.

The Registrar and the Office of Financial Aid will maintain joint responsibility for adherence to the policy and will amend any external policies impacted by the GPA requirement as needed.

Review of the policy will occur upon requests for a change in a professional program's minimum requirements for good academic standards.