



# AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF ANTIGUA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE



## STUDENT HANDBOOK

FALL 2025

This guide is published by the American University of Antigua College of Medicine (AUACOM).

The rules and regulations outlined herein are binding for and must be adhered to by all AUA College of Medicine students, including those on leave. The rules and regulations of this institution are reviewed and revised periodically. AUACOM reserves the right to revise, amend, and/or modify any of these rules and regulations and/or to add or eliminate any rules and regulations at its sole discretion. Students will be bound by any change, amendment, revision, addition, or deletion of AUACOM rules and regulations and are expected to be familiar with the most recent revisions of these rules and regulations as well as all AUACOM manuals and publications, each of which can be found on the AUACOM website. Although it is our intention to inform students in advance of any changes to these rules and regulations, to AUACOM's policies and procedures, and/or to AUACOM's curriculum and grading, AUACOM reserves the right to make such changes by publication in this Student Handbook. AUACOM also reserves the right to make such changes prior to publication of any revisions of the Student Handbook when it is determined by the university to be in the best interests of our students. Students will be notified when such changes take place through general announcements, in classes, on Brightspace, or by email.

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# Message from the President



**Dr. Peter Bell**

Dear Students,

A very warm welcome to new and returning students. An exciting new term lies ahead of you.

This Student Handbook will guide you through the upcoming months covering all aspects of life at AUACOM from enrollment to residential services and much more. Please pay special attention to the sections covering examinations, grading and promotion as policies and procedures have changed.

Curriculum, course syllabi and grading process have been reviewed and revised by faculty and external U.S. medical school faculty specialized in curriculum development. The revisions reflect best academic practices and latest changes in USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 content. Horizontal and vertical integration of the preclinical and clinical science curriculum progresses as does the phasing-in of Team Based Learning (TBL) sessions.

While the above-mentioned changes and improvements will provide you with the tools necessary to become a good and caring physician, you must take ownership of your education and become, most likely more than you have been accustomed to, a self-directed life-long learner. The faculty is here to guide you. Please take advantage of our multiple academic and non-academic support programs offered by EED, the Office of Student Affairs and the Counselling Center.

Please be reminded that as members of the medical profession you are held to high ethical and professional standards. AUACOM does not tolerate unprofessional behavior, e.g. academic dishonesty, which will have disciplinary consequences which might lead to dismissal.

As USMLE Step 1 reporting was changed by NBME to Pass/Fail, residency Program Directors have indicated that applicants who do NOT pass Step 1 on their first attempt will face significant challenges finding residency positions. While we do have robust programs in place to guide you towards clinical rotations and residency and help you to navigate the challenges of successful application for residency, it is extremely important that you pass USMLE Step 1 on your first attempt.

I wish you a successful term.

Peter Bell, MD

*President*

# Message from the Provost



## Dr. David Graham

Dear Students,

Welcome to the Fall 2025 term! Whether you are beginning your journey with us or returning to continue your studies, this is a time filled with promise and opportunity. Each new academic year brings with it a renewed sense of purpose, and I encourage you to embrace the challenges and rewards that await you.

This Fall is especially significant, as we launch a new trimester structure in the preclinical curriculum. Our incoming MED1 class, along with students repeating MED 1, will be the first to experience this innovative approach, with the remaining cohorts switching in January 2026. We believe this change will better support your academic success, shorten your time on the island, and open pathways to residency readiness earlier in your journey. For those relying on Title IV assistance, this new structure will also expand access to essential financial support. These changes are designed to keep you moving forward with confidence and momentum.

We have also streamlined your student handbook. By moving many policies to Brightspace, the handbook you now hold is easier to navigate and more accessible and practical—your guide to navigating both the academic and personal aspects of life at AUACOM. Use it often and wisely; it exists to support you.

As you embark on this term, look beyond the classroom as well. Residency preparation begins today, not years from now. The qualities residency directors seek—academic excellence, leadership, service, professionalism and compassion—are qualities you can begin developing immediately. Engage fully in our campus community: join or lead a student interest group, maybe pursue research, give your time in service, and foster connections with your peers and mentors. Most importantly, dedicate yourself to mastering the science and art of medicine. While medical school will challenge you in ways you may not have yet experienced, remember that you are not alone. Our faculty, the Educational Enhancement Department (EED), the Office of Student Affairs, and the Counseling Center are here to walk beside you and provide support every step of the way.

Medicine is more than a career—it is a calling. To answer that calling, you must become not only a skilled clinician, but also a lifelong learner, a compassionate advocate, and a leader of integrity. Take ownership

of your growth and allow yourself to be transformed during these years of study. Hold fast to the values of honesty, responsibility, and professionalism that define our noble profession. At AUACOM, unprofessional conduct, including academic dishonesty, has no place; integrity must always guide your actions.

You are beginning or continuing a remarkable journey—one that demands hard work, perseverance, and resilience, but that will ultimately allow you to join one of the most rewarding professions in the world. I am excited for all that you will achieve this term and beyond.

With best wishes for your success,

David Graham MD MBA  
Provost

## Mission Statement

American University of Antigua College of Medicine (AUACOM) is an innovative medical school dedicated to providing a learner-centric education of the highest quality, granting opportunities to underrepresented minorities, fostering a diverse academic community, and ensuring that its graduates develop the skills and attitudes of lifelong learning, compassion, and professionalism. We also provide students who would otherwise be unable to receive a medical education with the tools to become successful physicians.

AUACOM was founded with the commitment to support underserved communities and address the impending physician shortage with an emphasis on primary care. As such, the university recognizes its social responsibility to advance the field of medicine and lead the next generation of physicians and health-care professionals to respond to global healthcare needs.

## Contact Information

### Manipal Education Americas, Representative for American University of Antigua

Address	115 Broadway, 5 <sup>th</sup> Floor New York, NY 10006
Telephone	212-661-8899; 1-888-AUA-UMED (1-888-282-8633)
Fax	212-661-8864
Email	<a href="mailto:info@auamed.org">info@auamed.org</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.auamed.org">www.auamed.org</a>

### Administrative Office in Antigua

Address	Main Campus, University Park P.O. Box W1451, Jabberwock Beach Road, Coolidge, St. John's, Antigua, WI
Telephone	268-484-8900
Fax	268-484-8922; 268-484-8923
Email	<a href="mailto:info@auamed.net">info@auamed.net</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.auamed.org">www.auamed.org</a>

# Registration and Enrollment

## Antigua Immigration Process

All students, upon enrollment at AUACOM, are required to complete the immigration process in order to have the required extension of time affixed to their passport. This process is mandatory for all new students and returning students whose time in Antigua has expired or will expire before the end of the term. Please note the process below.

**Step 1:** Students are required to go to the Student Portal using the following link to complete the Immigration application. This can be found in the 'Application' section, under 'Immigration Information.'

<http://portal.auamed.org>

**Step 2:** Students must gather the required documents below. Scan and upload these via the portal. If documents are accepted, students will receive email confirmation. If the incorrect documents are uploaded, these will be rejected, and students will be instructed to return to the portal and resubmit the correct document.

Students must submit hard copies of required documents to Residential Services by the published deadline. Deadlines and all necessary details are given to students via email.

Required documents:

- Copy of Bio-Data page of passport
- Passport size photograph (2x2 or standard passport size) new applicants ONLY
- Copy of page with entry stamp on arrival at the airport
- Copy of E-Visa, ONLY for students who required a visa to enter Antigua and Barbuda. A visa allows a student to enter a country
- Copy of page with the last issued stamp from Immigration Headquarters (date stamped while attending AUACOM DD/MM/YY) returning students ONLY
- Copy of Return Ticket

**Step 3:** The immigration application along with all documents will be reviewed by the Residential Services office, who will advise on any further steps. Completed applications will then be submitted to the Immigration Headquarters for processing.

Students who fail to complete this process with Residential Services will be required to make independent arrangements with the Immigration Office and be responsible for all associated fees. Students with a spouse, children, parents and other family members MUST contact the Extension Department of the Immigration Department to book an appointment to have their extension of time processed.

Please note that the time granted on arrival to the island is issued based on visitor status. Enrolled students are required by the state of Antigua and Barbuda to complete this immigration application process to extend their time based on a Student Status. Non-compliant students will be subject to the actions of the Immigration Department Enforcement Unit.

## Health Insurance Policy

All students are required to carry adequate coverage while enrolled at AUACOM. The requirements are based on thoughtful consideration of the students' needs, both on island and off.

All students will be invoiced for coverage under the American University of Antigua's group health insurance Cigna Global Health Insurance.

All students will have the opportunity to receive a waiver to opt-out of this plan. However, for a waiver to be granted, students will need to provide proof of coverage of a plan which has **equal or greater** coverage than the AUACOM/Cigna Global health insurance plan. Plans will need to include emergency evacuation and guaranteed emergency care in the United States, as well as other minimum benefits which can be provided upon request from [GSEQuestions@cignahealthcare.com](mailto:GSEQuestions@cignahealthcare.com).

- If the waiver request is **approved**, the insurance charges on the student's ledger for the related period will be reversed, provided that the student did not utilize the AUACOM/Cigna policy and no claim was made.
  - By accepting the waiver, the student agrees that the alternative coverage, for which the waiver request was granted, will be maintained throughout the policy year, or as long as the student is enrolled. If the alternative coverage lapses for any reason, the student needs to immediately notify the school and enroll in the AUACOM/Cigna policy. Failure to do so can result in disciplinary measures, up to and including dismissal from the University.
- If the plan **does not meet** the coverage standards, the waiver request will be **rejected**, and the student will be required to enroll in the AUACOM/Cigna Global Health insurance plan.
  - Please note that Medicare, Medicaid or Medi-Cal do not provide coverage outside of US territories, and thus will **not** meet requirements for students on island.

Students who wish to opt out of that coverage may do so provided that they submit proof satisfactorily to AUACOM/Cigna Global health insurance plan. Any questions regarding insurance opt-out should be sent to [GSEQuestions@cignahealthcare.com](mailto:GSEQuestions@cignahealthcare.com).

Students who are approved to use their private insurance policy are required to pay in full for services provided on campus at the University Health Center and off campus at any healthcare facility in Antigua and Barbuda and then submit the insurance claim form to their insurance provider for reimbursement

Deadlines for submission of all required documents for pre-clinical students will be announced before the start of any given term. All clinical students should submit the application to opt-out from the school's insurance and all required documents. Applicants must ensure that all required documents are submitted in due time, before the respective deadlines. Submissions beyond the deadline will not be accepted or reviewed.

Students covered by Cigna must first pay in full for services received at any healthcare facility in Antigua and Barbuda, outside of the University Health Center, THEN submit the claim form via the Cigna insurance portal for

reimbursement. All holders of health insurance policies (Cigna and private insurance) should know the benefits and extent of coverage of their policies, such as pre-authorization for services by health care providers outside of your insurance provider's network. All holders of insurance policies are responsible for contacting their insurance providers to confirm coverage of services outside of their provider's network.

## Registration Information

All students must officially register for classes before the first day of each term. It is important that students have all identification documents in possession when confirming registration on campus. Submission of all official transcripts is a requirement for regular enrollment at the University. Missing documents may result in administrative withdrawal.

Students must be officially registered for the term, or they will not be permitted to attend classes. If a student cannot register per the published Academic Calendar dates on the AUACOM Website: <https://www.auamed.org/academics/academic-calendar/>, they must get approval from the Associate Dean of Student Affairs to register late. Normally, and only in exceptional circumstances, only up to five class dates for a late arrival will be granted.

## Pre-Clinical Sciences

### New students

Online registration is mandatory and must be completed within the window of time established and published by university notifications. In-person confirmation of registration takes place at the Antigua campus. All pre-clinical sciences MED1 students must also attend the mandatory orientation sessions, which occur prior to the beginning of the first course. Students with outstanding documents will not be permitted to complete in-person confirmation of registration on campus.

### Returning students

#### 1) Online Registration

Online registration is mandatory for all students and must be completed within the designated timeframe published by university notifications. Students who do not complete online registration by the specified deadline will not be allowed to attend the current term. Students restarting MED1 are also required to attend MED1 orientation sessions, which take place before classes begin

#### 2) In-Person Registration

After completing online registration, all students must present themselves for in-person registration, during which they will receive their student ID card and registration sticker. The reserved dates for arrival and in-person registration are listed in the Academic Calendar on the AUACOM website. All pre-clinical sciences students are expected to arrive during these reserved dates.

### 3) Arrival and Late Arrivals

All students must arrive in Antigua on time for in-person registration. Timely arrival is essential for a smooth start to the academic term and to maintain professional standards. Arrivals after the fifth day of class of the term are generally not permitted unless prior approval is obtained from the Dean of Pre-Clinical Sciences or the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, which is only granted in rare circumstances.

Students who arrive late without the required approval from the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) may face disciplinary actions and risk being unable to enroll. No student will be permitted to arrive on campus after the first week of classes.

### 4) Special Circumstances

Students under review by the Promotions Committee must still complete online registration and are responsible for settling their tuition accounts as billed. Any necessary account adjustments will be made after final promotion decisions.

### 5) Tuition Holds

During online registration, an OLR FINANCE HOLD may indicate that tuition has not been settled. In this case, contact the Bursar and/or Financial Aid Department if you have already paid, and request that the hold be removed. Students will not be permitted to complete in-person registration until their tuition is fully settled. For more information, consult the Tuition and Fees section.

### 6) Support

For questions about online registration, email [registrar@auamed.net](mailto:registrar@auamed.net). For technical issues with the online registration system, contact [servicedesk@auamed.net](mailto:servicedesk@auamed.net).

## Clinical Sciences

Registration for CLN6 Family Medicine 1/Internal Medicine 1 (FM1/IM1) takes place at the designated FM1/IM1 training site. Each clinical sciences student is then contacted by the assigned clinical coordinator regarding clerkship placements. For students to be registered, (1) all relevant documents must have been submitted to and received by the Clinical Sciences Administration, and (2) tuition accounts must be settled by the deadlines as published on their statement.

## Academic Calendar

The academic calendar, including registration information and schedule, is posted on the university's website (<https://www.auamed.org/academics/academic-calendar/>) and on the LMS, Brightspace. The university reserves the right to revise the Academic Calendar at any time.

## Academic Degree Program

The Doctor of Medicine degree is conferred upon students who satisfactorily complete the following requirements:

1. Pre-Clinical Sciences:
  - a) Med 1 (from Fall 2025, onward): Three 15-week periods in Year One; three 15-week periods in Year 2.
  - b) Med 2, Med 3, Med 4, Med 5, up to and including the Fall 2025 term, only: Two 19-week periods in Year One; Two 19-week periods in Year Two; 15 weeks of basic sciences integration that culminates in a National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) Comprehensive Basic Science Examination or equivalent. After the Fall 2025 term has concluded, the academic periods for these students will be converted to a trimester system. The remainder of their curricular requirements will be completed in a trimester system similar to what is described for Med 1 in item (a) above.
2. Clinical Sciences: 84 weeks of clinical core and elective rotations (including the Family Medicine I/Internal Medicine I-Advanced Introduction to Clinical Medicine).
3. Obtain a passing score on the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Steps 1 and 2 CK. Students who do not plan to practice medicine in the United States can meet their graduation requirements by passing the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE Part I) or by passing the NBME International Foundations of Medicine Examination (IFOM Clinical Science Examination) in lieu of Step 2 CK. Students should be aware that, while passing of the MCCQE Part I Examination or the IFOM Clinical Science Examination meets the requirements for graduation from AUACOM, obtaining a passing USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK score is required for residency training in the United States.

Please Note: All students must be certified by AUACOM before becoming eligible to sit for **any** of the above examinations, by obtaining a qualifying score in the CCSE.

## Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

American University of Antigua respects its students' right to privacy and confidentiality of personally identifiable information (PII). AUACOM adheres to the mandates of the U.S. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), which affords eligible students certain rights with respect to their education records. (An "eligible student" under FERPA is a student who is 18 years of age or older or who attends a postsecondary institution.) These rights include the following:

1. The right to inspect and review the students' educational records within 45 days after the day the university receives a request for access. Students should submit to the Office of the Registrar a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The Office of the Registrar will make arrangements for access and notify students of the time and place when the records may be

inspected. If the Office of the Registrar does not maintain the records, that official shall advise students of the correct official to whom the requests should be addressed.

2. The right to request an amendment of the student's education records that the student believes is inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the student's privacy rights under FERPA. Students who wish to ask the university to amend a record should write to the university official responsible for the record, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it should be changed.

If the university decides not to amend the record as requested, the university will notify the student in writing of the decision and the student's right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the student when notified of the right to a hearing.

3. The right to provide written consent before the university discloses PII contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the university in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research, or support position (including law enforcement personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom the university has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor collection agent, or a financial aid servicer); a person serving on the Board of Trustees; or a student serving on an official committee, such as the Professional Standards Committee or Grievance Committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks; or a third party carrying out an activity such as auditing financial aid or the financial management of the school, relevant to the administration, ownership, or management of the school.

School officials have a legitimate educational interest if they need to review an educational record in order to fulfill their professional responsibility or for the evaluation, management, or administration of the school. Upon request, the university may disclose directory information from educational records without consent to officials of other schools in which students seek to enroll or attend.

4. U.S. students have the right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the university to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is as follows:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
 US Department of Education  
 400 Maryland Avenue SW  
 Washington, DC 20202

5. FERPA permits the disclosure of PII from students' education records, without the consent of the student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in § 99.31 of the FERPA regulations.

Except for disclosures to school officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the student, § 99.32 of FERPA regulations requires the institution to record the disclosure. Eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures. A post-secondary institution may disclose PII from the education records without obtaining prior written consent of the student-

- a. To other school officials, including teachers, with AUACOM whom the school has determined to have legitimate educational interests. This includes contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the school has outsourced institutional services or functions, provided that the conditions listed in § 99.31(a)(1)(i)(B)(1) - (a)(1)(i)(B)(3) are met. (§ 99.31(a)(1))
- b. To officials of another school where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer, subject to the requirements of § 99.34. (§ 99.31(a)(2))
- c. To authorized representatives of the U. S. Comptroller General, the U.S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities, such as a State postsecondary authority that is responsible for supervising the university's State-supported education programs. Disclosures under this provision may be made, subject to the requirements of § 99.35, in connection with an audit or evaluation of Federal- or State-supported education programs, or for the enforcement of or compliance with Federal legal requirements that relate to those programs. These entities may make further disclosures of PII to outside entities that are designated by them as their authorized representatives to conduct any audit, evaluation, or enforcement or compliance activity on their behalf. (§§ 99.31(a)(3) and 99.35)
- d. In connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary to determine eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, determine the conditions of the aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of the aid. (§ 99.31(a)(4))
- e. To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the school, in order to: (a) develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; (b) administer student aid programs; or (c) improve instruction. (§ 99.31(a)(6))
- f. To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions. (§ 99.31(a)(7))
- g. To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. (§ 99.31(a)(9))
- h. To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency, subject to § 99.36. (§ 99.31(a)(10))
- i. Information the school has designated as "directory information" under § 99.37. (§ 99.31(a)(11))
- j. To a victim of an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or a non-forcible sex offense, subject to the requirements of § 99.39. The disclosure may only include the final results of the disciplinary proceeding with respect to that alleged crime or offense, regardless of the finding. (§ 99.31(a)(13))
- k. To the general public, the final results of a disciplinary proceeding, subject to the requirements of § 99.39, if the school determines the student is an alleged perpetrator of a crime of violence or non-forcible sex offense and the student has committed a violation of

the school's rules or policies with respect to the allegation made against him or her. (§ 99.31(a)(14)).

## Notice of Directory Information

American University of Antigua, with certain exemptions, is also required by FERPA to obtain the written consent of the student prior to disclosing personally identifiable information from the students' education records; however, some information may be disclosed without consent unless the student has advised the university in accordance with university policies to the contrary. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the university to include this type of information from students' records in university publications such as the school catalog, websites, yearbooks, honor roll or other recognition lists, graduation and other ceremony programs, and sports activities reports.

The University may disclose the following directory information without prior approval from a student:

- Name, address, telephone number, email
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Degrees, honors, and awards received, major field of study (program)
- Dates of attendance, enrollment status, grade level
- Previous educational agencies or institutions attended

To have directory information withheld, students must notify the Office of the Registrar by September 1 of each calendar year. Once filed, this request becomes a permanent part of the student's record; no information may be released until the student provides written instructions otherwise.

## Standards for Admission, Promotion, and Graduation in the Doctor of Medicine (MD) Program

The goal of every competent physician is the delivery of quality patient care, as characterized by the capacity to acquire and use diverse and complex knowledge; apply relevant psychomotor and communication skills; exercise clinical judgment and decision-making based on evidence; and critically evaluate both patient outcomes and personal clinical performance. Applicants must be able to function in high-intensity, stressful academic, and clinical environments. To these ends, applicants must be capable of meeting the physical, psychosocial, and emotional demands of an academic medical curriculum in anticipation of encountering similar demands in the practice of medicine.

The standards required include the following:

## Acquiring Information

- Students must be capable of acquiring academic information from diverse media (e.g., print, digital, graphic imaging, and video).
- Students must be capable of using the clinical tools of the profession (e.g., microscopes, sphygmomanometers, EKGs, products of digital imaging and other visually oriented diagnostic procedures, and tests).

## Communication

- The language of instruction is English. Students must be fluent in English.
- Students must be capable of effectively interacting with patients, faculty, and health-care staff in a sensitive and timely manner. Students must be capable of effectively communicating the findings of an examination to patients and as required, to other members of the healthcare team.
- Students must be able to use the profession's techniques in conducting a physical examination (e.g., auscultation, palpation, and percussion).

## Motor

- Students must possess the precision (fine motor skills), strength, and stamina (gross motor function) necessary to conduct common diagnostic procedures (e.g., sigmoidoscopy) and physical interventions (e.g., CPR, surgery, intubation, establishing central lines, and IVs) commonly used in the profession.
- Students must be able to participate actively in classroom, laboratory, and clinical settings over extended periods.

## Sensory

- Students must possess tactile, visual and olfactory abilities appropriate for the care of patients (e.g., palpation).

## Cognitive

- Students must be capable of self-directed, self-motivated learning and information gathering.
- Students must be capable of assimilating, analyzing, and synthesizing information in a timely fashion for use in solving clinical problems.
- Students must be capable of analyzing, interpreting, and reasoning in a timely fashion for the purpose of solving clinical problems.
- In interactions with patients and colleagues, students are expected to exercise good judgment and common sense consistent with the ethical expectations of the medical profession.

## Social

- Students must possess the perseverance, diligence, and consistency necessary to complete the medical curriculum and enter independent practice of medicine.

- Students are expected to be capable of receiving and responding appropriately to feedback, both positive and negative.
- Students are expected to have the social skills to interact effectively with patients and colleagues.
- Students are expected to possess cultural sensitivity that is respectful of each patient's and each colleague's race, religious beliefs, ethnicity, national origin, creed, color, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender preference, and other personal characteristics.
- Students are expected to be capable of establishing sensitive, professional relationships with patients.
- Students are expected to learn, grow, and become effective members of the health-care team.

Where students fail to meet one or more of the above standards AUACOM will try to provide reasonable accommodation (Please see the Accommodation section for more information). It should be noted that students who fail to meet these standards, while they may graduate, may find it difficult or impossible to find employment in clinical medicine.

AUACOM will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities in order to provide equal opportunities for students with disabilities. Students with documented disabilities should contact the Office of Student Affairs as soon as possible upon matriculating to AUACOM. While reasonable accommodations may be made, consistent with applicable law, AUACOM cannot fundamentally alter the curriculum or any degree requirements to accommodate a disability.

## Institutional Learning Objectives

These are the competencies that AUACOM students need to attain.

### Medical Knowledge

Students must demonstrate knowledge of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological, social, and behavioral sciences, as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care.

Describe the normal structure and function (morphology and physiology) of the human body and each of its major organ systems across the life span.

Describe how molecular, biochemical, cellular, and genetic mechanisms affect human development and maintain the body's homeostasis across the life span.

Describe the scientific principles underlying diagnostic methods, including laboratory and radiologic testing and treatment approaches (pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic) that may be applied to major diseases and conditions.

Demonstrate knowledge of physical and functional principles of normal and altered human behavior throughout the life cycle, including scientific basis for diagnostic and treatment approaches applied to these conditions.

Explain how social determinants, health behaviors, and preventive measures affect disease, illness, and health in individuals and across populations regionally, nationally, and globally.

Demonstrate knowledge of the scientific method in establishing causation of health and disease, the utility of diagnostic modalities, and the efficacy of therapies (traditional and nontraditional), through critical evaluations of current preclinical and clinical scientific knowledge.

Demonstrate an investigatory and analytic thinking approach to clinical situations.

## Patient Care

Students must be able to provide supervised patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.

Obtain essential, accurate, and age-appropriate information about patients.

Formulate an accurate and comprehensive differential diagnosis that synthesizes relevant patient data.

Develop an appropriate evaluation and management plan utilizing patient information and preferences, evidence-based medicine, and clinical judgment.

Provide care that is responsive to the personhood of the patient, inclusive of culture, ethnicity, spirituality, gender, age, language, disability, and other aspects of personal and/or health beliefs, practices, and decisions.

Counsel and educate patients appropriately using accurate, up-to-date information.

Partner with individuals to prevent health problems and improve health status.

Perform competently all medical and invasive procedures considered essential for the area of practice with appropriate supervision.

Work as members of interprofessional health-care teams to provide effective, safe, quality, and patient-focused care.

Make informed decisions about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions based on patient information and preferences, up-to-date scientific evidence, and clinical judgment.

Use information technology to support patient care decisions and patient education.

## Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Students must demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that facilitate safe and effective interactions with patients, their families, and health professionals.

Communicate effectively with the patient, the patient's family, colleagues, and other health-care professionals through the use of active listening and appropriate verbal, nonverbal, and written skills.

Foster therapeutic and ethically sound relationships with patients through respect, empathy, and emotional support.

Demonstrate effective collaboration skills as a member of a team, including learning teams and health-care teams.

## Professionalism

Students must demonstrate a commitment to professional and personal excellence in all settings, including adherence to ethical principles and sensitivity to a diverse patient population.

Demonstrate honesty, integrity, respect, and compassion in all interactions with patients, peers, faculty, staff, and other health-care professionals in all settings.

Demonstrate ethical, patient-centered decision-making and respect for the confidentiality of patient information in all settings (e.g. clinical, academic, electronic, or web-based.)

Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to the personhood of the patient inclusive of culture, ethnicity, spirituality, gender, age, language, disability, family context, and other aspects of personal and health beliefs, practices, and decisions.

Demonstrate a commitment to personal health and well-being, and recognize and address personal attributes, attitudes, and behaviors that may adversely influence one's effectiveness as a physician.

Define professional impairment and describe the role and responsibility of health-care professionals in addressing impairment and unprofessional behavior in colleagues and in the profession.

## Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Students must investigate and assess their academic and clinical performance and develop skills for lifelong learning and personal improvement in order to improve patient care.

Demonstrate accountability for academic, patient care and professional responsibilities, and a commitment to continuous professional development.

Acknowledge personal limitations and mistakes openly and honestly and critically evaluate mistakes to promote professional development.

Analyse practice experience and perform practice-based improvement activities using systematic methodology.

Retrieve, critically appraise, and integrate current evidence-based biomedical information into patient care and clinical decision-making.

Apply principles of medical informatics, patient safety, and quality improvement to enhance patient care.

### **Systems Based Practice**

Students must demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and systems of health care, including barriers and drivers of health and health-care access.

Describe the various approaches to the organization, financing, and delivery of health care locally, nationally, and internationally.

Practice cost-effective health care and resource allocation that does not compromise quality of care. Advocate for quality patient care and describe strategies for assisting patients in dealing with system complexities.

Define the roles of various health professionals in the health-care team and describe how successful collaboration can improve safety and quality in individual patient care and system performance.

Describe the role and responsibility of physicians in developing and implementing health policies.

Describe health disparities and health-care disparities and how they affect the outcomes of the health-care system.

## **Curriculum Components and Courses**

AUACOM has embarked on a curriculum revision that is implemented one academic period at a time, starting with MED1 in Spring 2024. Hence, the information for MED1, 2, and 3 indicates the features of the revised curriculum. The information for the subsequent terms represents the legacy curriculum that will continue to be followed by students in those terms who matriculated at AUACOM prior to Spring 2024.

## Pre-Clinical Sciences

### Pre-Clinical Science I

The revised curriculum in MED1 comprises two strands: Foundations of Medicine I and Clinical Medicine I. The Foundations of Medicine strand in MED1 comprises five course units. In the first unit, Fundamentals of Medical School Success I, students learn about elements that are critical for achieving their goals. These will include learning strategies, self-regulation strategies, and other foundational themes, such as medical terminology. The subsequent course units follow a discipline-based approach that presents the fundamentals of Molecular & Cell Biology, Anatomy, Genetics & Metabolism, and Physiology. These will help set the foundation for organ system course units that will commence in MED2.

### Clinical Medicine (CM) 1

Clinical Medicine 1 is a trimester-long course introducing students to medical interview techniques, physical examination skills, and clinical reasoning. Students will conduct interviews and physical examinations under direct physician supervision then discuss their findings with the group. They will develop communication and interpersonal skills and demonstrate professional behavior consistent with that of a physician.

Students will also be introduced to Health Systems Science and Global Health. Global Health (GH) is defined by the U.S. Institute of Medicine as “health problems, issues and concerns that transcend national boundaries and may best be addressed by cooperative actions”. Health Systems Science (HSS) is the study of how healthcare is delivered, in health systems, how healthcare professionals work together, and how health systems can be improved to advance patient care and healthcare delivery. HSS and GH are introduced in the second week of FMSS1. Students will encounter HSS and GH throughout the Clinical Medicine1 Strand.

Students will engage in activities that integrate large classroom knowledge with clinical care. They will demonstrate their competency in an end of trimester exam. Additionally, passing the Basic Life Support course is a requirement to pass CM 1.

Achieving at least the minimum standard for success in each strand—Foundations of Medicine **and** Clinical Medicine—is required for promotion to MED2. Promotion to MED2 will be determined by the Promotions Committee according to the Guidelines for Promotion and Dismissal.

### Student Success Program

This program uses an early intervention approach to provide targeted support to learners who fail to achieve a passing score on the first summative examination. The goal is to help them to prevent subsequent failures. For Foundations of Medicine, a new student will be considered at-risk of failing the semester if they do not attain a minimum of 70% on the final exam of the first course unit that counts toward their final score in each academic period. Enrollment in the program will be mandatory for these students and optional for all others. The program comprises an additional (beyond other scheduled

classes) content-driven session, once per week, that includes collaborative activities with peers, and meeting with academic advisors. Students will be required to achieve a passing score on two consecutive course unit final examinations to qualify to exit the program. Regular attendance is a core expectation of our curriculum. Students are responsible not only for their own learning but also for fostering a learning environment conducive to all students' success.

For Clinical Medicine, a student will be considered at risk of failing the term if they do not attain a minimum of 70% on each assessment of clinical skills. Sessions aimed at improving these skills may be held on weekends. Each student will be expected to formally signal their intention to attend. Failure by these students to subsequently attend is considered a breach of the AUACOM Honor Code.

## Pre-Clinical Science II

The revised curriculum in MED2 continues with the Foundations of Medicine II and Clinical Medicine II strands. The Foundations of Medicine strand in MED2 comprises of seven course units. The first four course units complete the fundamentals phase of the preclinical curriculum and include fundamentals of the following course units: Microbiology & Immunology, Pathology, Pharmacology, and Epidemiology & Biostatistics I. The subsequent organ systems phase comprises the following three course units: Fundamentals of Medical School Success II, Musculoskeletal System & Skin, and Hematolymphoid System.

Fundamentals of Medical School Success II aims to set students' expectations for the organ systems phase of their preclinical medical education. It highlights strategies for learning new knowledge and skills, integrating previous content, managing the increased demands of assessments, and for self-regulation.

## Clinical Medicine II

Clinical Medicine II is a semester-long course that will further develop students' skills in performing medical interviews, physical examinations, and clinical reasoning. Students will conduct interviews and physical examinations under direct physician supervision and then discuss findings and next steps with the group. Students will continue to develop communication and interpersonal skills and demonstrate professional behavior consistent with a physician. Students will engage in activities that integrate large classroom knowledge with clinical care. Students will demonstrate their competency in an end-of-semester exam.

Achieving at least the minimum standard for success in each strand—Foundations of Medicine **and** Clinical Medicine—is required for promotion to MED3. Promotion to MED3 will be determined by the Promotions Committee according to the Guidelines for Promotion and Dismissal.

## Pre-Clinical Science III

MED3 continues with Foundations of Medicine III and Clinical Medicine III strands of the revised curriculum. This semester of the organ system phase commences with a comprehensive assessment that gauges students' knowledge and understanding of the Musculoskeletal and Hematolymphoid systems

learned in MED2. Relevant themes from these course units will then be integrated into the following course units: Gastrointestinal system, Cardiovascular system, and Respiratory system. This semester fosters students' understanding of the normal structure and function of these organ systems, pathological agents and processes that interfere with their functions, and mechanisms of action of the agents used to treat relevant disorders.

### Clinical Medicine III

Clinical Medicine III is a semester-long course that further develops students medical interview techniques, physical examination skills, and clinical reasoning. Students will conduct interviews and physical examinations under direct physician supervision then discuss. The course will also introduce students to writing clinical notes and oral presentations. Students will engage in clinical scenarios with standardized and professional patients and attend clinical visits with actual patients. The course will utilize high fidelity simulation. Students will develop communication and interpersonal skills and demonstrate professional behavior consistent with that of a physician. They will engage in activities that integrate large classroom knowledge with clinical care. Students will demonstrate their competency in an end-of-semester exam.

### Pre-Clinical Science IV

MED4 continues with Foundations of Medicine IV and Clinical Medicine IV strands of the revised curriculum. This semester of the organ system phase commences with a comprehensive assessment that gauges students' knowledge and understanding of the organ systems presented in MED2 and MED3. Relevant themes from these course units will then be integrated into the following course units: Renal system, Endocrine & Reproductive system, Epidemiology & Biostatistics II, and Neuroscience & Behavioral Science.

### Clinical Medicine IV

Clinical Medicine IV is a semester-long course designed to further facilitate students' development of medical interview and physical examination skills, clinical reasoning, clinical note writing, and oral presentations. Students will engage in clinical scenarios with standardized patients, medical simulation scenarios, and clinical activities with actual patients. Students will develop communication and interpersonal skills and demonstrate professional behavior consistent with that of a physician. They will engage in activities that integrate large classroom knowledge with clinical care. They will demonstrate their competency in an end-of-semester exam. Students will be required to pass the Advanced Cardiac Life Support course.

### Remediation

The AUACOM academic remediation offers support to students who have encountered challenges during the current term that resulted in their not meeting the academic requirements for promotion. This course is particularly beneficial for students who have missed exams or struggled to achieve passing grades in the basic sciences and/or clinical medicine.

The remediation course starts once a promotion decision has been communicated to each student by the Promotions Committee following the end of the term. It is designed to provide an opportunity to review all content presented during the term. Guidance will be available from teaching faculty or their designate and from the Education Enhancement Department, both synchronously and asynchronously. Students should focus on using feedback from assessments taken during the term to guide their study and review, paying particular attention to mastering their weaker areas. The program culminates in a pass/fail examination in each of the components (CM or Foundations of Medicine) and is comprehensive of content covered during the current term. Students who fail the Foundations of Medicine component in the regular term can do the remediation course (inclusive of an exam) in Foundations of Medicine. If they fail the Clinical Medicine component, then the corresponding remediation course (inclusive of an OSCE) can be taken. Students will need to pass with a score of 70 percent or greater in each of the exams they take for the remediation to be successful.

Students of MED 1 through 4 with final aggregate scores of at least 55.00% (not rounded up) but less than 70.00% at the end of the current term are eligible to participate in the remediation course that culminates in an examination(s). If they choose not to participate, their term grade will stand. If an eligible student chooses to participate in the program, their score from the remedial examination will supersede their previous aggregate term score.

The maximum grade awarded will be a P (pass) if a student achieves a score of 70% or greater on the remedial examination; grades of HP and H will not be awarded based on remedial exam scores. In the event of failure of this examination, the original Promotions Committee decision—repeat or dismissal—will stand. The remedial examination will be offered on a date that is specified by the Examination Center and will only be offered once. The original Promotions Committee decision will stand for a student who misses this examination since no make-up exam will be offered, nor will there be repeat remediation exams.

## Pre-Clinical Sciences V

This semester focuses on the review and integration of knowledge gained during the Pre-Clinical Sciences (basic sciences and clinical medicine).

MED5 features four summative examinations, summative quizzes, and additional no-stake assessments. These exams and quizzes include a diagnostic exam, NBME CAS1, NBME CAS2, weekly quizzes, and a Comprehensive Basic Science Exam. No-stake assessments include other in-class quizzes and an NBME Comprehensive Basic Science Self-Assessment (CBSSA), all of which are course requirements.

Students should make every attempt to attend all classes, and to be in attendance during all clinical rotations. Students are responsible not only for their own learning but also for fostering a learning environment conducive to all students' success.

## MED5 Remediation

Enrollment in the MED5 remediation course is open to those who meet the eligibility criteria. This enrollment is voluntary. For eligible students who elect not to remediate, their original promotion status (repeat or dismissal), as communicated by the Promotions Committee, will remain in effect. See Promotion Criteria for MED5 for further details.

## Clinical Sciences

CLN6 though CLN9

### Family Medicine 1/Internal Medicine 1 (FM1/IM1)

The first clinical rotation focuses on enhancing the skills required to perform physical examinations and to interact with patients, family, and health care providers in a U.S. medical environment (8 weeks).

### Core Clerkships

- Internal Medicine (12 weeks)
- Surgery (8 weeks)
- Psychiatry (6 weeks)
- Obstetrics and Gynecology (6 weeks)
- Pediatrics (6 weeks)
- Family Medicine (6 weeks)

### Elective Clerkships (32 weeks)

Students select from a variety of disciplines, including subspecialties of core clerkships and medical research.

Specific information about Clinical Sciences is provided in the *Clinical Curriculum* and the *AUACOM Clinical Rotations Guidelines*. Current versions can be found on AUACOM's e-learning platform, Brightspace. Please note that the information, rules, and regulations as stated in the *AUACOM Clinical Rotations Guidelines* are subject to change and supersede the *Student Handbook*.

## Global Health Track

AUACOM's Global Health Track is a certificate program conducted in collaboration with Florida International University, Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine (FIU).

The Global Health Track (GHT) is a comprehensive, four-year longitudinal track in global health that is provided for AUACOM students who joined AUACOM prior to September 2025, in conjunction with AUACOM's medical doctorate program. Because the program is not part of AUACOM's medical

doctorate curriculum, federal financial aid is not available for the GHT Program. Participation in GHT is strictly voluntary. However, once enrolled, the rules and regulations pertaining to the GHT are upheld by all enrollees.

Global Health has been defined as “the area of study, research and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide” by the Consortium of Universities for Global Health. Global Health addresses the health of populations in a global context and transcends the political boundaries of nations focusing on social determinants of health, healthcare disparities including infectious and non-communicable disease issues, human rights as well as economic development, and policy and system issues.

The purpose of the GHT is to support and guide students in developing expertise in global health with the goal of a subsequent career involving patient care, service, policy making, research, and education at a global level.

Students attending the GHT are introduced to the study of community and public health, primary care, epidemiology and treatment of communicable and non-communicable diseases on a global basis.

The longitudinal GHT is structured along the following themes:

- Governance (health systems, economics, ethics, etc.)
- Burden of Disease (child health, women’s health and the health of other vulnerable populations, communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases, etc.)
- Physical, mental, and social wellbeing
- Technology
- Security (environment, complex humanitarian emergencies, intelligence, etc.)
- Climate and health
- Medical Spanish
- AHA BLS & ACLS instructor training

The GHT is conducted on the campus of AUACOM in Antigua. It consists of four 2-week blocks (before MED1, MED2, MED3 and MED4), and a 1-week block before MED5. It comprises horizontal and longitudinal coursework during MED1 through to MED5.

The lectures are conducted by international faculty (e.g. FIU, University of the West Indies, State University of New York, Cornell University, New York University, University of Illinois, University of Nevada, United Nations, Doctors Without Borders among others) and AUACOM faculty.

In addition, students conduct field trips and exercises and are introduced to research methodology.

Students in GHT also receive American Heart Association training in Basic Cardiac Life Support and have the option to receive Advanced Cardiac Life Support instructor training and certification.

The Global Health Track includes an introduction to Medical Spanish and is supplemented by a Global Health Journal Club. All students enrolled in the program will receive either a grade of “P” (Pass) or “F” (Fail) for the program. Because the program is not a part of, and does not fulfill any requirement of, AUACOM’s medical doctorate program, the grade will not affect the student’s GPA or success or failure in the medical doctorate program; therefore, no credits will be awarded.

Only students enrolled in AUACOM’s medical doctorate program may participate in the GHT. To facilitate students’ academic success, students who are required to repeat the term or year during the preclinical years may reapply to join GHT after successful completion of a repeated academic term or year.

Provided that they otherwise satisfy FIU’s requirements, students who successfully complete the GHT will be eligible to participate in AUACOM’s Advanced Introduction to Clinical Medicine (FM1/IM1) rotation at FIU and the AUACOM-FIU Graduate Clinical Core Rotation Certificate Program. Students in the GHT will have the opportunity to join AUACOM faculty-initiated international relief projects and deepen their expertise in global health research. They will also be afforded the opportunity to be exposed to medical Spanish. At the completion of the GHT program, a student should be able to:

- Determine the role of epidemiology in global health, including factors affecting demographic profiles, and applications of research methods and biostatistics.
- Identify social determinants of health, health equity, social justice, and governmental policy in terms of their impact on the distribution of health services in low-resource settings within the United States and internationally.
- Evaluate how social determinants of health impact the prevalence of non-communicable and communicable diseases and adequate access to appropriate healthcare.
- Identify health and human rights issues and determinants of health specific to immigrant, migrant, internally displaced, and refugee populations.
- Discuss specific needs of the medically underserved and uninsured.
- Discuss resources and issues pertinent to health risk prevention, health maintenance, technology and innovation, and variations in healthcare services that are specific to global medicine.
- Discuss effective advocacy strategies for health systems improvement within the global context.
- Discuss the organization, financing, and health indicators of international healthcare systems.
- Compare the challenges posed by communicable and non-communicable diseases to the healthcare systems and economies of countries.
- Practice effective communication and collaboration with the patient, family, and caregivers with sensitivity to sociocultural and health literacy issues so that the diagnosis and plan of care are clearly understood and pertinent to their specific situation.
- Adapt evidence-based resources and tools for use in limited-resource healthcare settings
- Interact with cross-cultural sensitivity that is sufficient to deliver basic medical care, including working with translators.

- Perform an efficient comprehensive physical examination under supervision in an internationally located office, hospital, or skilled nursing setting, being mindful of cultural factors such as gender, modesty, and religious practices.
- Demonstrate the ability to appropriately diagnose and treat patients under supervision in the context of local resource availability.
- Practice appropriate diagnostic procedures and their interpretation under supervision in resource-limited healthcare settings.
- Formulate a plan of care that is relevant and practical in a specific cultural setting.
- Develop the ability to advocate for systems change to improve the health of their communities of practice.
- Develop vocabulary and linguistic structure to converse with patients and fellow professionals in Spanish.
- Discuss management plans based on knowledge of global influences, utilizing resources that include local, state, federal, and international agencies, as applicable.
- Recognize practice limitations and when to seek consultation with other healthcare professionals and systems resources to provide optimal care within a global context.
- Recognize personal biases and stereotypes related to healthcare delivery in international settings.
- Discuss the need to balance compassion, humanism, realism, and practicality in the context of health care delivered in specific global settings.
- Develop behaviors associated with respect for patient dignity, autonomy, self-care, and self-determination within a cultural and global context.
- Examine how bioethics and environmental ethics affect human health at an individual, community, and international level.

Upon completion of the GHT, completion of the requirements of the Graduate Clinical Core Rotation Certificate Program, and all requirements for graduation from AUACOM (including but not limited to passing all in-house and external examinations and passing all required courses and clerkships), the student will receive the MD degree and the Global Health Certificate from AUACOM as well as the certificate of completion of the Graduate Clinical Core Rotation Certificate Program from FIU's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine. As discussed above, the GHT is not part of the MD program and is not included in any evaluation of AUACOM's standard terms.

## Degree Conferral

To satisfy the requirements for graduation and obtain a medical doctorate (MD) diploma, students must comply with the criteria below:

1. Complete and pass all requirements of the pre-clinical Sciences component.
2. Complete and pass all requirements of the clinical sciences component, including all core and elective rotations (and submission of all required clinical documents).
3. Pass USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK).

- a. Students must request the USMLE Certified Transcript of Scores for USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK from the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) to be submitted to the Office of the Registrar as part of the degree audit.
- b. All students must pass USMLE Step1 to progress into the clinical component of their education. Students who do not plan to practice medicine in the United States can meet their graduation requirements by passing the Medical Council of Canada Qualifying Examination (MCCQE Part I) or by passing the NBME International Foundations of Medicine Examination (IFOM Clinical Science Examination) instead of USMLE Step2 CK. Students should be aware that, while passing of the MCCQE Part I Examination or the IFOM Clinical Science Examination meet the requirements for graduation from AUACOM, obtaining a passing USMLE Step 2 CK score is required for residency training in the United States. Students must obtain a qualifying score on the CCSE examination before being certified to take Step 2 CK, MCCQE Part 1 or the IFOM Clinical Science Examination.

4. Fulfill all financial and bursarial responsibilities, assuring a zero balance.
5. Maintain good standing.

AUACOM students may complete the requirements for the MD degree at five different points throughout the year. Consequently, students will be considered AUACOM graduates on one of the five graduation dates after which they have completed their graduation requirements. Students completing all MD requirements between:

1. July 1 and September 30, xxxx will receive a diploma dated September 30, xxxx.
2. October 1 and December 31, xxxx will receive a diploma dated December 31, xxxx.
3. January 1 and March 31, xxxx will receive a diploma dated March 31, xxxx.
4. April 1 and April 30, xxxx will receive a diploma dated April 30, xxxx.
5. May 1 and June 30, xxxx will receive a diploma based on the date of MD graduation requirement completion.

Graduates cannot receive a copy of their diploma prior to the diploma date and final degree-audit clearance. Once the graduation date has passed and the final degree audit is completed, diplomas for all graduates will be mailed to the addresses provided in the student's record. Graduates who need duplicate copies of their diploma will be required to pay the appropriate fee to the bursar and provide proof of payment to the Office of the Registrar. The current fee for a certified copy of the small diploma (8.5 by 11 inches) is \$10.00 USD; the large diploma (11.5 by 14 inches) is \$25.00 USD.

## Student Advising Program

AUACOM's academic advising program is guided by the standards of excellence developed by the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education. These guidelines assist with the assessment of student learning, professional integrity, and program quality. AUACOM offers an excellent program of academic advising and counseling services for medical students at all stages of their medical school education.

The institution currently utilizes a Split Model of advising, as defined by the National Academic Advising Association: The Global Community for Academic Advising. Within this framework, students are afforded the opportunity to interact with faculty advisors, as well as professional advisors within the school's Education Enhancement Department (EED). Advising is designed to foster close faculty and student interactions that promote holistic student development and provide institutional guidance.

Advisors provide guidance and feedback on issues such as adaptation to the island, career choice in medicine, healthy lifestyle and routine, curriculum, and study skills, all grounded in real and professional relationships. Academic advising at AUACOM is designed to support all students: those students who need additional help navigating the challenges of medical education and medical school learning, as well as those who are already doing well but wish to progress.

## Pre-Clinical Sciences

Each student will be assigned a designated faculty advisor/coach. Throughout each term, a student may meet with their faculty advisor/coach as necessary but are required to do so at least three times.

1. Within the first two weeks of classes
2. Within two weeks after the first examination.

If the student fails the first examination, the student MUST schedule an additional meeting with the advisor/coach within one week after the 2nd examination for the term.

3. Final Meeting-within two weeks of the end of the term

Failure to meet with an advisor/coach in a timely manner is considered unprofessional conduct.

Engaging in unprofessional conduct may result in a referral to the Office of Student Affairs for disciplinary action.

## EED Pre-Clinical Sciences

Pre-clinical EED provides the following resources for students in MED1 through 5.

Students are welcome to visit the EED at any time, for any reason, to seek academic support and Appreciative Advising. Referrals will be provided as needed to other university resources, such as the Health or Counseling Centers, the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Residential Services, etc. Academically at-risk students in MED1, 2, 3, and 4 will be required to participate in the Student Success Program.

## Fundamentals of Medical School Success (FMSS) I & II

These comprehensive courses are designed by EED faculty to equip students with essential study strategies and to facilitate transition to an integrated, systems-based learning model.

## Medical Scholars Program

A Medical Scholar is a high-achieving student who serves as a teaching assistant. They support fellow students in concepts, subject matter, and test strategies. Medical Scholars play a very important role in the learning environment at AUACOM as leaders of the academic community and exemplify the values of AUACOMCOM and medical education.

## Peer Mentor Program

The Peer Mentor Program at AUACOM is designed to develop and foster beneficial relationships between upper-class students (MED2-4) and first term students. Mentors provide students with advice, encouragement of strong study habits, and assist with acclimation to learning in medical schools, AUACOM, and Antigua.

## Academic Advising Program

1:1 academic advising is done using the Appreciative Advising model. Appreciative Advising is a positive, personalized approach to advising that is geared toward success that focuses on the student's strengths and helps improve areas of weakness.

## Cognitive Processing Course (CPC)

The Cognitive Processing Course is a course specifically crafted to provide dedicated assistance to students who find themselves repeating a term of the basic science curriculum at AUACOM. Our aim is to furnish students with effective study strategies and the opportunity to put them into practice. The core of CPC revolves around creating a supportive and student-centered collaborative learning environment.

## Step 1 Prep Program

The EED USMLE Step 1 Preparation Program is an innovative, multi-stage initiative designed specifically for second-year medical students gearing up for the USMLE Step 1 Exam. We assist students with a study plan, research proven study strategies, as well as help students to determine their areas for improvement, while assisting them to build upon their strengths.

## Step 1 to Success Program

An EED Step 1 Prep program supplement hosted by the Clinical Scholars Program Teaching Assistants (TAs). Students are mentored on test-taking strategies, lifestyle, sleep, anxiety, burn-out, imposter syndrome, and exam day strategies. Students also receive targeted cognitive processing sessions on multiple choice question approach and dissection with an intentional plan toward improving academic outcomes on the Step 1 exam.

## Study Resources

The EED Brightspace serves as a repository for valuable resources and supplemental academic services for all pre-clinical students.

## EED Clinical Sciences

Clinical EED provides the following resources for students in CLN6 through 9.

### Foundations of Clinical Medicine

A vital component of FM1/IM1 course that incorporates cultural competency, quality and safety, and professionalism training. Designed to support students' successful entry into their first clinical core rotation, available programs are:

- Online Cultural Competency Program developed by Health & Human Services: Certificate awarded upon completion of training.
- Institute for Healthcare Improvement Basic Certificate in Quality and Safety: awarded upon completion of the program.
- Professionalism Program based on the book *Professionalism in Medicine: A Case-Based Guide for Medical Students*. Students take a quiz upon completion of assignments related to the book.
- Clinical Partners Mentoring Program: offered during evening and weekend hours while students are enrolled in FM1/IM1. The sessions offer peer success mentoring and guidance in preparation for the first core rotation with a Clinical Scholar.

### AUACOM Clinical Wellness

The Clinical EED provides resources promoting mental, physical, and emotional wellness among clinical students to prevent burnout, reduce stress, and increase quality of life.

### Academic Advising Program

1:1 Academic advising using the Appreciative Advising model. Appreciative Advising is a positive, personalized approach to advising that is geared toward success that focuses on the student's strengths and helps improve areas of weakness.

### Clinical Scholars Program

The Clinical Scholars program is a prestigious program for exceptional, high-achieving clinical students who have demonstrated academic and clinical excellence. These students are chosen by the Clinical Education Faculty to serve as Tutors, Teaching Assistants, and Mentors to Clinical Sciences students. Clinical Scholars student support programs include the Question Partners Series, 1:1 Tutoring, and the Peer Success Mentoring Program – see below for further details.

### Question Partners Series

The Question Partners Program Series includes “Prep Programs” targeted for the improvement of clinical judgment and addresses cognitive errors on USMLE-style questions in Clinical Sciences. The

Question Partners Program Series is available to all students. Sessions are conducted by our Clinical Scholars team and includes:

- QP Shelf Prep (available for each core rotation)
- QP Biostats and Ethics Prep
- QP Comp/Step 2 Prep.

## 1:1 Tutoring

The Clinical Scholars Program Tutors are high-achieving clinical students and recent alumni who have demonstrated academic and clinical excellence. Students are matched with a tutor that can guide students toward identification of gaps in knowledge that can improve clinical reasoning.

## The Peer Success Mentoring Program

This program targets students who need guidance and support in navigating clerkship rotations. Students are matched with a Clinical Scholar mentor who can assist with managing expectations within the student's specific rotation and developing a study plan tailored to the student's needs. Follow-up sessions are scheduled as necessary.

## Study and Online Resources

Clinical Scholars Resource List for Clerkship Students is a comprehensive list of resources for the Clinical Sciences with essential resources for successful subject core and elective rotations.

AUACOM Clinical Pulse Community is a Brightspace course shell that serves as a repository for valuable resources and supplemental academic services for all clinical students. These resources and services are available for all AUACOM clinical students.

AMBOSS Digital Learning resource with ANKI and ChatGPT Integrations:

- Core Clerkship Study Plans
- AMBOSS Library
- AUACOM Step 2 Prep Program

## Library Resources

All AUACOM clinical students have access to a large library of online textbooks and other resources offered through the AUACOM Library.

## Tuition & Fees

Tuition accounts must be settled by the due dates published by the Office of the Bursar prior to each new term and communicated by email to all students. Registration cannot be completed until tuition accounts are settled.

Tuition accounts are considered settled if all past due balances are paid in full **and**

1. All past due charges, **and**
2. All new term charges are paid in full, **or**
3. A new tuition payment plan<sup>1</sup> enrollment has been completed for new term charges, and the first installment has been submitted, **or**
4. New Federal student aid has been verified, confirmed and packaged or scheduled for packaging.

## Payment of Tuition

ACH/Electronic Check (requires US bank account) or Credit/Debit Card or International Funds Transfer via the *Cashnet* portal:

1. To log in, simply visit the student portal website.
2. Click on the TRANSACT logo, and you will automatically be logged in to Cashnet via SSO—no separate username or password is required.
3. If you encounter any issues or need assistance, please feel free to reach out to our support team at [servicedesk@auamed.net](mailto:servicedesk@auamed.net).

AUACOM Wire Transfer Instructions (contact your bank with the information below)

Beneficiary: American University of Antigua College of Medicine

Bank: Citibank NY, 201 West 34th St. NYC, NY 10001

Beneficiary Account No.: 6863918244

ABA Routing No.: 021000089

Swift code: CITIUS33 for wires originating outside US

(Include your name and student ID in the memo)

Students interested in paying their balance due using Canadian Dollars or Indian Rupee should email [bursar@auamed.org](mailto:bursar@auamed.org) to request a quote and payment instructions.

During the online registration process, students will be required to sign a Financial Obligation Agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> Payment plan participation is by request only. Please email [pmtplan@AUACOMmed.org](mailto:pmtplan@AUACOMmed.org) to request permission to participate in a tuition payment plan. Payment plan approvals are based on payment history, i.e., no late, rejected, or shorted payments and no previously cancelled plans.

# Estimated Cost of Attendance

Fall 2025

American University of Antigua-College of Medicine - Estimated Cost of Attendance - Fall 2025					
	MED1	MED2	MED3	MED4	MED5
<b>Institutional:</b>					
Tuition	\$20,335	\$25,500	\$25,500	\$25,500	\$20,000
Fees	\$4,085	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$5,050	\$4,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24,420</b>	<b>\$30,300</b>	<b>\$30,300</b>	<b>\$30,550</b>	<b>\$24,800</b>
<b>Living Expenses:</b>					
Med Insurance	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Room	\$5,720	\$8,580	\$8,580	\$8,580	\$5,825
Board (Food)	\$2,880	\$4,315	\$4,315	\$4,315	\$2,915
Transportation	\$1,525	\$2,290	\$2,290	\$2,290	\$1,615
Exam/Other Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,180
Personal	\$875	\$1,385	\$1,385	\$1,385	\$885
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>	<b>\$18,070</b>	<b>\$18,070</b>	<b>\$18,070</b>	<b>\$13,920</b>
<b>Loan Fee Est.</b>	<b>\$1,900</b>	<b>\$2,420</b>	<b>\$2,420</b>	<b>\$2,430</b>	<b>\$1,935</b>
<b>Total Cost of Attendance</b>	<b>\$38,320</b>	<b>\$50,790</b>	<b>\$50,790</b>	<b>\$51,050</b>	<b>\$40,655</b>
<b>Institutional:</b>	CLN6	CLN7	CLN8	CLN9	AUACOM Total
Tuition	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$32,000	\$244,835
Fees	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$42,735
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$36,800</b>	<b>\$36,800</b>	<b>\$36,800</b>	<b>\$36,800</b>	<b>\$287,570</b>
<b>Living Expenses:</b>					
Med Insurance	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$13,000
Room	\$9,250	\$9,250	\$9,250	\$9,250	\$74,285
Board (Food)	\$4,675	\$4,675	\$4,675	\$4,675	\$37,440
Transportation	\$2,755	\$2,755	\$2,755	\$2,755	\$21,030
Exam/Other Fees	\$20	\$0	\$0	\$1,020	\$2,220
Personal	\$1,455	\$1,455	\$1,455	\$1,455	\$11,735
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,655</b>	<b>\$19,635</b>	<b>\$19,635</b>	<b>\$20,655</b>	<b>\$159,710</b>
<b>Loan Fee Est.</b>	<b>\$2,820</b>	<b>\$2,820</b>	<b>\$2,820</b>	<b>\$2,870</b>	<b>\$22,435</b>
<b>Total Cost of Attendance</b>	<b>\$59,275</b>	<b>\$59,255</b>	<b>\$59,255</b>	<b>\$60,325</b>	<b>\$469,715</b>

\*tuition for attending clinical rotations at FIU HWCOM during periods 8-9 is an additional \$450 per week

\*fees includes all educational resources required to complete coursework; no additional textbooks will be needed

\*MED1 operating as a trimester; all other periods operating as a semester

Not all the above are obligations owed to the University but are estimated charges of outside providers.  
Subject to change.

## Winter/Spring 2026

American University of Antigua-College of Medicine - Estimated Cost of Attendance - Winter/Spring 2026							
	MED1	MED2	MED3	MED4	MED5	MED6	
<b>Institutional:</b>							
Tuition	\$20,335	\$20,335	\$20,335	\$20,335	\$20,335	\$20,335	
Fees	\$4,085	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,250	\$4,000	\$4,000	
Total	\$24,420	\$24,335	\$24,335	\$24,585	\$24,335	\$24,335	
<b>Living Expenses:</b>							
Med Insurance	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	
Room	\$5,720	\$5,720	\$5,720	\$5,720	\$5,720	\$5,720	
Board (Food)	\$2,880	\$2,880	\$2,880	\$2,880	\$2,880	\$2,880	
Transportation	\$1,525	\$1,525	\$1,525	\$1,525	\$1,525	\$1,525	
Exam/Other Fees	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,180	
Personal	\$875	\$875	\$875	\$875	\$875	\$875	
Total	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$13,180	
Loan Fee Est.	\$1,900	\$1,900	\$1,900	\$1,900	\$1,900	\$1,950	
<b>Total Cost of Attendance</b>	<b>\$38,320</b>	<b>\$38,235</b>	<b>\$38,235</b>	<b>\$38,485</b>	<b>\$38,235</b>	<b>\$39,465</b>	
	CLN7	CLN8	CLN9	CLN10	CLN11	CLN12	AUACOM Total
<b>Institutional:</b>							
Tuition	\$22,850	\$22,850	\$22,850	\$22,850	\$22,850	\$13,710	\$249,970
Fees	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$48,335
Total	\$26,850	\$26,850	\$26,850	\$26,850	\$26,850	\$17,710	\$298,305
<b>Living Expenses:</b>							
Med Insurance	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$12,000
Room	\$6,600	\$6,600	\$6,600	\$6,600	\$6,600	\$4,000	\$71,320
Board (Food)	\$3,350	\$3,350	\$3,350	\$3,350	\$3,350	\$2,000	\$36,030
Transportation	\$1,965	\$1,965	\$1,965	\$1,965	\$1,965	\$1,180	\$20,155
Exam/Other Fees	\$20	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,020	\$2,220
Personal	\$1,050	\$1,050	\$1,050	\$1,050	\$1,050	\$650	\$11,150
Total	\$13,985	\$13,965	\$13,965	\$13,965	\$13,965	\$9,850	\$152,875
Loan Fee Est.	\$2,525	\$2,525	\$2,525	\$2,525	\$2,525	\$1,675	\$25,750
<b>Total Cost of Attendance</b>	<b>\$43,360</b>	<b>\$43,340</b>	<b>\$43,340</b>	<b>\$43,340</b>	<b>\$43,340</b>	<b>\$29,235</b>	<b>\$476,930</b>

\*tuition for attending clinical rotations at FIU HWCOM is an additional \$450 per week

\*fees includes all educational resources required to complete coursework; no additional textbooks will be needed

\*all periods operating as a trimester; clinical sciences based on five 15 weeks trimesters plus one 9 week trimester (actual may vary based on enrollment)

Not all the above are obligations owed to the University but are estimated charges of outside providers.

Subject to change.

## University Refund Policy

Students who withdraw, fail to return from an approved Federal Student Financial Aid Leave of Absence or Non-Student Financial Aid Leave of Absence, are dismissed, suspended or otherwise fail to complete the term for which they were charged (tuition and other institutional charges), may be entitled to receive a credit adjustment of those charges based on a pro rata calculation up through 60 percent of the term. The calculation will be based on the student's Official Withdrawal Date (WD) as reported by the Office of the Registrar or the later of the Last Date of Attendance or midpoint if the student withdraws unofficially.

## Critical Dates for Official Withdrawals

**Withdrawal Date (WD)** – Defined as the date that the later of the Last Date of Attendance or the Date, as determined by the Office of the Registrar; to be the date the student began the official withdrawal process by providing an official notification.

**Last Date of Attendance (LDA)** - Defined as the last day of an educationally related activity as reported by the Office of the Registrar.

**Date of Determination (DOD)** - Defined as the date that the student began the official withdrawal process or otherwise provided notification to the Office of the Registrar. If both circumstances occur, the earlier withdrawal date will be used.

## Critical Dates for Unofficial Withdrawals

**Withdrawal Date (WD)** – Defined as the midpoint of the payment period unless the student withdrew due to circumstances beyond his or her control. In those cases, the date the Office of the Registrar determines is related to the circumstance is the withdrawal date. However, if available, the Last Date of Attendance is the withdrawal date.

**Last Date of Attendance (LDA)** - Defined as the last day of an educationally related activity as reported by the Office of the Registrar.

**Date of Determination (DOD)** – Defined as the date that the University becomes aware that the student has ceased attendance but no later than 30 days after the end of the payment period, unless there are unusual circumstances.

Credit adjustments are calculated by dividing the total number of days the student completed in the term, using the WD as determined by the Registrar, less scheduled breaks that are five days or more, by the total number of days in the term. The percentage is then applied to tuition and other institutional charges to determine the student's remaining obligation, if any, to the University. Credit adjustments are performed after the Return to Title IV calculations are performed for financial aid recipients. Credit adjustments that result in a credit balance on the student's account will be refunded as soon as possible but no later than 45 days from the DOD. For Clinical Students, cancellation fees may apply for previously scheduled rotations not attended.

Tuition credit adjustments will be given according to the following:

- Official withdrawal prior to the first day of class – Credit adjustment for 100% of tuition and institutional charges.
- Official withdrawal after the start of classes — Prorated credit adjustment for tuition and institutional charges based on the percentage of time not attended after the Last Date of Attendance up through 60 percent of the term.
- There will be no tuition credits after more than 60 percent of the payment period has been earned.

AUACOM will not impose any penalty, including the assessment of late fees, the denial of access to classes, libraries, or other institutional facilities, or the requirement that a covered individual borrow

additional funds, on any covered individual because of the individual's inability to meet his or her financial obligations to the institution due to the delayed disbursement funding from VA under Chapter 31 or 33.

## Financial Aid

At AUACOM, we understand that financing your education is an important part of your journey. Our Student Financial Aid Services (SFS) team is here to help you every step of the way. We provide friendly, personalized guidance and support to help you explore your financial aid options and make informed decisions with confidence. Our services include, but are not limited to:

- Assistance with applying for financial aid
- Discussions regarding private loan options
- Provide information on repayment options

SFS does its utmost to help students obtain funding so they can attain quality education. Students are encouraged to pursue outside grants and scholarships. SFS representatives are happy to speak with both current and prospective AUACOM students. For more information, please email an SFS representative at [financialaidservices@auamed.org](mailto:financialaidservices@auamed.org) or call (212) 661-8899, option 4.

## Loan Programs

### U.S. Department of Education Loan Programs

AUACOM's MD program has been approved to participate in the William D. Ford Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford and Grad PLUS Direct Loan Programs, both of which are administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Additional information regarding these loan programs is available through the U.S. Department of Education website at [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov).

### Private Educational Loans

Private educational loans are an additional financing option available to students and families. A suite of lender choices is listed on the [ElmSelect](http://ElmSelect) website, where borrowers can compare programs and select the loan that best fits their needs. While [ElmSelect](http://ElmSelect) offers a convenient platform, students are not required to use it; our institution will continue to certify any private educational loan that has been credit-approved by the lender of your choice. The terms and conditions of these loans, including interest rates, repayment schedules, and fees are determined solely by the lender. Private loans require a credit review, and students may apply individually or with a creditworthy co-signer to strengthen eligibility. In addition to student loans, certain lenders also offer parent loan options to assist families in covering educational costs.

## Canadian Loan Program

AUACOM is approved by the Canadian Ministry of Education, allowing eligible students to receive Canadian federal loans, provincial loans, and federal grants.

The Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP) offers loans, grants, and repayment assistance to full- and part-time students seeking postsecondary education. Student financial assistance is provided through a partnership between the CSLP and most provinces and territories. However, Quebec and the Northwest Territories manage their own programs.

Please note that certain provinces and territories designate schools once they are approved by the Canadian Ministry of Education and placed on the Master Designation List (MDL). Other provinces and territories have other criteria in addition to requiring students to initiate an application for school designation. The provinces and territories that have been approved thus far are as follows:

- Alberta
- British Columbia
- Manitoba
- New Brunswick
- Newfoundland and Labrador
- Nova Scotia
- Ontario
- Prince Edward Island
- Saskatchewan
- Territory of Yukon

The approval process may take up to 12 weeks. In addition to being on the MDL, these provinces also require students to request school designation by completing an application, which can be found on their student aid websites.

## Veterans Benefits

AUACOM recognizes the service and sacrifice of US military veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has approved VA educational benefits to all qualifying students attending AUACOM College of Medicine. Eligible persons may receive veteran's benefits under one of the following:

- Chapter 30/Montgomery GI Bill®
- Chapter 31/Disabled Veterans Vocational Rehabilitation Program<sup>2</sup>
- Chapter 33/Post-9/11 GI Bill®
- Chapter 35/Dependents Educational Assistance Program

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<sup>2</sup> Once you have completed your Road Map for Success, you will receive your Certificate of Eligibility, which you will need to submit to our VA representatives at American University of Antigua. AUACOM also offers veteran applicants a US Military Veterans Grant during Preclinical Sciences. For additional information, visit our scholarship webpage.

- Chapter 1606/Montgomery GI Bill®<sup>3</sup>/Selected Reserve Educational Assistance Program
- Chapter 1607/Reserve Educational Assistance Program

We encourage all interested VA applicants to visit the Department of Veterans Affairs website. Please click the Road Map for Success to begin the process.

## Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4)

**Important: This policy is effective through December 31, 2025, for students who started AUACOM before Fall 2025 ONLY (non-trimester students). For new and returning MED1 students, please see the applicable R2T4 Policy on page 39.**

An R2T4 calculation is performed for all students who discontinue enrollment from the University. However, a return will only be done when students meet the following criteria:

- Students who have received federal student aid; and
- Students withdrawing having earned 60% or less of the period for which aid was provided.  
(Note: students who earn more than 60% of the term will have earned 100% of tuition/fees and loan proceeds.)

In accordance with U.S. Federal Title IV Regulations, the same prorata schedule as defined above is used to determine the amount of Title IV funds students have earned at the time of withdrawal.

The University will calculate the amount of Title IV funds a student has earned based on a payment period. For a credit-hour program, the percentage of the period completed is determined by dividing the number of calendar days completed in the payment period except for institutionally scheduled breaks of five or more consecutive days or days in which the student was on an approved leave of absence up to the date of withdrawal. In a non-term credit-hour program, the ending date of the payment period may depend on the pace at which an individual student progresses through the program. For example, if a student needs to repeat a course, those days in the repeated course expand the number of days in the payment period.

In calculating the amount of funds to be returned to the Department, the University considers only what is defined in the Title IV regulations (“regulations”) as allowable institutional costs. These include tuition, fees and other institutional charges unless those costs are otherwise excludable in accordance with the regulations. The return is calculated based on the Return of Title IV (R2T4) formula prescribed in the regulations. The student will be obligated for any tuition; fees, books or equipment not covered by Title IV funds.

When a student withdraws during a payment period, the amount of Title IV funds that she or he has earned up to the Date of Withdrawal is determined by a specific formula. If the student has received (or

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<sup>3</sup> GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>.

the University received on his or her behalf) less Title IV funds than the amount earned for the payment period, he or she may be able to receive those additional funds. If a student has received more Title IV funds than she or he has earned, the excess funds must be returned.

The amount of assistance that a student has earned is determined on a pro-rata basis. That is, if the student completed 30%, then the student has earned 30% of the Title IV funds she or he was originally scheduled to receive for the payment period. Once a student has completed more than 60% of the payment period, she or he will have earned 100% of his or her Title IV funds and no return to Title IV programs will be made.

If a student received excess funds that must be returned, the University must return a portion of the excess equal to the lesser of:

- The institutional charges (which are prorated for the payment period) multiplied by the unearned percentage of the funds; or
- The entire amount of the excess funds

Funds will be returned in the following order:

1. To the Federal Unsubsidized Direct Loan
2. To the Federal Grad Plus Direct Loan
3. To private or institutional sources of aid
4. To the Student

If the school is not required to return all the excess funds, the student must return the remaining amount, even if all of the funds were applied to his or her school account. Any loan funds that the student must return must be repaid in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Master Promissory Note (MPN). That is, the student makes scheduled payments to the holder of the loan over a period of time.

In general, universities may not disburse Unsubsidized or Grad Plus Loans to a student who is not enrolled- as the student is not eligible. In some circumstances, however, a student who has withdrawn from the University may be eligible for a post-withdrawal disbursement of all or some portion of an Unsubsidized loan or Grad PLUS loan. The student is only eligible for a second or subsequent post-withdrawal disbursement if the student has graduated or successfully completed the loan period. A student may be eligible for a post-withdrawal disbursement if the University determines the student earned more aid than was disbursed for the period the student attended. AUACOM needs the students' permission to use the post-withdrawal loan disbursements. Students will be issued a written notice in the event they have post-withdrawal loan disbursements available. The student has 10 days to respond affirmatively.

AUACOM follows the Department of Education's guidelines by returning Unsubsidized loans first and then the Graduate Plus Loans.

AUACOM initiates return of funds as soon as possible but no later than 45 days from the date of determination (DOD) of the student's withdrawal. Students will be issued a written notice in the event they have post-withdrawal loan disbursements available within 30 days of the date the school determines the student withdrew. The student has 10 days to respond affirmatively or decline some or all of the loan funds.

Credit balances for withdrawn students will be put on hold until R2T4 is calculated.

The regulatory timeframe for any credit balance resets to 14 days from the day we perform an R2T4 calculation.

The requirements for Title IV program funds when you withdraw are separate from any refund policy that AUACOM may have. Therefore, you may still owe funds to the University to cover unpaid institutional charges. AUACOM may charge you for any Title IV funds that the school was required to return.

## Return of Title IV Funds

**Important: This policy is effective for new and returning MED1 students in Fall 2025 AND for all students from January 1, 2026. For students who started AUACOM before Fall 2025, please see the applicable policy on page 37.**

In accordance with U.S. Department of Education regulations, AUACOM performs a Return of Title IV Funds (R2T4) calculation for all students who discontinue enrollment. A return of funds is required when the following conditions are met:

- The student received federal Title IV aid; **and**
- The student withdrew before completing more than 60% of the payment period (term); **or**,
- The student did not complete more than one or a combination of 49% of scheduled classes when all classes are considered modules (rotations)

**Note:** Students who complete more than 60% of the full-term classes or 49% or more of the rotation module classes are considered to have earned 100% of their tuition, fees, and any loan funds received.

## General Policy

Students who withdraw before completing more than 60% of the term are considered to have earned only a portion of their federal aid. Any unearned portion must be returned to the U.S. Department of Education. Students who complete more than 60% of the term are considered to have earned 100% of their Title IV aid. For students who are taking module classes in rotations, completing 49% or more of the term is considered to have earned 100% of their Title IV aid.

## Calculation Method

The amount of Title IV funds a student earns is determined on a pro rata basis. For credit-hour programs:

- The percentage of the completed term is calculated by dividing the number of calendar days completed (excluding scheduled breaks of five or more consecutive days and approved leaves of absence) by the total number of days in the payment period.

## Institutional Charges

The return calculation only considers allowable institutional charges, which typically include tuition, fees, and other institutional costs, unless excluded by regulation. The R2T4 calculation determines the amount of aid to be returned, and any remaining balance owed to the University becomes the student's responsibility.

## Return of Funds

If a student receives more Title IV aid than they earned, the excess funds must be returned. The University returns the lesser of:

- The institutional charges multiplied by the unearned percentage of aid, or
- The total amount of unearned Title IV funds.

Funds are returned in the following order:

1. Unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan
2. Graduate PLUS Loan
3. Other institutional or private sources
4. The student

If the University is not required to return all unearned funds, the student must return the remaining portion. Loan funds owed by the student are repaid under the terms of the Master Promissory Note (MPN).

## Post-Withdrawal Disbursements

Students who earned more aid than was disbursed at the time of withdrawal may be eligible for a post-withdrawal disbursement. This may apply to Unsubsidized or Graduate PLUS Loans only under certain conditions, including:

- The student completed the loan period or graduated.
- The student is otherwise eligible for the funds.

AUACOM must obtain the student's written authorization before disbursing post-withdrawal loan funds. Notification will be sent within 30 days of the withdrawal determination date, and students must respond within 104 days to accept or decline the disbursement.

## Timing of Returns and Notifications

- AUACOM will return unearned Title IV funds no later than 45 days from the date of determination of withdrawal.
- Notifications regarding post-withdrawal disbursements are issued within 30 days.
- Credit balances for withdrawn students are held until the R2T4 calculation is completed.
- Once calculated, the 14-day timeframe to release any credit balance begins.

## R2T4 Comprised of Modules [For Clinical Term]

When a program is offered in modules, a student is considered to have withdrawn if they cease attendance at any point before completing all the days in the payment period or period of enrollment, unless the school obtains written confirmation from the student that they will attend a later module in the same period.

A module is defined as a course or group of courses that do not span the entire length of the payment period or enrollment period. When a student is enrolled in one or more modules during a standard, nonstandard, or nonterm program, the Return to Title IV (R2T4) calculation must consider all the days in the payment period that the student was scheduled to attend, including all modules for which the student was registered as of the withdrawal date.

First, it must be determined if the student enrolled in modules is considered a withdrawal by answering these questions first.

1. Did the student cease to attend, or fail to begin attendance in a scheduled course that was included in the institution's calculation of the student's Title IV awards for the payment period or period of enrollment?

- If yes, go to question 2
- If no, the student is not a withdrawal

2. When the student ceased to attend or failed to begin attendance in a scheduled course, was the student attending other courses in the period?

- If yes, the student is not a withdrawal, but Pell recalculations may apply
- If no, go to question 3

3. When the student ceased to attend or failed to begin attendance in a scheduled course, did the student complete all the requirements for graduation?

- If yes, the student is not a withdrawal, but Pell recalculations may apply
- If no, go to question 4

4. When the student ceased to attend or failed to begin attendance in a scheduled course, did the student successfully complete:

- A module or combination of modules that contains 49% or more of the number of days in the payment period (excluding scheduled breaks of 5 consecutive days or more and all days between modules); OR
- Was the coursework equal to or greater than the coursework required for the institution's definition of a half-time student for the payment period?
  - If yes to either question, the student is not a withdrawal, but Pell recalculations may apply
  - If no, go to question 5

5. Did the student confirm attendance in a later module in the payment/enrollment period (45-day rule for standard or nonstandard term programs offered in modules)?

- If yes, the student is not a withdrawal, but Pell recalculations may apply
- If no, the student is a withdrawal

## Payment Periods Included in R2T4 Calculations

The entire payment period is used to determine the percentage of Title IV aid earned, which includes:

- All modules the student was scheduled to attend,
- Breaks of five days or more, **and**
- The days the student was not attending but was still enrolled in a future module at the time of withdrawal.
- Include only the days in the module(s) the student was scheduled to attend, as of withdrawal, are included in the denominator of the R2T4 calculation.
- If the student was only enrolled in the first module, the R2T4 calculation is based solely on that module's length, not the full term.

**Important:** The R2T4 policy is separate from AUACOM's institutional refund policy. As a result, students may owe the University for unpaid charges not covered by Title IV funds. AUACOM may bill students for any funds the University is required to return on their behalf.

## Official Withdrawals

Students are required submit a request to withdraw to the Office of Student Affairs on the AUACOM SLCM Portal. Official withdrawals are processed within 30 days of receiving the notification that the student was an official withdrawal.

## Unofficial Withdrawals

Title IV aid recipients who fail to withdraw but stop attending class or take an Unapproved Leave of Absence will be administratively withdrawn. The Return to Title IV Funds regulations require AUACOM to calculate the "earned" amount based on the last day of attendance of the term. If the student stopped attending prior to the 60% point of the term or 49% in clinical rotations, the student will be billed for the outstanding charges as a result of the Return of Title IV funds. Unofficial withdrawals are processed within 30 days of determining the student was an unofficial withdrawal or administrative withdrawal.

# Academic Status

## Good Standing

Students can remain in good standing by complying with all academic standards, policies, and regulations established by AUACOM and by satisfying all financial obligations to the university or its affiliated lender. Students become not in good standing if they fall into the following categories:

1. Academic Probation- A warning that a student has fallen into academic difficulty and that they need to improve their grades in order to reach “Good Standing” status to avoid risk of dismissal from the University,
2. Non-academic Probation- A warning that the student has violated the administrative code for non-academic misconduct and may remain enrolled in the university only upon conditions set forth, for a specified period of time, or
3. Not meeting financial obligations.

When allowed by law, the University reserves the right to withhold services, transcripts and certifications from a student who is not in good standing.

All final grades for courses offered through AUACOM are assigned grades of:

Honors (H)	equivalent to 4.0 GPA
High Pass (HP)	equivalent to 3.0 GPA
Pass (P)	equivalent to 2.0 GPA
Fail (F)	equivalent to 0.0 GPA

The following grades are counted in the cumulative grade point average calculation (if not P/F course):

- Honors (H)
- High Pass (HP)
- Pass (P) (if not P/F course)
- Fail (F) (if not P/F course)

The following grades are not counted in the cumulative grade point calculation except as permitted below:

- Withdraw Passing (WP)
- Withdraw Failing (WF)
- Withdraw No Grade (W)
- Successfully Repeated (R)
- Restarted (RS)

- Incomplete (INC)
- In Progress (IP)
- Pass/Fail Courses (PASS or FAIL)

## Meeting Academic Standards

### For Returning Students (MED2-5 Only)

Meeting Academic Standards represents an acceptable level of performance in meeting degree requirements within specific time periods. It is used in both academic evaluation and determination of financial aid eligibility.

AUACOM's curriculum consists of 4.5 years of academic coursework leading to the degree of Doctor of Medicine (MD). At the end of every term, the Promotions Committee evaluates each student's academic progress based upon faculty approved criteria to ascertain if the student is meeting academic standards toward the MD.

The following criteria constitute Meeting Academic Standards:

1. Completing the required pre-clinical sciences courses (MED1-4 & MED5 Semester) in no more than 3.5 years of attendance and passing all coursework.
2. Obtaining the minimum required qualifying score on the Comprehensive Basic Science Examination and passing the USMLE Step 1 within the established period of eligibility.
3. Completing the MD program in its entirety within 81 months or 6.75 calendar years of attendance.
4. For those students that have been readmitted, meeting all conditions set forth in a readmission decision letter.
5. Maintaining good academic standing.

## Meeting Academic Standards

### For New and Returning MED1 Students Only

Meeting Academic Standards represents an acceptable level of performance in meeting degree requirements within specific time periods. It is used in both academic evaluation and determination of financial aid eligibility.

AUACOM's curriculum consists of four years of academic coursework leading to the degree of Doctor of Medicine (MD). At the end of every term, the Promotions Committee evaluates each student's academic progress based upon faculty approved criteria to ascertain if the student is meeting academic standards toward the MD.

The following criteria constitute Meeting Academic Standards:

1. Completing the required preclinical sciences courses (MED1-6) in no more than three years of attendance and passing all coursework.
2. Obtaining the minimum required qualifying score on the Comprehensive Basic Science Examination and passing the USMLE Step 1 within the established period of eligibility
3. Completing the MD program in its entirety within 72 months or six calendar years of attendance.
4. For those students that have been readmitted, meeting all conditions set forth in a readmission decision letter.
5. Maintaining good academic standing.

## Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress

**Important: This policy is effective through December 31, 2025, for students who started AUACOM before Fall 2025 ONLY (non-trimester students). For new and returning MED1 students, please see the applicable Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy on page 52.**

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) represents an acceptable level of performance in meeting degree requirements within specific time periods. It is used in the determination of financial aid eligibility. Students not in compliance with this financial aid SAP policy are subject to loss of eligibility for federal financial aid. In addition, students who do not comply with applicable components of AUACOM's academic satisfactory academic progress policy will be deemed to be not complying with this financial aid SAP policy.

To be eligible for federal financial aid, a student must maintain SAP toward the student's degree objectives as defined in this policy. AUACOM has established this SAP policy to ensure student success and accountability and to promote timely advancement toward degree objectives. AUACOM has focused on establishing a reasonable SAP policy for determining whether an otherwise eligible student is making SAP in the medical degree program.

This policy provides that a student's SAP is evaluated at the end of each payment period.

The SAP guidelines are based on regulatory requirements and reasonable expectations of academic progress toward the medical doctor (M.D.) degree. These standards must be met for a student to maintain financial aid eligibility.

The Office of Financial Aid may change these policies at any time to ensure continued compliance with changes in federal regulations regarding student financial aid.

### What is Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress?

SAP is defined by the following Qualitative and Quantitative criteria:

**Qualitative:** Meeting a minimum cumulative grade point average requirements (CGPA) or a comparable measure as described below.

**Quantitative:** Maintaining a pace of progression such that a student can complete the educational program within the maximum timeframe as described below and obtaining minimum scores on specific program related examinations within the timeframes specified below.

## What are the Qualitative Standards?

Students are required to complete the payment period with a cumulative Grade Point Average of Pass or higher (the equivalent of a 2.0 CGPA). Courses for which a final grade has not yet been provided are not counted in the CGPA for the purpose of evaluating SAP except as permitted further below.

All final grades for courses offered through AUACOM are assigned grades of:

Honors (H)	equivalent to 4.0 GPA
High Pass (HP)	equivalent to 3.0 GPA
Pass (P)	equivalent to 2.0 GPA
Fail (F)	equivalent to 0.0 GPA

The following grades are counted in the cumulative grade point average calculation:

Honors (H)
High Pass (HP)
Pass (P)
Fail (F)

The following grades are not counted in the cumulative grade point calculation except as permitted below:

Withdraw Passing (WP)
Withdraw Failing (WF)
Withdraw No Grade (W)
Successfully Repeated (R)
Restarted (RS)
Incomplete (INC)
In Progress (IP)
Pass/Fail Courses (PASS or FAIL)

In Progress (IP) and Incomplete (INC) grades are not counted in the cumulative grade point average calculation. Once an In Progress or Incomplete period is completed and graded, it will be assigned a grade of H, HP, P, or F and be included in the cumulative grade point average calculation and evaluated during the next SAP evaluation period.

However, in the case of a completed clinical course or rotation for which a final grade has not been provided, the University is routinely contacted by its hospital partners in the rare instances in which a student is failing a clinical course or rotation. The University will make a determination at the end of each SAP measurement period of whether it has received information from the applicable hospital(s) indicating that the student has failed any completed clinical rotation(s) during the evaluation period in which a final grade has not yet been assigned.

During each SAP measurement period, the institution cannot complete the evaluation of a student's satisfactory academic progress if final grades for one or more completed clinical rotations remain pending. The SAP review will be conducted once all required grades have been received and recorded.

If the University determines that it has not received any evidence of a student's failure of the rotation, the University will assign the student a grade of "P" for the applicable rotation and count the credits for the rotation as earned and completed for purposes of the quantitative analysis. If a different grade is subsequently awarded for the clinical rotation(s), the University will conduct the quantitative and qualitative analysis for the student based on the updated grade at the next SAP measurement period.

## What are the Quantitative Standards?

### Pace Progression Standard

Students must complete a minimum number of credits (pace) to ensure completion of the degree program within the maximum timeframe. To calculate the pace of progression, the University divides the cumulative number of credits earned by the cumulative number of credits attempted. Students must have a pace of progression of at least 67% of credits attempted in order to meet the Pace Progression Standard. This is done to ensure the student completes the academic program within the maximum timeframe established by AUACOM.

The University also has an additional calendar-based pace requirement that students must meet in addition to the requirement in the previous paragraph. Students must successfully complete the required preclinical science courses (payment periods 1 through 4 and the BSIC course) in no more than 3.5 years.

The University also has additional test-based requirements that students must meet in addition to the requirements in the prior paragraph:

- Pre-Clinical Sciences
  - Students must complete all required coursework, pass the Comprehensive pre-clinical science examination and pass the USMLE Step 1 within the established period of eligibility.
- Clinical Sciences
  - Students must achieve a qualifying score on the CCSE test in no more than 5 attempts.
  - Students must sit Step 2 CK within two months of achieving a qualifying score on the CCSE.

- o Students who fail to sit the Step 2 CK within this two-month window will be required to retake the CCSE before they are certified again for Step 2 CK. Please note that in that case, the total number of attempts cannot exceed five, which includes any previous attempts.
- o Students must achieve a passing score on the USMLE Step 2 CK on any of their three attempts at the test.

The following grades are counted as both credits attempted and credits earned in the Pace and Maximum Timeframe calculations.

Honors (H)  
 High Pass (HP)  
 Pass (P)  
 Pass/Fail course (PASS)

The following grades are counted as credits attempted but not credits earned in the Pace and Maximum Timeframe calculations:

Fail (F)  
 Withdraw Passing (WP)  
 Withdraw Failing (WF)  
 Withdraw No grade (W)  
 Successfully Repeated in a Subsequent Period (R)  
 Restarted (RS)  
 Pass/Fail Courses (PASS or FAIL)

The University also may provide grades of “In Progress” (IP) or “Incomplete (“INC”). The IP designation is assigned to a course that the student is currently attending but has not yet completed. The INC designation is assigned to a course for which the student has finished the course but is waiting for a final grade and award of credits for the course. Once an IP or INC period is completed and graded, the credits will be included as attempted in the calculation of Pace and either counted as earned (in the case of an H, HP, or P grade) or unearned (in the case of a grade of F). AUACOM does not accept transfer credits.

IP and INC grades generally are not counted in the quantitative analysis calculation as credits earned or credits attempted. Once an IP or INC course is completed and graded, it will be assigned a grade of H, HP, P, or F and be included in the cumulative grade point average calculation.

However, in the case of a completed clinical course or rotation for which a final grade has not been provided, the University is routinely contacted by its hospital partners in the rare instances in which a student is failing a clinical course or rotation. The University will make a determination at the end of each SAP measurement period of whether it has received information from the applicable hospital(s) indicating that the student has failed any completed clinical rotation(s) during the evaluation period in which a final grade has not yet been assigned. If the University determines that there is no evidence of failure, the University will assign the student a grade of “P” for the applicable rotation and count the

credits for the rotation as earned and completed for purposes of the quantitative analysis. If a different grade is subsequently awarded for the clinical rotation(s), the University will conduct the quantitative and qualitative analysis for the student based on the updated grade at the next SAP measurement period.

## Maximum Timeframe Standard

To comply with SAP requirements and continue to qualify for federal financial aid, students must complete the degree objective within a maximum timeframe. The normal timeframe for completion of the required coursework for the MD degree is 175 credits attempted. Due to academic or personal difficulties, or participation in scholarly enrichment activities, a student may require additional time. The maximum timeframe to complete the requirements for the MD degree cannot exceed 263 credits attempted.

Students will be eligible to meet SAP and receive financial aid until the maximum timeframe of 263 credits attempted or it becomes mathematically impossible to complete the program within 263 credits attempted. All periods for which the student is enrolled are considered, regardless of whether the student has received financial aid.

In addition to the credit-based maximum timeframe described in the previous paragraph, students also must comply with a calendar-based maximum timeframe. Students must successfully complete the MD degree program in its entirety within 81 months of attendance (which is the equivalent of 6.75 calendar years of attendance). If a student fails the 263-credit standard or the 81-month standard, then the student fails the maximum timeframe standard.

## SAP Monitoring and Evaluation

SAP Evaluations are performed by the Financial Aid Office at the end of each payment period based on information available at the time of evaluation. The reviews evaluate a student's compliance with the requirements for continued eligibility for Direct Loans. Each evaluation includes both the qualitative and the quantitative measures of the student's academic achievement cumulatively since entering the program.

A student will be notified in writing of any change in his or her SAP standing and its impact on the student's Title IV eligibility. A student who does not meet SAP requirements will be notified by the Financial Aid Office via AUACOM e-mail at the conclusion of the evaluation. Students are advised to consult financial aid and academic counselors for assistance in understanding how to remediate the ineligibility status.

## Impact on Student Status if Student Does Not Meet FASAP

**Financial Aid Warning Status:** A student who does not meet the qualitative or quantitative standards when the student is evaluated will be placed on Financial Aid Warning status for one payment period. The student will be eligible for Federal Direct Loans while on Financial Aid Warning status.

**Financial Aid Suspension Status:** A student who does not meet both the qualitative and quantitative standards at the next evaluation following the Financial Aid Warning period, will have their financial aid eligibility suspended (including eligibility for further disbursements) until the student once again meets SAP standards or has submitted an approved SAP Appeal to the Financial Aid Appeal Committee (FAC) as discussed under the “Appeals” section below. A student in a Financial Aid Suspension status may appeal to have academic and financial aid eligibility reinstated and be placed on Financial Aid Probation for one period payment. If the appeal is approved the student will be able to receive financial aid during the period of Financial Aid Probation and, if applicable, during the period of Academic Remediation Plan

**Financial Aid Probation Status:** A student who has appealed their suspended status and has had eligibility reinstated for the payment period after having their appeal approved. Students who are on Financial Aid Probation may also be on an Academic Remediation Plan. Students must meet the SAP requirements following the Financial Aid Probation period or must meet the requirements of the Academic Remediation Plan. If the student does not meet the requirements of SAP following the Financial Aid Probation period or during the Academic Remediation Plan, the student will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension.

### Regaining Academic and Financial Aid Eligibility

A student in a Financial Aid Suspension status may appeal to have academic and financial aid eligibility reinstated and be placed on Financial Aid Probation for one payment period. If the appeal is approved, the student will be able to receive financial aid during the period of Financial Aid Probation and, if applicable, during the period of the Academic Remediation Plan.

**Regaining eligibility with a grade change:** If after the evaluation and determination of loss of eligibility, there is a grade change which allows the student to earn sufficient credits and/or improve the student’s CGPA and pace to meet the SAP standards, the Financial Aid Office will complete another evaluation. The student and/or the Registrar’s Office can request a second evaluation.

**Regaining eligibility with an SAP appeal:** If a student believes the student’s failure to meet SAP standards is due to injury or illness, death of a relative, or other special circumstances, she or she may submit a written appeal to the FAC. The student must also specify what has changed in his or her situation that would permit the student to make SAP. However, the FAC does not consider requests to increase the Maximum Time Frame for students.

1. Appeals must be submitted in writing and include supporting documentation to the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. The SAP appeal form should be used as it provides guidance for completing the appeal fully and properly.
2. Appeals submission deadlines are written on the SAP student notification. Additional time may be granted if requested via email to the Financial Aid Office. However, appeals cannot be accepted after the end of the academic year for which the aid is sought as Direct Loans cannot be

reinstated retroactively. The latest date appeals will be accepted is one month before the end of the academic year.

3. A student who is academically disqualified or otherwise prevented from registering for future period may still submit an SAP Appeal. However, it will not be evaluated until the activity restrictions have been cleared.
4. The FAC will review the appeal within 10 days of submission. If the appeal is not fully completed with supporting documentation, it will be rejected. The decision of the FAC will be sent to the student in writing via AUACOM email.
5. The decision and conditions of the appeal are final. If denied, the student is terminated for financial aid purposes and may not submit another SAP Appeal, unless it is with completely different extenuating circumstances.
6. If the appeal is approved, the student will be placed on “Financial Aid Probation” for one payment period and will be eligible for financial aid for that payment period.
7. If the student needs more time than a single payment period, the student will be required to submit an Academic Remediation Plan which allows the student to meet SAP standards by a specific point in time. See “Academic Remediation Plans for Regaining Eligibility” below.
8. If the student does not meet FASAP following the Financial Aid Probation or does not meet the requirements of the Academic Remediation Plan, the student will be terminated for financial aid purposes.

**Academic Remediation Plans for Regaining Eligibility:** As the FAC reviews the students' appeal, it will seek confidence that the student can once again meet all the SAP requirements. The FAC may require the student to submit an Academic Remediation Plan for one or more payment periods. The Academic Remediation Plan must be designed by the student and the academic faculty within the Education Enhancement Department (EED).

1. The written plan must be approved and signed and dated by both the student and the sponsoring faculty.
2. Adherence to the conditions of the Academic Remediation Plan will be monitored by faculty throughout the Financial Aid Probation period and the Academic Remediation Plan period. At the end of each payment period, the Financial Aid Appeals Committee will determine if the student is meeting the requirements of the Academic Remediation Plan to determine if the student may continue receiving Federal Direct Loans.
3. Notes from the FAC appeal meetings will be placed in the students' financial aid file. All members of the FAC will sign and date the decision.
4. Decisions will be written with a full explanation of the decision and sent to the student by the Financial Aid Office via AUACOM email system.

# Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress

**Important:** This policy is effective for new and returning MED1 students in Fall 2025 AND for all students from January 1, 2026. For students who started AUACOM before Fall 2025, please see the applicable Satisfactory Academic Progress policy on page 45.

Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) represents an acceptable level of performance in meeting degree requirements within specific time periods. It is used in the determination of financial aid eligibility.

Students not in compliance with this financial aid SAP policy are subject to loss of eligibility for federal financial aid. In addition, students who do not comply with applicable components of AUACOM's academic satisfactory academic progress policy will be deemed to be not complying with this financial aid SAP policy.

To be eligible for federal financial aid, a student must maintain SAP toward the student's degree objectives as defined in this policy. AUACOM has established this SAP policy to ensure student success and accountability and to promote timely advancement toward degree objectives. AUACOM has focused on establishing a reasonable SAP policy for determining whether an otherwise eligible student is making SAP in the medical degree program.

This policy provides that a student's SAP is evaluated at the end of each payment period.

The SAP guidelines are based on regulatory requirements and reasonable expectations of academic progress toward the medical doctor (M.D.) degree. These standards must be met for a student to maintain financial aid eligibility.

The Office of Financial Aid may change these policies at any time to ensure continued compliance with changes in federal regulations regarding student financial aid.

## What are the Qualitative Standards?

Students are required to complete the payment period with a cumulative Grade Point Average of Pass or higher (the equivalent of a 2.0 CGPA). Courses for which a final grade has not yet been provided are not counted in the CGPA for the purpose of evaluating SAP except as permitted further below.

All final grades for courses offered through AUACOM are assigned grades of:

Honors (H)	equivalent to 4.0 GPA
High Pass (HP)	equivalent to 3.0 GPA
Pass (P)	equivalent to 2.0 GPA
Fail (F)	equivalent to 0.0 GPA

The following grades are counted in the cumulative grade point average calculation:

Honors (H)

High Pass (HP) Pass (P)

Fail (F)

The following grades are not counted in the cumulative grade point calculation except as permitted below:

Withdraw Passing (WP)

Withdraw Failing (WF) Withdraw No Grade (W) Successfully Repeated (R)

Restarted (RS) Incomplete (INC)

In Progress (IP)

Pass/Fail Courses (PASS or FAIL)

In Progress (IP) and Incomplete (INC) grades are not counted in the cumulative grade point average calculation. Once an In Progress or Incomplete period is completed and graded, it will be assigned a grade of H, HP, P, or F and be included in the cumulative grade point average calculation and evaluated during the next SAP evaluation period.

However, in the case of a completed clinical course or rotation for which a final grade has not been provided, the University is routinely contacted by its hospital partners in the rare instances in which a student is failing a clinical course or rotation. The University will make a determination at the end of each SAP measurement period of whether it has received information from the applicable hospital(s) indicating that the student has failed any completed clinical rotation(s) during the evaluation period in which a final grade has not yet been assigned.

SAP measurement period of whether it has received information from the applicable hospital(s) indicating that the student has failed any completed clinical rotation(s) during the evaluation period in which a final grade has not yet been assigned.

If the University determines that it has not received any evidence of a student's failure of the rotation, the University will assign the student a grade of "P" for the applicable rotation and count the credits for the rotation as earned and completed for purposes of the quantitative analysis. If a different grade is subsequently awarded for the clinical rotation(s), the University will conduct the quantitative and qualitative analysis for the student based on the updated grade at the next SAP measurement period.

## What are the Quantitative Standards?

### Pace Progression Standard

Students must complete a minimum number of credits (pace) to ensure completion of the degree program within the maximum timeframe. To calculate the pace of progression, the University divides the cumulative number of credits earned by the cumulative number of credits attempted. Students must have a pace of progression of at least 67% of credits attempted in order to meet the Pace Progression Standard. This is done to ensure the student completes the academic program within the maximum timeframe established by AUACOM.

The University also has an additional calendar-based pace requirement that students must meet in addition to the requirement in the previous paragraph. Students must successfully complete the required pre-clinical science courses (payment periods 1 through 6) in no more than three years.

The University also has additional test-based requirements that students must meet in addition to the requirements in the prior paragraph:

- Pre-Clinical Sciences
  - Students must complete all required coursework, pass the Comprehensive pre-clinical science examination and pass the USMLE Step 1 within the established period of eligibility.
- Clinical Sciences
  - Students must achieve a qualifying score on the CCSE test in no more than 5 attempts.
  - Students must sit Step 2 CK within two months of achieving a qualifying score on the CCSE.
  - Students who fail to sit the Step 2 CK within this two-month window will be required to retake the CCSE before they are certified again for Step 2 CK. Please note that in that case, the total number of attempts cannot exceed five, which includes any previous attempts.
  - Students must achieve a passing score on the USMLE Step 2 CK on any of their three attempts at the test.

The following grades are counted as both credits attempted and credits earned in the Pace and Maximum Timeframe calculations.

- Honors (H)
- High Pass (HP)
- Pass (P)
- Pass/Fail course (PASS)

The following grades are counted as credits attempted but not credits earned in the Pace and Maximum Timeframe calculations:

- Fail (F)
- Withdraw Passing (WP)
- Withdraw Failing (WF)
- Withdraw No grade (W)
- Successfully Repeated in a Subsequent Period (R)
- Restarted (RS)
- Pass/Fail Courses (PASS or FAIL)

The University also may provide grades of “In Progress” (IP) or “Incomplete (“INC”). The IP designation is assigned to a course that the student is currently attending but has not yet completed. The INC designation is assigned to a course for which the student has finished the course but is waiting for a final grade and award of credits for the course. Once an IP or INC period is completed and graded, the credits will be included as attempted in the calculation of Pace and either counted as earned (in the case of an H, HP, or P grade) or unearned (in the case of a grade of F). AUACOM does not accept transfer credits.

IP and INC grades generally are not counted in the quantitative analysis calculation as credits earned or credits attempted. Once an IP or INC course is completed and graded, it will be assigned a grade of H, HP, P, or F and be included in the cumulative grade point average calculation.

However, in the case of a completed clinical course or rotation for which a final grade has not been provided, the University is routinely contacted by its hospital partners in the rare instances in which a student is failing a clinical course or rotation. The University will make a determination at the end of each SAP measurement period of whether it has received information from the applicable hospital(s) indicating that the student has failed any completed clinical rotation(s) during the evaluation period in which a final grade has not yet been assigned. If the University determines that there is no evidence of failure, the University will assign the student a grade of “P” for the applicable rotation and count the credits for the rotation as earned and completed for purposes of the quantitative analysis. If a different grade is subsequently awarded for the clinical rotation(s), the University will conduct the quantitative and qualitative analysis for the student based on the updated grade at the next SAP measurement period.

## Maximum Timeframe Standard

To comply with SAP requirements and continue to qualify for federal financial aid, students must complete the degree objective within a maximum timeframe. The normal timeframe for completion of the required coursework for the MD degree is 175 credits attempted. Due to academic or personal difficulties, or participation in scholarly enrichment activities, a student may require additional time. The maximum timeframe to complete the requirements for the MD degree cannot exceed 263 credits attempted.

Students will be eligible to meet SAP and receive financial aid until the maximum timeframe of 263 credits attempted or it becomes mathematically impossible to complete the program within 263 credits attempted. All periods for which the student is enrolled are considered, regardless of whether the student has received financial aid.

In addition to the credit-based maximum timeframe described in the previous paragraph, students also must comply with a calendar-based maximum timeframe. Students must successfully complete the MD degree program in its entirety within 72 months of attendance (which is the equivalent of six calendar years of attendance). If a student fails the 263-credit standard or the 72-month standard, then the student fails the maximum timeframe standard.

## SAP Monitoring and Evaluation

SAP Evaluations are performed by the Financial Aid Office at the end of each payment period based on information available at the time of evaluation. The reviews evaluate a student's compliance with the requirements for continued eligibility for Direct Loans. Each evaluation includes both the qualitative and the quantitative measures of the student's academic achievement cumulatively since entering the program.

A student will be notified in writing of any change in his or her SAP standing and its impact on the student's Title IV eligibility. A student who does not meet SAP requirements will be notified by the Financial Aid Office via AUACOM e-mail at the conclusion of the evaluation. Students are advised to consult financial aid and academic counselors for assistance in understanding how to remediate the ineligibility status.

## Impact on Student Status if Student Does Not Meet FASAP

**Financial Aid Warning Status:** A student who does not meet the qualitative or quantitative standards when the student is evaluated will be placed on Financial Aid Warning status for one payment period. The student will be eligible for Federal Direct Loans while on Financial Aid Warning status.

**Financial Aid Suspension Status:** A student who does not meet both the qualitative and quantitative standards at the next evaluation following the Financial Aid Warning period, will have their financial aid eligibility suspended (including eligibility for further disbursements) until the student once again meets SAP standards or has submitted an approved SAP Appeal to the Financial Aid Appeal Committee (FAC) as discussed under the "Appeals" section below. A student in a Financial Aid Suspension status may appeal to have academic and financial aid eligibility reinstated and be placed on Financial Aid Probation for one period payment. If the appeal is approved the student will be able to receive financial aid during the period of Financial Aid Probation and, if applicable, during the period of Academic Remediation Plan

**Financial Aid Probation Status:** A student who has appealed their suspended status and has had eligibility reinstated for the payment period after having their appeal approved. Students who are on Financial Aid Probation may also be on an Academic Remediation Plan. Students must meet the SAP requirements following the Financial Aid Probation period or must meet the requirements of the Academic Remediation Plan. If the student does not meet the requirements of SAP following the Financial Aid Probation period or during the Academic Remediation Plan, the student will be placed on Financial Aid Suspension.

## Regaining Academic and Financial Aid Eligibility

A student in a Financial Aid Suspension status may appeal to have academic and financial aid eligibility reinstated and be placed on Financial Aid Probation for one payment period. If the appeal is approved, the student will be able to receive financial aid during the period of Financial Aid Probation and, if applicable, during the period of the Academic Remediation Plan.

**Regaining eligibility with a grade change:** If after the evaluation and determination of loss of eligibility, there is a grade change which allows the student to earn sufficient credits and/or improve the student's CGPA and pace to meet the SAP standards, the Financial Aid Office will complete another evaluation. The student and/or the Registrar's Office can request a second evaluation.

**Regaining eligibility with a SAP appeal:** If a student believes the student's failure to meet SAP standards is due to injury or illness, death of a relative, or other special circumstances, she or she may submit a written appeal to the FAC. The student must also specify what has changed in his or her situation that would permit the student to make SAP. However, the FAC does not consider requests to increase the Maximum Time Frame for students.

1. Appeals must be submitted in writing and include supporting documentation to the Financial Aid Appeals Committee. The SAP appeal form should be used as it provides guidance for completing the appeal fully and properly.
2. Appeals submission deadlines are written on the SAP student notification. Additional time may be granted if requested via email to the Financial Aid Office. However, appeals cannot be accepted after the end of the academic year for which the aid is sought as Direct Loans cannot be reinstated retroactively. The latest date appeals will be accepted is one month before the end of the academic year.
3. A student who is academically disqualified or otherwise prevented from registering for future period may still submit an SAP Appeal. However, it will not be evaluated until the activity restrictions have been cleared.
4. The FAC will review the appeal within 10 days of submission. If the appeal is not fully completed with supporting documentation, it will be rejected. The decision of the FAC will be sent to the student in writing via AUACOM email.
5. The decision and conditions of the appeal are final. If denied, the student is terminated for financial aid purposes and may not submit another SAP Appeal, unless it is with completely different extenuating circumstances.

6. If the appeal is approved, the student will be placed on “Financial Aid Probation” for one payment period and will be eligible for financial aid for that payment period.
7. If the student needs more time than a single payment period, the student will be required to submit an Academic Remediation Plan which allows the student to meet SAP standards by a specific point in time. See “Academic Remediation Plans for Regaining Eligibility” below.
8. If the student does not meet FASAP following the Financial Aid Probation or does not meet the requirements of the Academic Remediation Plan, the student will be terminated for financial aid purposes.

**Academic Remediation Plans for Regaining Eligibility:** As the FAC reviews the student’s appeal, it will seek confidence that the student can once again meet all the SAP requirements. The FAC may require the student to submit an Academic Remediation Plan for one or more payment periods. The Academic Remediation Plan must be designed by the student and the academic faculty within the Education Enhancement Department (EED).

1. The written plan must be approved and signed and dated by both the student and the sponsoring faculty.
2. Adherence to the conditions of the Academic Remediation Plan will be monitored by faculty throughout the Financial Aid Probation period and the Academic Remediation Plan period. At the end of each payment period, the Financial Aid Appeals Committee will determine if the student is meeting the requirements of the Academic Remediation Plan to determine if the student may continue receiving Federal Direct Loans.
3. Notes from the FAC appeal meetings will be placed in the students’ financial aid file. All members of the FAC will sign and date the decision.
4. Decisions will be written with a full explanation of the decision and sent to the student by the Financial Aid Office via AUACOM email system.

## Attendance

Students should make every attempt to attend all classes, and to be in attendance during all clinical rotations. Students should be aware that failure to attend classes and to be in attendance during clinical rotations may impact academic performance, including performance on licensing examinations, and may also reflect on a student’s professionalism.

## Pre-Clinical Sciences

Regular attendance is a core expectation of our curriculum. Students are responsible not only for their own learning but also for fostering a learning environment conducive to all students’ success. As such, failure to attend any learning session not only negatively affects the learning of students who are absent but also their colleagues. Accordingly, AUACOM strongly recommends that students attend all learning sessions. Although attendance is not formally recorded, students are strongly encouraged to attend regularly, as consistent participation supports stronger academic performance and learning outcomes.

Any student failing to sit for an examination will be given a grade of zero for that examination unless the absence is excused by the Associate Dean of Student Affairs. An excused absence for an examination will be granted only in the case of exceptional circumstances that can be adequately documented. If students have prior knowledge of such circumstances that will cause them to miss an examination, they must notify the Associate Dean of Student Affairs and provide appropriate documentation supporting the reasons *prior* to said examination. All decisions regarding absences may be appealed to the Dean of Pre-Clinical Sciences, whose decision will be final.

## Clinical Sciences

Students are expected to be in attendance at all times, during all clinical rotations. Students must obtain permission in advance from their preceptor if they need to be excused for a brief period of time. Students must then immediately notify their clinical coordinator and send a letter from the preceptor or attending physician approving the absence along with the makeup dates listed. Otherwise, it will appear that the student has abandoned a rotation. Obtaining advance permission for absences will eliminate any issues with evaluations and the number of weeks being credited to the clerkship requirements.

Students failing to report to a clinical clerkship to which they have been assigned or taking an unauthorized absence during clerkship rotations may be dismissed from the clerkship and receive a failing grade. Students will incur the cost of any cancellation fees for failing to appear for the first day of a scheduled rotation or canceling scheduled rotations after the letter of good standing has been issued and may be charged for the rotation. Recipients of financial aid must inform their financial aid services counselor of any schedule changes because financial aid is determined according to the initial scheduling of students' rotations. In addition, students who abandon a rotation might be subject to disciplinary action.

Students who have the opportunity to participate in a clinical clerkship in a hospital that is not affiliated with AUACOM *might* be allowed to participate in such a clerkship. However, prior to doing so, they must contact the Clinical Department so that an evaluation of the hospital's educational program can be made to determine whether or not it meets AUACOM's standards for clinical clerkship sites.

Because the scheduling of rotations is handled by the Clinical Department, students must not contact AUACOM-affiliated hospitals to schedule clerkships. Students who participate in a clerkship without prior permission from AUACOM will not be considered an AUACOM medical student for that rotation. Any student who participates in a clerkship when not enrolled as a medical student is violating state and federal laws and regulations governing the practice of medicine. The student may be subject to criminal prosecution, civil liability, and liability to the hospital, its patients, and the medical school. Furthermore, neither the student nor the hospital will be covered under the AUACOM clinical clerkship insurance policy. Please refer to the *AUACOM Clinical Rotations Guidelines* for further details.

## Absences and Leaves of Absences

Achieving the goal of becoming a Doctor of Medicine demands a great deal of time and attention. Many components of a medical program cannot be made up or remediated. Interruptions during the educational schedule will create undesirable breaks in the continuous learning process that will be of concern to medical licensure boards and can affect financial aid eligibility and loan repayment status. Medical students will frequently be required to make tough choices concerning the competing demands of educational and personal interests. Therefore, students should give serious thought and consideration before making a decision to request a leave of absence (LOA) from the program.

In general, both Student Financial Aid and non-Student Financial Aid LOAs should be requested only under extraordinary circumstances, where significant and unavoidable conflicts have developed requiring a leave from the program. Students are advised to consult with the Associate Dean of Student Affairs to discuss plans for any interruption of studies prior to making a formal request. Students who wish to take a LOA must be in good standing with the University (students currently restarting a term are not eligible to apply for a LOA).

Taking an LOA may also have financial implications, including placing students in repayment immediately if the six-month grace period has elapsed while on the LOA and requiring AUACOM to return unearned loan proceeds credited to their AUACOM student accounts to the U.S. Department of Education if the student does not return since the student may be considered a withdrawal.

In addition, students who take a leave of absence, in some circumstances, depending on the length of the leave and whether the student has been required to restart a term or had previously taken an extended leave of absence, may not be eligible for further Federal student loans for some or all of the remaining portion of their medical school education at AUACOM. Students are advised to consult with AUACOM's Office of Financial Services to better understand how taking a LOA may impact their private and/or federal student loans.

## Leaves of Absence and Federal Financial Aid Policies and Procedures for a Student Financial Aid Leave of Absence (SFA-LOA)

**Important: This is effective in Fall 2025 for returning students only (MED2-5). For students new or returning MED1 students (students in the trimester calendar), please see the Academic LOA Policy (Policies and Procedures for a Non-Student Financial Aid Leave of Absence) immediately below this section.**

AUACOM may grant an approved Student Financial Aid Leave of Absence (SFA-LOA) for students who request a Clinical Leave of Absence (CLOA). For these students on an approved Student Financial Aid Leave of Absence, AUACOM will report their status to NSLDS as “LOA” for the duration of the approved LOA.

When a student is granted an SFA-LOA, the student is not considered withdrawn if the student meets certain conditions:

- Students who wish to apply for a CLOA from AUACOM must submit a request to the Dean of Clinical Sciences on the AUACOM SLCM Portal, stating the specific reasons for the request for a Clinical Leave of Absence.
- The request must state the reason(s) for making the request. The reason cannot be for academic reasons (i.e., to keep the student from failing). Documentation can be uploaded. The request must include the date when the student expects to return to AUACOM.
- Applications for CLOAs during clinical rotations must be submitted to the Dean of Clinical Sciences after the student has arranged their official clinical schedule to reflect their planned time off. CLOA requests must be received, reviewed, and approved prior to the start of the SFA-LOA.
- The student must receive final approval in writing from the Dean, Clinical Sciences before the request for the SFA-LOA is granted.
- The request and action taken by Dean, Clinical Sciences, will be maintained in the student’s file in the Office of the Registrar.
- The institution must have a reasonable expectation that the student will return from the SFA-LOA on the date projected by the student.
- The student who returns from the SFA-LOA must resume training at the same point in the academic program as when they began their SFA-LOA.
- The student is not eligible for any Direct Loan funds while on an SFA-LOA.
- The SFA-LOA may not be any longer than 180 days in a 12-month period.
- The institution will explain to the student the impact of not returning from an SFA-LOA on the student’s loan repayment. For instance, if the student is on a six-month SFA-LOA, and does not return to AUACOM, the student will have used the entire grace period and will be required to immediately go into repayment.
- When the student is granted an SFA-LOA, the student will be reported to NSLDS as an “LOA” by the Office of the Registrar.
- When the student returns from the LOA, the student will be reported to NSLDS as enrolled as a full-time student.
- If a student does not return from the SFA-LOA, the student will be considered withdrawn as of the date the student began the SFA-LOA and will be reported to NSLDS as a “W.”
- Anytime a student is considered withdrawn from AUACOM, Financial Aid Counsellor will send a notice asking the student to complete an exit interview by logging into their account at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov). The results will be sent to the National Student Loan Database System. (NSLDS).

While a student is on an approved Student Financial Aid Leave of Absence, the student will be considered enrolled at AUACOM. However, should the student not return from the SFALOA, the student will be reported by the Office of the Registrar to NSLDS as a withdrawal and the date of withdrawal will be the date the student began the SFA-LOA.

## Policies and Procedures for a Non-Student Financial Aid Leave of Absence

### **Important: This policy is effective for all AUACOM students.**

AUACOM may grant an approved LOA for students who request an Extended Leave of Absence (ELOA) or a Short-Term Leave of Absence (SLOA) or who are assigned a Temporary Withdrawal (TWD) status, but these LOAs are not considered to be approved SFA-LOAs, and the student will be reported to NSLDS as withdrawn ("W") from AUACOM.

## Preclinical Sciences: Year One, Year Two, MED5

There are two types of leaves of absence available for students enrolled in Preclinical Sciences Year 1, Year 2, & MED5:

- (1) A short-term leave of absence (SLOA) begins at a point in time during a current term but can only be in effect for a maximum of five class days. Students are expected to makeup any activity missed during their SLOA. Certain restrictions apply.
- (2) An extended leave of absence (ELOA) begins at a point in time either during the current term or at the end of a completed term. An ELOA during the term remains in effect until the start of the following term. An ELOA at the end of a completed term starts on the last date of the term and continues through the next term. Students can only take one term off throughout their preclinical sciences.

Students on an ELOA in Preclinical Sciences during an academic year and who do not complete the academic year will be Withdrawn ("W") if the ELOA is taken before the first examination of the academic year. Students may only be approved to take an ELOA after the first examination of the academic year if they are passing all coursework. If this is the case, they will receive a grade of Withdrawn Passing (WP). Any student who has failed an examination will not be approved for an ELOA.

## Clinical Sciences: Semesters Six Through Nine

Upon completion of MED5, students may need to take time off to study for the Step 1 exam. Once students pass Step 1, they will be required to begin the next available FM1/IM1 rotation. Students are allowed six months between MED5 and FM1/IM1 in which students remain enrolled full-time and in good standing with AUACOM. However, for students with Direct Loans, the U.S. Department of Education does not consider this as a Student Financial Aid Leave of Absence, and students will be

reported to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) as Withdrawn (“W”) for Federal student aid purposes. When the student is reported as Withdrawn, the student will begin the six-month grace period and enter repayment on their federal student loans until they return to AUACOM. Students are advised to contact the AUACOM Office of Student Affairs as well as the student loan servicer to discuss their repayment options, including deferments and forbearances. **Students who do not return to AUACOM within six months will be subject to a Temporary Withdrawal from AUACOM.**

## Temporary Withdrawal (TWD)

Students who need to take more than six months off upon successful completion of the CBSE at the end of MED5 may have up to an additional 180 days off. In these cases, once students exhaust their six-month break, their enrollment status will automatically change to a TWD status for up to an additional 180 days. Students who do not pass the USMLE Step 1 within one year of the last day of MED5 will be dismissed from AUACOM. Students who do not start the next available FM1/IM1 after passing Step 1 will be subject to administrative withdrawal from AUACOM.

TWD status will also be assigned to clinical students who, during the clinical rotations, take breaks of more than four weeks that have not been approved for a CLOA. Students who are required to repeat a clerkship but are not able to do so within 4 weeks of the last date of the failed clerkship will be assigned a TWD status. Once students have been assigned a TWD status, they are not eligible to apply for a CLOA. Clinical students who remain on a TWD status for more than 180 days will be subject to administrative withdrawal from AUACOM.

A student is granted an approved non-SFA-LOA if the student meets certain conditions:

- Students who wish to apply for a LOA from AUACOM must submit a request to the Office of Student Affairs on the AUACOM SLcM Portal, stating the specific reasons for the request for a Leave of Absence.
- Documentation can be uploaded supporting the stated need for the LOA and, under certain circumstances, may have to satisfy other previously set conditions prior to returning to AUACOM.
- Determination as to whether the Leave of Absence will be granted will be at the sole discretion of the Associate Dean of Student Affairs.
- The student must receive final approval in writing from the Associate Dean of Student Affairs and/or the Office of the Registrar before the request for the LOA is granted.
- The request and action taken by the Associate Dean of Student Affairs will be maintained in the student’s file in the Office of the Registrar.
- A student may not be currently restarting/repeating a term and may not be failing any course (including CAS Examinations or clinical rotations) at the time of application or at the time that the Leave of Absence commences. A student who has received any failing grades from a CAS Examination or from a clinical rotation cannot request, and will not be granted, a LOA. In such cases, students in need of time away from their studies must withdraw from AUACOM (see Withdrawal Section in Student Handbook).

- When the student is on a Leave of Absence, which is not an approved Student Financial Aid Leave of Absence, the student will be considered as a withdrawn student and will be reported to NSLDS as a withdrawal ("W") student by the Office of the Registrar.
- When the student returns to AUACOM, the student will be reported to NSLDS as enrolled as a full-time student.
- Anytime a student is considered withdrawn from AUACOM, Financial Aid Counsellor will send a notice asking the student to complete an exit interview by logging into their account at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov). The results will be sent to the National Student Loan Database System. (NSLDS).
- When a Direct Loan recipient is withdrawn, the student borrower will begin the six-month grace period immediately.

## Withdrawal Status of a Direct Loan Borrower

Students reported to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) as withdrawn will immediately begin their grace period and then enter repayment six months later unless and until they re-enroll at AUACOM or another participating institution. AUACOM will be required to perform a Return of Title IV funds calculation and refund calculation. (See Student Handbook for more information about the Return of Title IV and refund calculations.)

AUACOM may have to return a portion of the Direct Loan proceeds to the U.S. Department of Education that have not been earned by the withdrawn student as of the last day of their attendance. Students who withdraw must repay their Direct Loans according to the terms and conditions of the Master Promissory Note (MPN). Students in these circumstances are advised to contact their federal loan servicer either to make arrangements to start making monthly payments following the six-month grace period or, if students are unable to repay their loans while in this status, to discuss with their loan servicer various options, such as deferments, forbearances, and repayment plans.

## Students Who Resume Their Studies Following a Withdrawal

Should students who withdraw from AUACOM resume their enrollment on a full-time basis, AUACOM will update NSLDS for the student as being enrolled full-time. Generally, students will not have to submit an in-school deferment form to their federal loan servicer. However, students should contact their federal loan servicers to confirm their in-school status. If an enrollment verification letter needs to be requested from AUACOM, please submit a request to the Office of the Registrar. Students who have questions about their Title IV program funds may call Mr. Stanley Jean-Louis at 212-661-8899 x157. Teletypewriter (TTY) users may call 1-800-730-8913. Information is also available on the web at [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov).

Students may be eligible to obtain federal student aid when they resume their studies in another term. Students will be responsible, as stated in AUACOM's Financial Obligation Acknowledgement, to acknowledge receipt of Online Registration balances due AUACOM as a result of the return of federal

financial aid, or other adjustments made to tuition and fees as a result of the withdrawal. Any federal student aid received following the student's return cannot be applied to past charges.

## **Extended Leave of Absence (ELOA) Beginning after a Completed Term**

An ELOA that begins between terms will have no immediate effect on the student's tuition account and the student will be responsible for any unpaid balance.

## **Short-Term Leave of Absence (SLOA) and Clinical Leave of Absence (CLOA)**

An approved SLOA or CLOA will have no immediate effect on the student's tuition account.

## **Unauthorized Leaves of Absence**

An unauthorized leave of absence is defined as a student-initiated leave from AUACOM or overstay of an approved leave of absence without going through the proper protocol. Students who are on an unauthorized leave of absence may not receive consideration for missed coursework, exams, quizzes, etc. and might be subject to disciplinary action. In all cases the student will be administratively withdrawn from the university. Students wishing to return to AUACOM after an unauthorized leave must submit a letter of appeal. The past performance of these students will be reviewed by the Appeals Committee to determine whether they can be readmitted and, if so, under what conditions.

## **Pending Graduation**

Once students complete the clinical sciences portion of the curriculum, they will automatically be placed on a pending-graduation status (PGR). PGR students are typically waiting to pass the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (CK) examination or are waiting to clear their degree audit. PGR students are encouraged to be mindful of AUACOM's policies and deadlines to pass the USMLE Step 2 CK. Failure to comply with these deadlines may result in dismissal.

The Office of the Registrar must report the PGR enrollment status of students who have received federal financial aid to NSLDS as withdrawn as of the last day of their last clinical rotation. PGR students are not eligible to apply for a LOA. Once students have met all degree requirements and have cleared the degree audit, their statuses will change to graduate ("G") in NSLDS.

# Withdrawals

## Student Withdrawal

Students who wish to withdraw from AUACOM must submit a request to withdraw to the Office of Student Affairs via the AUACOM SLcM Portal. The student must also participate in an exit interview with the Associate Dean of Student Affairs. Because the curriculum is integrated, withdrawal from individual courses or modules is not permitted. Students wishing to return to AUACOM after having withdrawn must then apply for readmission. They will be subject to the tuition policy for withdrawals and the University Refund Policy. Readmission is not guaranteed, but applications will be reviewed by the Admissions Committee. Readmitted students will be subject to all academic policies and tuition and fees in effect at the time of re-enrollment, without any grandfathering provisions based on their original admission.

Student withdrawals are governed by the following policies:

- Students cannot withdraw from single courses during a term; they must withdraw completely from AUACOM.
- Students withdrawing from AUACOM before the first graded summative examination will receive a grade of W for all coursework. If students withdraw after the first graded summative examination, they will receive a grade of WF (withdrawn failing), or WP (withdrawn passing) based upon their score(s) on the examination(s) taken to date.
- Refund calculations, if required, are based on the official withdrawal date, as determined by the Office of the Registrar.
- Students will need to restart the term they withdrew from if they are readmitted.
- A W, WP, or WF grade appears on your transcript. The W, WP, or WF grade will not count in the calculation of the student's GPA. W, WP, or WF grades are not replaceable with an R grade.
- Students who apply for an extended leave of absence while having a failing average grade must withdraw from the university.
- Students who wish to withdraw during preclinical sciences must submit a request to withdraw through the AUACOM SLcM Portal. The withdrawal process must be completed within 14 days of their last date of attendance. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in administrative withdrawal from the university.
- Students who withdraw after completion of all course work and expiration of the term, will receive a grade for the work completed and be listed as withdrawn. No promotions decision will be determined.
- Students who have been dismissed at the end of the term by the Promotions Committee and are given the option to participate in the remediation course are not eligible to withdraw from AUACOM. If a student who has been dismissed chooses not to participate in the remediation course or fails to achieve a passing remediation grade, the original decision from the Promotion Committee stands.

A student withdrawal (WD) is a full termination of the student's enrollment at the university. The Office of the Registrar must report WD enrollment statuses to NSLDS. Students on a WD status are considered withdrawn for financial aid purposes, effective their Withdrawal Date, defined as the date that is the later of the Last Date of Attendance or the Date of Determination.

## Administrative Withdrawal

Students are subject to administrative withdrawal under the following circumstances:

- They complete a term and do not return to the following term, without receiving approval for an extended leave of absence.
- They fail to complete online registration and/or in-person confirmation for the following term.
- They fail to return from ELOA, SLOA, CLOA, or TWD status.
- They have a gap of six months or more during clinical sciences or after passing the USMLE Step 1 examination.
- They fail to complete the pre-clinical sciences withdrawal process within 14 days of the last recorded date of attendance.

Students who are administratively withdrawn may appeal this decision by submitting a formal appeal to the Appeals Committee; see the Appeals Committee section for additional information. Students who have an enrollment status of administratively withdrawn for more than 12 months will be subject to dismissal. Dismissal appeals must be submitted to the Appeals Committee within seven calendar days of the dismissal; see the Dismissals section for additional information. When a student is dismissed for academic issues, the student will no longer be eligible for financial aid, which may be appealed if the student seeks re-admission into the MD program.

An administrative withdrawal terminates a student's enrollment at the university. The Office of the Registrar must report ADWD enrollment statuses to all lenders. Students on an ADWD status are considered withdrawn for financial aid purposes, effective their last date of attendance as determined by the Office of the Registrar.

Student borrowers on WD or ADWD status should do the following:

- Contact their federal servicer to arrange to make either monthly payments or obtain an economic/unemployment deferment or forbearance. If eligible, deferments and forbearances will postpone the necessity of making payments.
- Complete an exit interview by logging into their account at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov). The results will be sent to the NSLDS.

## Readmission

Students who have filed a request for a student withdrawal, but who wish to seek readmission must appeal through submission of an application for readmission to the Admissions Committee.

Readmission is not guaranteed. However, if students are readmitted, they are subject to all academic policies, tuition, and fees that are in effect at the time of readmission. Such students are also subject to complete all conditions set forth in the readmission decision letter. Students who are readmitted and then later withdraw will not have met the conditions of readmission and will, therefore, be dismissed.

A student that is applying for readmission and has previously sat the NBME Comprehensive Basic Science Examination (CBSE) at another medical institution must provide the number of NBME CBSE attempts they have sat, score(s) received, date(s), and attach each NBME CBSE score report to their readmission paperwork. Failure to disclose prior NBME CBSE attempts taken at a previous school during the readmission process may result in readmission acceptance being rescinded.

Students who have been dismissed or administratively withdrawn must submit an appeal to the Appeals Committee which will determine whether the student is eligible for readmission. Students who were withdrawn due to not meeting FASAP, must follow the appeals process; see the Appeals Committee section for additional information.

If students are readmitted (RADM) and return to their approved pre-clinical sciences term or clinical rotation, their status will once again be reported to the U.S. Department of Education as enrolled (full-time), and they will once again be eligible for an in-school deferment of student loan(s). Students should contact the Office of the Registrar if the loan servicer requests an enrollment verification form or letter from the school. Students will remain in repayment while on RADM status.

Criteria for readmission:

1. A student who has received a notice of dismissal from the Promotions committee for the current term may appeal that decision to the Appeals Committee
2. If the students' appeal is denied and they are not readmitted at that time, they may subsequently appeal to the Appeals Committee to be readmitted under the following conditions:
  - a. They can provide proof of academic improvement by significant additional courses or remedial work, and
  - b. No less than one calendar year has elapsed from their original dismissal.

## Examinations

For information on accommodations, please refer to the section on Testing Accommodations.

### Pre-Clinical Sciences

#### General Examinations

1. All examinations are mandatory.

2. All examinations administered are scheduled, administered, proctored, and reported by the Examination Center. The Examination Center enforces the examination policies (see below); any violation of the policies will disqualify the student from taking the examination and may invoke further disciplinary action by the school.
3. Each class will take each examination on a single day, according to a schedule published in the academic calendar. All examinations consist of USMLE-style multiple-choice questions and are administered on computer testing software. The time per question is 1 minute and 30 seconds, unless accommodations are granted.
4. There are two kinds of assessments, those that count toward a student's final score and those that do not count toward a student's final score. Examinations that do not count towards a student's final score are designed as learning experiences and students receive the scores, answers, and explanations of all questions after the examination. For assessments that count toward a student's final score, examination review is not provided (except for team-based learning).
5. Those assessments that count toward a student's final score include quizzes, CAS or equivalent exams, NBME CBSE (Comprehensive Basic Science Examination), OSCEs (Objective Structured Clinical Examination), and TBL (team-based learning) activities.
6. Make-up examinations for course unit final summative examinations in MED1, MED2, and MED3, and MED4 and CAS or comparable examinations in MED5 are administered to students with an approved Leave of Absence (LOA) or a legitimate excuse to miss an examination, as determined by the Office of the Associate Dean of Student Affairs. Students who miss an examination without a legitimate excuse receive a score of zero. Where makeup exams are offered, only one such exam will be scheduled and failure to attend, for whatever reason, will earn a score of zero for the exam. There will be no makeup examinations administered for TBL and quizzes in MED1, MED2, MED3, MED4, and MED5.
7. Students' computers must meet the minimum technical requirements specified below.

## Minimum Technical Requirements Fall 2025

An iPad or a tablet is not an acceptable substitute for a computer.

	Windows	Apple
Operating System	<i>Minimum</i> Windows 11 <i>Recommended</i> Windows 11 Pro	<i>Minimum</i> macOS 12 Monterey or higher <i>Recommended</i> macOS Sequoia
Processor Type	<i>Minimum</i> Core i5 Processor AMD A6 <i>Recommended</i> Core i7 Processor AMD A8	<i>Minimum</i> Core i5 Processor <i>Recommended</i> Core i7 Processor or higher M1 or higher Processor
Memory		<i>Minimum</i> 8 GB RAM <i>Recommended</i> 16GB RAM

Hard Drive	<i>Minimum 512 GB SSD</i> <i>Recommended 1TB SSD or higher</i>	
Graphics Card	<i>Minimum 512 MB Video Memory or higher</i>	
Screen	13" screen or larger	
Webcam	Integrated HD Webcam 720P or higher	
Microphone	Integrated microphone or external USB/Bluetooth Mic/Headset	
Wireless	<i>Minimum 802.11ac (WiFi 5)</i>	
Networking	<i>Recommended 802.11ax (WiFi 6)</i>	
Browser (NBME Examinations)	Microsoft Edge Chromium (legacy Edge is not supported) Safari 15 or higher Google Chrome (current version) Mozilla Firefox (current version)	
Residence Broadband Internet	<i>Minimum Upload/Download</i> 5 Mbps 20 Mbps <i>Recommended Upload/Download</i> 5 Mbps/25Mbps	
Warranty	4-year parts and labor	3-year parts and labor AppleCare
Virus Protection Software	Antivirus software such as McAfee, Norton, Kaspersky, Bitdefender, TrendMicro	

## Formative 'no-stake' Examinations

1. Formative examinations that do not count toward a student's final score consist of at least 15 questions and their dates and start times are published in the academic calendar.
2. Formative examinations may be cumulative, i.e., the questions may cover material that was covered during the period since the previous examination and the start of preclinical sciences.
3. Students may review the examinations in the form of a group discussion after the examination and/or will be provided with comprehensive feedback to review the examination items asynchronously.
4. There are no make-up examinations for these formative examinations.

## Assessments that Count Toward Final Score

For in-person, proctored assessments that count towards the final score, see the following:

1. Assessments that (count toward a student's final score) are administered in MED1, MED2, MED3, MED4, and MED5. They consist of 75-200 questions and are administered on the ExamSoft Examplify testing software. Examinations are administered in dedicated examination rooms on campus.
2. Except for the first examination in some cases, examinations in MED1 through MED4 are cumulative, i.e., they contain up to 20 percent questions on material that has already been tested on previous basic sciences assessments.
3. Each end-of-course unit, high-stakes examination may include five additional experimental test items. These test items are being incorporated to facilitate test bank development and will not count towards the final score in the examination. The policy is in line with the USMLE that routinely includes such test items on the Step examinations.
4. The start time for end-of-course unit examinations is 9:00 a.m. Antigua time (-4 UTC). Examination rooms open at 8:15 a.m. Antigua time (-4 UTC) to allow students to be screened at the doorway and seated. Students who are not in their examination rooms by 8:50 a.m. Antigua time (-4 UTC) will not be seated and will miss the exam.
5. The Examination Center will publish the scores as soon as they are certified by the faculty, typically 2-3 business days after the exam. The total percent correct scores are used for grading of all examinations.
6. The scores of students who have not submitted surveys to evaluate the faculty and courses prior to administration of the examination may be withheld until the surveys have been submitted. Students who have not submitted surveys by the end of the term may be subject to disciplinary action.

## Comprehensive Basic Science Examination (CBSE)

1. The NBME CBSE or an equivalent non-NBME examination is administered at the end of MED5. It consists of at least 200 questions and is administered on the NBME testing software, that of the University or another test provider contracted by the school. NBME CBSE/ (or equivalent) examinations are administered and proctored in-person on campus or at a Prometric site, depending on the exam question provider and site availability.
2. The start time for NBME CBSE (or/equivalent) examinations is 9:00 a.m. Antigua time (-4 UTC). Examination rooms are opened at 8:15 a.m. Antigua time (-4 UTC) to allow students to be screened at the doorway and seated. Students who are not in their examination rooms by 8:50 a.m. Antigua time (-4 UTC) will not be seated and will miss the examination.
3. The scores will be made available on the student portal as soon as they are certified by the NBME or AUACOM, typically 2-3 business days after the examination. NBME CBSE scores are scaled by NBME using a procedure described on the NBME website. NBME reports scores on the NBME CBSE and CBSSA using equated percent scores. AUACOM has decided to adopt an equated percent score of 68 as the qualifying score on the CBSE as one of the determinants for

eligibility to take the USMLE Step 1 examination for all examinees. Comprehensive Basic Science examinations provided by AUACOM or vendors other than the NBME will have a different qualifying score. This will be communicated to students through the syllabi and via email/learning management system.

4. If AUACOM is made aware of irregular testing behavior of an individual taking the NBME CBSE, AUACOM may void the result of that examination and require the student to repeat the examination. In addition, disciplinary action up to and including expulsion may result.

Students who fail the CBSE (or equivalent) by not achieving a certifying score may be eligible to retake the examination, as long as the total number of attempts on the CBSE does not exceed four. No further attempts will be allowed.

## Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) (or similar examination)

The OSCE is a hands-on examination that tests clinical skill performance and competence in a range of skillsets, related to the gathering and interpretation of clinical data. This includes competency in history taking and physical examination and clinical reasoning skills.

In MED3 and MED4, this competency includes assessment of written medical documentation.

OSCEs are a real-world approach to learning and assessment. The assessment applies a standardized approach, which includes standardized patients (SPs), standardized scoring tools and standardized examination-day logistics. The Clinical Skills lab will function as training for OSCEs. Students participate in history taking, clinical examination and at the end learn how to compose patient notes.

The core components that will be assessed in OSCEs include:

- Integrated Clinical Encounter (ICE)
- Communication and Interpersonal skills (CIS) - this component assesses professionalism and the student's ability to communicate with patients and healthcare workers.
- Spoken English Proficiency (SEP)
- Additionally, in MED3 and 4, a write-up component is part of an OSCE where the students need to summarize the clinical case, they encountered on OSCE and enter the patient notes on a standard USMLE template in Examplify software.

## Dress Code for OSCE and Clinical Skills Labs

The dress code is always professional as expected in all Clinical Skills Labs (CSL).

AUACOM identification cards must be worn and must be visible at all times. A white coat bearing the student's name is to be worn. Students may not wear a white coat bearing someone else's name. If a student does not possess a white coat bearing his/her name, he/she must wear a plain white coat.

## Items Required for the OSCE

Medical equipment including a stethoscope, patellar hammer, penlight, a pen/pencil, eye chart, tuning forks, other materials to assess neurological function and a watch with a second hand are to be brought to the OSCE by the student. Students should also possess an otoscope and an ophthalmoscope. Smart watches are not acceptable and are not allowed in the examination.

An exception is the Harvey OSCE where no instruments are required for the examination.

Paper will be provided by the examiner if writing is required. All students must label their paper with their name and ID number. It is the student's responsibility to write legibly.

Students are expected to manage their own time in an OSCE without any prompts or reminders from the examiner.

Standardized patients shall be treated with the same respect and professional courtesy as that which is appropriate for any clinical interaction.

No student shall discuss any component of the OSCE with another for the duration of the examination period. Students found in violation of this rule are liable to penalties under the AUACOM Code of Professional Conduct and may face loss of academic credit or expulsion.

If a student feels that his/her performance has been compromised as a result of an irregularity in the conduct of the examination, he/she must report the irregularity to the CM Course Director at the end of the examination on the same day.

Students must be familiar with their Examsoft login information if there is a write up component to the OSCE. Invigilators will not provide passwords on the day of the OSCE.

All testing material and paper provided by examiners must be returned before leaving the examination.

## Items NOT permitted in the OSCE or the Sequestration Rooms

No communication devices of any sort will be permitted. This includes but is not limited to smart phones, smart watches, smart glasses, laptops, tablets, paging devices, Bluetooth-enabled devices, any Wi-Fi transmitting device or any other form of communicating devices.

Students are not allowed to leave the sequestration room until it is time for the examination.

Students who require a restroom break must get the permission of one of the proctors in the sequestration room.

## Sequestration

Students are sequestered prior to an OSCE examination to secure and maintain the integrity of the OSCE.

OSCE Sequestration Guidelines:

1. Students must arrive at the sequestration room and be seated at least 30 minutes before the start of the OSCE session.
2. If a student arrives after the commencement of the OSCE session, the Course Director, acting in his/her sole discretion, will decide whether the student will be permitted to sit the OSCE.
3. Students must present their ID card to their examiners. If there is a write-up component, the ID card is to be placed on the desk for verification by the proctor.
4. Students must be appropriately dressed and have all the necessary medical equipment necessary for the examination.
5. Students may carry textbooks and personal notes for quiet studying or reviewing during sequestration. During sequestration, communication of any type between the students is strictly prohibited.
6. All items not explicitly approved will be placed in a designated storage area under the supervision of the invigilators. The University will not be responsible for personal property left in the examination rooms.
7. Disruptive behavior during the sequestration period or during the examination will not be tolerated. This behavior will be reported to the Course Director and students may face loss of academic credit or expulsion.
8. Students may bring water and dry snacks to be consumed during sequestration. Water/tea/coffee will be available.

## Scores

OSCEs are summative and all scores are final. Students must wait until the decisions of the Promotions Committee have been published before commencing any appeal process.

Students who score less than 70% on OSCEs will be offered an opportunity to discuss their examination performance with the Course Director by prior appointment. This is to get feedback about how to improve their performance but not to seek a grade change.

## Examination Policies

1. Students must comply with all instructions given by the Examination Center personnel before and during examination administration.
2. Students must present a valid AUACOM Student ID to be permitted to take an examination.
3. Students testing on campus must wear scrubs, as described in the examination dress code policy, and are allowed to wear either a disposable surgical mask or a disposable N95/KN95 mask should they wish.

4. Students will undergo pre-examination screening at the door of the testing room. Students must submit their glasses for inspection. No jewelry will be allowed during the examination, except wedding bands/rings, and religious jewelry pre-approved by the office of student affairs; all allowed jewelry is subject to inspection by the proctors.
5. The examination security rules are strictly enforced; security violations carry serious sanctions imposed by the school and/or the NBME. The following are prohibited:
  - a. Communicating or attempting to communicate about specific questions and/or answers with another examinee, potential examinee, or formal or informal test preparation group at any time before, during, or after an examination.
  - b. Any reproduction by any means, including, but not limited to, reconstruction through memorization, and/or dissemination of examination materials by any means, including the Internet.
  - c. Taking notes of any kind, or use of any device, except the scratch paper and pens shown to the proctor at the pre-examination screening. Consulting notes, books, mobile devices, computers or talking to students during breaks.
  - d. Wearing headphones or earbuds of any kind, including noise-canceling and wireless models, during examinations is not allowed. Foam earplugs can be used, but students must show them to the proctor at the pre-examination screening, if requested.

## Examination Dress Code Policy

1. Examinees must wear short-sleeved, solid-colored surgical scrubs without any patterns. Decorative elements such as frills, sequins, or other adornments are prohibited. Surgical scrubs must NOT have buttons or zippers, to discourage the concealment of prohibited items.
2. A visible name tag or ID badge must be worn on the surgical scrubs, and the student should be in possession of the ID at all times in the examination room.
3. Layering Options for Warmth - recognizing that some examinees may feel cold:
  - a. A short or long-sleeved T-shirt or thermal wear may be worn under surgical scrubs, provided it is form-fitting and not bulky and does not have exposed buttons. Wearing a dress shirt under surgical scrubs is not an acceptable equivalent. Wearing tracksuits, yoga pants, or anything other than surgical scrubs is not an acceptable equivalent.
  - b. Jackets, sweaters, and hoodies are NOT allowed.

## Inspection Procedures

To maintain examination integrity, we will enforce the following:

- Entry Checks: Examinees will undergo respectful, non-intrusive checks at the exam area entrance to verify dress code adherence, possibly including metal detectors.
- Random Checks: Select examinees will be randomly chosen for detailed compliance verification to deter cheating by ensuring adherence to the dress code.

## Accommodations

We are committed to fair testing conditions for all, including those with medical conditions or religious obligations.

Requests: Examinees requiring accommodations must send a written request to OSA at least two weeks before the exam date, including necessary documentation or justification.

Review Process: Requests are reviewed individually. OSA will collaborate with the requester to find suitable accommodations without compromising exam integrity.

Implementation: Approved accommodations will be communicated to the examinee and exam staff well ahead of the exam.

Non-compliance with the dress code policy may lead to denial of exam entry or other sanctions.

Examinees are expected to fully understand and comply with these guidelines to ensure a fair and just examination experience for all.

You can choose any preferred color for your attire, provided it meets the outlined wear criteria.



The Student Health Clinic has issued the following guidelines:

- Make sure you are taking care of your health the week of the examination, getting proper sleep, taking study breaks, eating correctly, staying hydrated-not binging on caffeine and/or other stimulants.
- If you are feeling ill during your study week, it might be appropriate to be seen several days before the examination in order that you can be diagnosed and treated before examination day.
- If you feel ill during the examination, please notify a proctor promptly.

## Grading of Exams

### MED1

The subject and the fraction of the final grade for MED1 of all summative examinations in Fall 2025 will be as follows:

MED1 has two strands—Foundations of Medicine and Clinical Medicine—in which students must independently secure a passing grade to be promoted to MED2.

The Fundamentals of Medical School Success I course unit (in the Foundations of Medicine strand) will be assessed on a pass/fail basis. Passing requires completion of the following:

1. Diagnostic Exam
2. Formative Quiz
3. Action Plan Activity
4. TBL: PCS Content
5. Pre-/Post-Course Surveys

Students who fail to complete these requirements will be mandated to remediate them. Opportunities to remediate the components will span the entirety of the term. The schedule for these opportunities would be made available by the EED upon conclusion of the course unit. A student who has failed the course unit may also be required to participate in any EED workshops offered during the term.

The weights of the assessments in the other units in the Foundations of Medicine strand can be seen in the following table:

Course Unit	Type of Assessment	% of MED1 Foundations of Medicine Score
Anatomy	TBL	3.33
	Quiz	7.5
	Final exam	18.25
Molecular & Cell Biology	TBL	3.33
	Quiz	7.5
	Final exam	18.25
Physiology	TBL	3.33
	Quiz	7.5
	Final exam	20.18
Genetics & Metabolism Part I	TBL	3.33
	Quiz	7.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

Scoring is as follows:

1. Students scoring 70.00% or above in MED1 will be promoted to MED2, provided all other criteria for promotion are met.
2. Students scoring between 55.00% and 70.00% in MED1 may be allowed to remediate their failure. Students who have scored between 55.00% and 70.00% in the Foundations of Medicine strand and/or the Clinical Medicine strand must score 70.00% or above in each required remedial exam—the comprehensive Foundations of Medicine remedial examination and/or remedial OSCE—to proceed to MED2.
3. Students scoring between 55.00% and 70.00% who are taking MED1 for the first time and either fail the remedial exam or fail to remediate will not be allowed to proceed to MED2 but will repeat MED1. They are required to meet with a member of the Education Enhancement Department (EED). The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss an educational plan outlining strategy for improvement. This plan may require participation in EED programs designed to facilitate student success.
4. Students repeating MED1 who receive a final average score for MED1 between 55.00% and 70.00% and either fail the remedial exam or fail to remediate are subject to dismissal.
5. Students who receive a final average score for MED1 of less than 55.00% are subject to dismissal.
6. AUACOM reserves the right to change the means of assessment, e.g., dropping particular examinations or changing the weights of individual examinations at any time, including during the term.

## MED1 Clinical Medicine

Successful completion of the MED1 Clinical Medicine course requires a minimum final score of 70.00%. Students who fail to achieve a minimum final course grade of 70.00% may be granted the option to complete a remedial OSCE on which a minimum score of 70.00% will be required to pass the OSCE and the course. Students who pass the remedial OSCE will be allowed progress to MED2 provided all other criteria for promotion are met. Students who fail the remedial OSCE or were not granted the opportunity to complete an OSCE will not progress to MED2, and will be subject to the conditions set forth by the Promotions Committee.

The weighting of MED1 assessment can be seen in the following table:

Assessment Approach	Contribution to Overall Term Score (%)
Basic Life Support	2
Quizzes (2% x 3 quizzes)	6
Clinical skills lab (14% x 4 labs)	56
HSS and GH lab discussions (0.5% x 2)	1

OSCE	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

The final overall grade for MED1 will be based on the weighted aggregate of Foundations of Medicine (90%) and Clinical Medicine (10%) scores. Students, however, must first pass both strands of the term to qualify for promotion to MED2.

## MED2

The Fundamentals of Medical School Success II course unit (in the Foundations of Medicine strand) will be assessed on a pass/fail basis. Passing requires completion of all course unit assignments.

Students who fail to complete these assignments will be mandated to remediate them by the end of the term. The schedule for remediation opportunities would be made available by the EED upon conclusion of the course unit. A student who has failed the course unit may be required to participate in EED workshops offered during the term.

The weights of the assessments in the course units in the MED2 Foundations of Medicine strand will be as follows:

Course Unit	Type of Assessment	% of MED2 Foundations of Medicine Score
Immunology and Microbiology	Quiz	4
	Final exam	7.11
Pathology	TBL	2.5
	Quiz	4
Pharmacology	Final exam	11.56
	TBL	2.5
Epidemiology and Biostatistics	Final exam	10
	TBL	2.5
	Quiz	4
	Final Exam	7.39
Musculoskeletal System & Skin	TBL	2.5
	TBL	2.5
	Quiz	4
	Final	20.16
Hematolymphoid System	TBL	2.5
	Quiz	4
	Final	8.78
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

Scoring is as follows:

1. Students scoring 70.00% or above in MED2 will be promoted to MED3 provided all other criteria for promotion are met.
2. Students scoring between 55.00% and 70.00% in MED2 may be allowed to remediate their failure. Students who have scored between 55.00% and 70.00% in the Foundations of Medicine strand and/or the Clinical Medicine strand must score 70.00% or above in each required remedial exam—the comprehensive Foundations of Medicine remedial examination and/or remedial OSCE—to proceed to MED3.
3. Students scoring between 55.00% and 70.00% who are taking MED2 for the first time and meeting academic standards and either fail the remedial exam or fail to remediate will not be allowed to proceed to MED3 but will repeat MED2. They are required to meet with a member of the Education Enhancement Department (EED). The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss an educational plan outlining a strategy for improvement. This plan may require participation in EED programs designed to facilitate student success. Such students will lose financial aid eligibility.
4. Students repeating MED2 who receive a final average score for MED2 between 55.00% and 70.00% and either fail the remedial exam or fail to remediate are subject to dismissal and loss of financial aid eligibility. Loss of financial aid eligibility may be appealed if the student is re-admitted to the university.
5. Students who receive a final average score for MED2 of less than 55.00% are subject to dismissal and loss of financial aid eligibility. Loss of financial aid eligibility may be appealed if the student is re-admitted to the university
6. AUACOM reserves the right to change the means of assessment, e.g., dropping particular examinations or changing the weights of individual examinations at any time, including during the term.

## MED2 Clinical Medicine

Assessment Approach	Contribution to Overall Term Score (%)
CSL (8% x 6 labs)	48
Simulation (1 lab)	7
Low Stake Quizzes (2.5% x 2 quizzes)	5
OSCE	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

The final overall grade for MED2 will be based on the weighted aggregate of Foundations of Medicine (90%) and Clinical Medicine (10%) scores. Students, however, must first pass both strands of the term to qualify for promotion to MED3.

## MED3

The weights of the assessments in the course units in the MED3 Foundations of Medicine strand will be as follows:

Course Unit	Type of Assessment	% of MED3 Foundations of Medicine Score
Gastrointestinal System	NBME CAS	5
	TBL	2.86
	TBL	2.86
	Quiz	5.83
	Quiz	5.83
	Final exam	12.62
Cardiovascular System	TBL	2.86
	TBL	2.86
	TBL	2.86
	Quiz	5.83
	Quiz	5.83
	Final exam	14.76
Respiratory System	TBL	2.86
	TBL	2.86
	Quiz	5.83
	Quiz	5.83
	Final Exam	12.62
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

Scoring is as follows:

1. Students scoring 70.00% or above in MED3 will be promoted to MED4 provided all other criteria for promotion are met.
2. Students scoring between 55.00% and 70.00% in MED3 may be allowed to remediate their failure. Students who have scored between 55.00% and 70.00% in the Foundations of Medicine strand and/or the Clinical Medicine strand must score 70.00% or above in each required remedial exam—the comprehensive Foundations of Medicine remedial examination and/or remedial OSCE—to proceed to MED4.
3. Students scoring between 55.00% and 70.00% who are taking MED3 for the first time, and either fail the remedial exam or fail to remediate will not be allowed to proceed to MED4 but will repeat MED3. They are required to meet with a member of the EED. The purpose of this

meeting will be to discuss an educational plan outlining a strategy for improvement. This plan may require participation in EED programs designed to facilitate student success. Such students are subject to loss of financial aid eligibility

4. Students repeating MED3 who receive a final average score for MED3 between 55.00% and 70.00% and either fail the remedial exam or fail to remediate are subject to dismissal and loss of financial aid eligibility. Loss of financial aid eligibility may be appealed if the student is re-admitted to the university.
5. Students who receive a final average score for MED3 of less than 55.00% are subject to dismissal and loss of financial aid eligibility. Loss of financial aid eligibility may be appealed if the student is readmitted to the university.
6. AUACOM reserves the right to change the means of assessment, e.g. dropping particular examinations or changing the weights of individual examinations at any time, including during the term.

## MED3 Clinical Medicine

Assessment Approach	Contribution to Overall Term Score (%)
Clinical skills labs (5% x 4 labs)	20
Teaching-Patient clinical Labs (2% x 3 labs)	6
Simulation (SIM) labs (2% x 3 labs)	6
Harvey labs (2.5% x 2 labs)	5
Hospital rotation and SOAP note	2
Community clinic rotation	1
Quizzes (1% x 2 quizzes)	2
Clinically integrated OSCE	33
Simulation (SIM) OSCE	10
Patient note	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

The final overall grade for MED3 will be based on the weighted aggregate of Foundations of Medicine (90%) and Clinical Medicine (10%) scores. Students, however, must first pass both strands of the term to qualify for promotion to MED4.

## MED4

The weights of the assessments in the course units in the MED4 Foundations of Medicine strand will be as follows:

Course Unit	Type of Assessment	% of MED4 Foundations of Medicine Score
Cumulative Systems Exam	NBME CAS	5
Renal System	TBL	2.17
	Quiz	3.86
	Quiz	3.86
	Final Exam	14.15
	TBL	2.17
Endocrine & Reproductive System	TBL	2.17
	Quiz	3.86
	Quiz	3.86
	Final Exam	17.70
		2.17
Epidemiology & Biostatistics	Quiz	3.83
	Final Exam	5.41
	TBL	2.17
Neuroscience & Behavioral Science	TBL	2.17
	Quiz	3.86
	Quiz	3.86
	Final Exam	17.70
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

Scoring is as follows:

1. Students scoring 70.00% or above in MED4 will be promoted to MED5, provided all other criteria for promotion are met.
2. Students scoring between 55.00% and 70.00% who are taking MED4 for the first time may be allowed to remediate their failure. Students who have scored between 55.00% and 70.00% in the Foundations of Medicine strand and/or the Clinical Medicine strand must score 70.00% or above in each required remedial exam—the comprehensive Foundations of Medicine remedial examination and/or remedial OSCE—to proceed to MED5.
3. Students scoring between 55.00% and 70.00% in MED4, meeting academic standards, and either fail the remedial exam or fail to remediate will not be allowed to proceed to MED5 but will repeat MED4. They are required to meet with a member of the EED. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss an educational plan outlining strategy for improvement. This plan may require participation in EED programs designed to facilitate student success.
4. Students repeating MED4 who receive a final average score for MED4 between 55.00% and 70.00% and either fail the remedial exam or fail to remediate are subject to dismissal and loss of financial aid eligibility. Loss of financial aid eligibility may be appealed if the student is re-admitted to the university.

5. Students who receive a final average score for MED4 of less than 55.00% are subject to dismissal and loss of financial aid eligibility. Loss of financial aid eligibility may be appealed if the student is re-admitted to the university
2. AUACOM reserves the right to change the means of assessment, e.g. dropping particular examinations or changing the weights of individual examinations at any time, including during the term.

## MED4 Clinical Medicine

Assessment Approach	Contribution to Overall Term Score (%)
Clinical skills labs (7% x 4 cases)	20
Harvey (2.5% x 2 labs)	5
Teaching patient clinical (2% x 2 cases)	4
Simulation (2% x 3 cases)	6
Quiz (3.5% x 2 quizzes)	5
Clinically integrated OSCE	30
Harvey OSCE	10
Simulation OSCE	10
OSCE Write-up	10
AHA ACLS Certification <sup>4</sup>	Pass/Fail - Must pass to qualify for promotion
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## MED5

As USMLE Step 1 reporting has been changed by NBME to Pass/Fail the implications on applicant selection for residency positions by Program Directors (PD) have not been defined. However, it is likely that applicants who do NOT pass Step 1 on their first attempt will face significant challenges finding residency positions. While we have robust programs in place to guide you towards clinical rotations and residency and help you to navigate the challenges of successful application for residency, it is extremely important that you pass USMLE Step 1 on your first attempt. Because of that, MED5 has been designed to focus on the integration of basic sciences and clinical medicine concepts learned in MED1 to MED4. The 15-week term includes periods of in-class review and self-study, as well as several assessments.

<sup>4</sup> American Heart Association Advanced Cardiac Life Support

Scoring is as follows:

1. A student who scores 70.00% or more on the weighted aggregate of the diagnostic and NBME CAS1 and CAS2 examinations, the CM quizzes, and the CBSE, AND obtains an equated percent score of 68 or higher on the NBME CBSE is said to have successfully completed MED5.
2. No make-up will be offered for missed quizzes.
3. Once students successfully complete MED5, they are enrolled in the EED Step 1 preparation program (online) and must successfully complete the program within 8 weeks of receiving a qualifying NBME CBSE score. The individual readiness of the student to pass USMLE Step 1 is determined by faculty in this program, taking their entire academic development and performance into account. They will be contacted by the EED in order to receive support services, study resources, and self-assessment vouchers. Students who successfully complete the program and otherwise meet AUACOM's academic and professionalism requirements will be certified to sit Step 1 of the USMLE within 12 weeks of completion of MED5.
4. The weighted examinations administered in MED5 are as follows:

Examination	Coverage	% of MED5 Grade
Diagnostic exam (in-house)	MED1 to 4 content	5
MED5-CAS1 (NBME)	Hematolymphoid system, Skin and Musculoskeletal system, Renal system (excluding electrolytes and acid-base disorders), Endocrine system, Genetics, Multisystem disorders 1	20
MED5-CAS2 (NBME)	Epidemiology and biostatistics, Social Sciences, Reproductive system, Gastrointestinal system, Neurology, Behavioral sciences, Human development, Multisystem disorders 2 plus CAS1 content up to 20%	35
ICM Quizzes (nine)	Based on the clinical encounter case in the system	4.5
CBSE (MBME)		35.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

### Promotion criteria for MED5

MED5 will be graded as Pass or Fail. To pass MED5, students must meet the following two criteria:

- Achieve a score of 70.00% or more on the weighted aggregate of the diagnostic and NBME CAS1 and CAS2 examinations, the CM quizzes, the CBSE, **AND**

- Obtain an equated percent score on the NBME CBSE of 68.00% or higher<sup>5</sup>.

A student who fails to meet one or more of the above criteria may be offered an opportunity to remediate. Remediation includes engaging in a period of self-study with on-demand support from faculty prior to taking a remedial examination(s).

1. Students who pass the term by meeting the above criteria will be required to sit the USMLE Step 1 exam within 12 weeks.
2. Students who achieve a weighted aggregate of less than 55.00% from the diagnostic, CAS1 and CAS2 examinations, CM quizzes, and the NBME CBSE will be dismissed and are subject to loss of financial aid. Loss of financial aid may be appealed if the student is readmitted to the university
3. Students who meet FASAP, are taking MED5 for the first time, and achieve a weighted aggregate of 70.00% or above from the diagnostic, CAS1, and CAS2 examinations, CM quizzes, and the NBME CBSE, but fail the NBME CBSE (fail the term) must retake the NBME CBSE at a Prometric Center. Information about this attempt at the NBME CBSE will be communicated to these students by the Registrar (registrar@auamed.net). Students will be given up to a total of three attempts at the NBME CBSE. Students who do not pass the NBME CBSE by their third attempt must complete an AUACOM-approved, online preparatory program in advance of any subsequent attempts at this examination.
4. Students who meet FASAP, are taking MED5 for the first time, and achieve a weighted aggregate of 55.00% or higher but less than 70.00% from the diagnostic, CAS1, and CAS2 examinations, CM quizzes, and the CBSE, but pass the NBME CBSE (achieve an equated percent score of 68 or higher), must take a NBME CAS comprehensive remedial exam on campus. If they secure a score of 70.00% or more on the NBME CAS comprehensive remedial exam, they will be required to sit the USMLE Step 1 exam within 12 weeks. If they secure a score of less than 70.00% on the NBME CAS remedial, they must repeat MED5. Students who are required to repeat MED5 will lose financial eligibility
5. Students who meet FASAP, are taking MED5 for the first time, and achieve a weighted aggregate of 55.00% or higher but less than 70.00% from the diagnostic, CAS1, and CAS2 examinations, the CM quizzes, and the CBSE, and fail the NBME CBSE, must take a NBME CAS comprehensive remedial exam on campus and the NBME CBSE at a Prometric center or on campus. If they secure a score of 70.00% or more on the NBME CAS comprehensive remedial exam and a score of 68 or more on the NBME CBSE, they will be required to sit the USMLE Step 1 exam within 12 weeks. If they secure a score of 70.00% or more on the NBME CAS comprehensive remedial exam and fail the CBSE they will be required to re-take the CBSE. Students will be given up to a total of 3 attempts at the NBME CBSE. Students who do not pass the NBME CBSE by their third attempt must complete an AUACOM-approved, online preparatory program in advance of any subsequent attempts at this examination. Students who secure a score of less than 70.00% on the NBME CAS remedial or/and an equated percent score

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<sup>5</sup> A student who has unexcused absences from examinations and tests during the semester may not be allowed to take the CBSE examination.

of less than 68 on the NBME CBSE must repeat MED5. Students who are required to repeat MED5 will lose financial eligibility.

6. Students who do not meet FASAP, are taking MED5 for the first time, and achieve a weighted aggregate of 70.00% or above from the diagnostic, CAS1, and CAS2 examinations, CM quizzes, and the CBSE, but fail the NBME CBSE (achieve an equated percent score that is lower than 68) must remediate the NBME CBSE; these students will be given up to two more attempts (for a total of three attempts) to take the NBME CBSE at a Prometric center.
  - a. The students who are successful on the remedial NBME CBSE will be required to sit the USMLE Step 1 exam within 12 weeks.
  - b. The students who are not successful on the remedial NBME CBSE attempts are subject to dismissal and loss of financial eligibility
7. Students who do not meet FASAP, are taking MED5 for the first time, and achieve a weighted aggregate of less than 70.00% from the diagnostic, CAS1, and CAS2 examinations, CM quizzes, and the CBSE, but pass the NBME CBSE, must take a NBME CAS comprehensive remedial exam on campus. If they secure a score of 70.00% or more on the NBME CAS comprehensive remedial exam, they will be required to sit the USMLE Step 1 exam within 12 weeks. If they secure a score of less than 70.00% on the NBME CAS comprehensive remedial exam, they will be dismissed and will lose financial aid eligibility. If readmitted, they may also appeal the loss of financial aid.
8. Students who do not meet FASAP, are taking MED5 for the first time, and achieve a weighted aggregate of less than 70.00% from the diagnostic, CAS1, and CAS2 examinations, CM quizzes, and the CBSE, and fail the NBME CBSE must take a NBME CAS comprehensive remedial exam on campus and the NBME CBSE at Prometric or on campus. If they secure a score of 70.00% or more on the NBME CAS comprehensive remedial exam and a score of 68 or more on the NBME CBSE, they will be required to sit the USMLE Step 1 exam within 12 weeks. If they secure a score of less than 70.00% on the NBME CAS comprehensive remedial exam and/or an equated percent score of less than 68 on the NBME CBSE, they will be dismissed and will lose financial aid eligibility. If readmitted, they may also appeal the loss of financial aid.
9. Students who are repeating MED5 or are not meeting satisfactory academic standards and achieve a weighted aggregate of 70.00% or above from the diagnostic, CAS1, and CAS2 examinations, CM quizzes, and the CBSE, but fail the NBME CBSE must remediate the NBME CBSE, provided that they have not already reached the maximum number of attempts allowed by the NBME.
  - a. The students who are successful on their most recent attempt at the CBSE will be required to sit the USMLE Step 1 exam within 12 weeks.
  - b. The students who are not successful are subject to dismissal.
10. Students who are repeating MED5 or are not meeting satisfactory academic standards and achieve a weighted aggregate of less than 70.00% from the diagnostic, CAS1, and CAS2 examinations, CM quizzes, and the CBSE, but pass the NBME CBSE must take a NBME CAS comprehensive remedial exam on campus. If they secure a score of 70.00% or more on the NBME CAS comprehensive remedial exam, they will be required to sit the USMLE Step 1 exam within 12 weeks. If they secure a score of less than 70.00% on the NBME CAS remedial, they will be dismissed and will lose financial aid eligibility.

11. Students who are repeating MED5 or are not making satisfactory academic progress and achieve a weighted aggregate of less than 70.00% from the diagnostic, CAS1, and CAS2 examinations, CM quizzes, and the CBSE, and fail the CBSE,
  - a. must take a NBME CAS comprehensive remedial exam on campus and the NBME CBSE at Prometric or on campus. If they secure a score of 70.00% or more on the NBME CAS comprehensive remedial exam and a score of 68 or more on the NBME CBSE, they will be required to sit the USMLE Step 1 exam within 12 weeks.
  - b. If they secure a score of less than 70.00% on the NBME CAS remedial and/or an equated percent score of less than 68 on the NBME CBSE, they will be dismissed and will lose financial eligibility.

Recognizing that it is critical to pass Step 1 at the first attempt, AUACOM has developed a Step 1 Prep program, provided by EED. Once that has been successfully completed, students will be certified to take the Step 1 exam, which they must take within three months. Students not completing the EED Step 1 preparation course and/or sitting USMLE Step 1 in the specified timeframes may be required to re-sit the NBME CBSE examination and receive a new qualifying score in a final attempt. Students should be aware that having to re-sit the NBME CBSE and receive a new qualifying score will NOT change the need to pass Step 1 within 12 months of finishing MED5.

12. If AUACOM is made aware of irregular testing behavior of an individual taking the NBME CBSE, AUACOM may void the result of that examination and require the student to repeat the examination. In addition, disciplinary action up to and including expulsion could result.
13. Students may request to extend the time to take Step 1 based on their individual circumstances. A student who wishes to extend the time to take Step 1 shall present the reasons for an extension to the Preclinical Sciences Executive Dean, or their designee, and receive written approval.
14. If students are not satisfied with a Promotions Committee action, they have the right to appeal. All appeals must be forwarded to the Appeals Committee using the electronic form attached as a link to the official grade report. Students may also address procedural questions to the Committee through the Committee's email ([appeals@auamed.net](mailto:appeals@auamed.net)). However, only appeals received using the required form will be considered for action. AUACOM reserves the right to change the means of assessment, e.g. dropping particular examinations or changing the weights of individual examinations, at any time including during the term. Please see the Appeals section for further information on criteria for submitting appeals.

## United States Medical Licensing Examination Step 1

Students are eligible to sit for the United States Medical Licensing Examination Step 1 (USMLE Step 1) after certification by the school following the process outlined above. However, clinical scheduling is tied specifically to passing the USMLE Step 1 exam. Consequently, students must submit the USMLE Step 1 application with a window of eligibility to start immediately after successfully achieving a minimum qualifying score on the NBME CBSE or equivalent final exam used by the University.

The window of eligibility that the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) provides is a three-month period. However, the time period approved by AUACOM may not align exactly with the dates of that ECFMG window. Students may request to extend the time to sit Step 1 based on their individual circumstances. A student who wishes to extend the time to sit Step 1 shall present the reasons for an extension to the Dean of Pre-Clinical Sciences, or their designee (currently, the Chair of EED), and receive written approval. Students should be aware that any such extensions granted will NOT change the need to pass Step 1 within 12 months of finishing MED5.

Although NBME policy has allowed the maximum number of attempts of USMLE Step 1 to be four, AUACOM's policy is that a student is subject to dismissal after failing to pass USMLE Step 1 within three attempts and may appeal to sit a final fourth attempt to the Appeals Committee

The Office of the Registrar closely monitors the time frames mandated by the university and the scores of all students on the NBME CBSE/equivalent and USMLE Step 1. If students do not pass Step 1 on their first attempt, they have a total of 12 months (and a maximum of two additional attempts) from the end of MED5 to pass USMLE Step 1. Students who are unable to pass USMLE Step 1 by the end of this time period will be dismissed.

USMLE Step 1 has transitioned to a PASS/FAIL scoring model.

## Clinical Sciences

### Clinical Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE)

Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) have become one of the most widely used methods of assessing aspects of clinical competency in healthcare education. The overarching philosophy in OSCEs is that all students are presented with similar clinical tasks with feedback provided using a structured assessment or rubric. The assessment of clinical competence is significant. Multiple types of assessment exist, with these OSCEs being a valuable tool to assess certain aspects of clinical competency.

OSCEs are required in each core clinical clerkship to ensure that learning has occurred. They also provide a powerful influence on future learning. There will be one formative OSCE per clerkship, and they are to be completed by the mid-point of the clerkship.

The OSCEs are formative (not graded) and are used to provide feedback for improvement. They are a primarily competency-based assessment of performance in a simulated and/or real-world environment.

AUACOM students must be prepared by the site director or designee prior to the OSCE. The site director or designee must review with the student the format, procedures, expectations and feedback rubric.

The use of an AUACOM clerkship specific case description and vignette as the basis for the OSCE is required. The standardized patient used will be determined by the site and may be, but is not limited to, a faculty member or dedicated volunteer.

The OSCE interview will consist of direct faculty observation throughout the duration of the OSCE. After the interview, the use of the AUACOM OSCE feedback rubric is required. At the beginning of the OSCE Standardized interview, students will be handed the Student Instructions Sheet with any background clinical history and instructions.

After the OSCE interview, the faculty member in charge of proctoring will provide feedback to the students on areas of strengths and areas for improvement. The student and faculty should use the OSCE feedback to guide student learning and improve their performance during the remainder of the rotation.

## Clinical Core Subject Shelf Examinations (CCSSE)

The CCSSE allows students to assess their clinical knowledge and helps them prepare for US Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE) Step 2 CK. In addition, based on feedback provided by AUACOM to the hospitals, the clinical faculty will be in a better position to ensure that students are introduced to all aspects of the clinical subject. The evaluation of the examination results will assist AUACOM in ensuring the highest quality of education across all clinical sites. Finally, the introduction of a standardized clinical core subject shelf examination has been mandated by AUACOM's accrediting agencies (New York State Education Department, Medical Board of California, The Caribbean Accreditation Authority for Education in Medicine and other Health Professions).

To satisfactorily complete each clinical core rotation, every AUACOM student must receive a passing grade for the core rotation and must also pass the associated CCSSE (please see the *AUACOM Clinical Rotations Guidelines* for subject specific passing scores). Any student who successfully completes a clinical rotation but does not pass the associated CCSSE must re-sit and pass this examination on their second attempt. Students who need to re-sit the examination will be billed a \$100 USD CCSSE rescheduling fee on their AUACOM student account. If a student does not pass the CCSSE on the second attempt, the grade for the rotation will be changed to F, and the student must retake the clinical core rotation and pass the CCSSE. All students receiving a grade of F for their rotation will be placed on academic probation until they have successfully repeated the previously failed rotation and must meet with the respective AUACOM clinical chair to review their performance. If students do not pass both the remedial clinical rotation and the associated CCSSE on the third attempt, they will be subject to dismissal. Students who fail the same rotation twice or any other rotation while on academic probation are subject to dismissal and loss of financial aid eligibility.

The passing CCSSE score will be factored into the student's final grade of the rotation with a weight of 30 percent; see the Grading System section for additional information.

Once students are assigned to a clinical core rotation, their name, clinical assignment, and dates of attendance are emailed to the Office of the Registrar by the Department of Clinical Science

Administration (CSA). CSA will also notify students of the CCSSE requirement on assignment of the core rotation. The relevant CCSSE is ordered with a two-week testing window typically starting the last Saturday of the rotation and ending on the Friday of the week following the end of the clinical core rotation. Students are responsible for scheduling their examination once they have received their scheduling permit from Prometric. The shelf examination score will be received by the Office of the Registrar, via email, from NBME within 72 hours from the last day of the two-week testing window. Results will be posted to the student web portal within one week of the end of the testing window. In the case that students fail the exam, they will be notified by the Office of the Registrar that they must retake the exam.

## Clinical Core Subject Shelf Examinations (CCSSE) Completion and Scheduling and Policy

### Summary

- Each of the six Clinical Core Rotations has an applicable CCSSE (“Shelf Exam”) that is administered at the end of the rotation.
- Successfully passing each Clinical Core Rotation is contingent upon successfully passing each subject CCSSE.
- The relevant CCSSE is ordered by the Office of the Registrar for a two-week window, typically starting on the Monday of the last two weeks of the rotation and ending on the Sunday after the completion of the student’s Clinical Core Rotation (please note, FIU’s window is from Sunday to Saturday). The examination must be taken during this window.
- In case of an emergency (e.g. documented illness) the student shall have one opportunity to postpone the examination for no greater than 60 days from the Sunday after the completion of the student’s Clinical Core Rotation.
- The students must request the postponement of the examination from the Dean of Clinical Sciences AND receive administrative approval from the Office of the Registrar before postponing a scheduled CCSSE.
- Any further delay may conflict with subsequent CCSSEs and increase the likelihood of failure.

### Background

Based on historical data, a student’s likelihood of successfully passing each CCSSE is maximized the sooner the student takes the exam, with the highest likelihood occurring within a two-week window of the end of the rotation. Delay decreases success rate not only on the CCSSE that is being delayed, but also on subsequent CCSSEs as well.

Therefore, AUACOM has instituted a policy with regard to timely completion of each CCSSE in order to ensure the student’s best chance to successfully pass the exam. To that end, the student is advised of the following scheduling and completion policy regarding each and all subject CCSSEs.

### Procedure

1. Once a student is assigned to a Clinical Core Rotation, the student's name, clinical assignment, and dates of attendance are e-mailed to AUACOM's Office of the Registrar by the Department of Clinical Science Administration (CSA).
2. The relevant CCSSE is ordered by The Registrar for a two-week window typically starting on the Monday of the last two weeks of the rotation and ending on the Sunday after the completion of the student's Clinical Core Rotation (please note, FIU's window is from Sunday to Saturday).
3. The student is responsible for scheduling their examination once they have received their confirmation Prometric permit email.
4. In case of a documented emergency, the student shall have one opportunity to postpone the examination for no greater than 60 days from the Sunday after the completion of the student's Clinical Core Rotation. However, that opportunity is contingent upon approval by the Office of the Registrar. Any further delay may conflict with subsequent CCSSEs and increase the likelihood of failure.
5. Should the student need to postpone a CCSSE, the student must email the Office of the Registrar and include the following:
  - a. Student Name and ID
  - b. Clinical Core Rotation Name and Location
  - c. Clinical Core Rotation Dates
  - d. Reason for postponement including any documentation required as proof
6. Once the email is reviewed, a final determination will be made whether or not the student's request will be granted. In the event the student's request is denied, the decision will be final, and the student must sit for the relevant CCSSE examination as per the schedule outlined above.  
Failure to sit for the examination after a denial will result in an automatic failure of the exam.
7. In the event the student's request is granted, the student may postpone the examination for no greater than 60 days from the Sunday after the completion of the relevant Clinical Core Rotation. Failure to sit for the examination in this allotted time will result in an automatic failure of the exam.
8. Please be advised that this policy is designed to enhance, not hinder, the students' chances of successfully passing each CCSSE. Therefore, it is strongly encouraged that the student strives for completion of the examination within the two-week time frame outlined above.

## Comprehensive Clinical Science Examination (CCSE)

The Comprehensive Clinical Science Examination (CCSE) allows students to assess their clinical knowledge and helps them prepare for USMLE Step 2 CK.

Based on an analysis of available data (including the predictive value of the CCSE and the potentially disastrous effect of failing or low USMLE Step 2 scores on residency placement) and advice of the clinical faculty, the following policy regarding the CCSE is implemented: Securing a qualifying score on the CCSE, as set forth below, will indicate that students should be ready to register for and pass USMLE Step 2 CK after additional studying.

Please note that the required qualifying scores are fairly accurate predictors of outcomes on the Step 2 CK, but they do not *guarantee* that students will achieve that score or even pass the exam. Additional study after having achieved a qualifying score is expected.

The following rules and procedures apply:

- The CCSE can be taken *only* after completion of the fifth core rotation.
- The total number of attempts to achieve a qualifying score on the CCSE will be limited to five as mandated by NBME and as subject to the time limits set forth in AUACOM's policy for making satisfactory academic standards (please refer to Satisfactory Academic Standards section). Students must achieve a qualifying score of 227 on any of their first three attempts or, if they have not achieved a qualifying score on any of their first three attempts, a score of 231 for the remaining two attempts.
- Students who fail to secure a qualifying score within those five attempts or within the time limits for making FASAP are subject to dismissal.
- Students must sit Step 2 CK within eight weeks of achieving a qualifying score on the CCSE. No extension requests on eight weeks testing windows will be approved. Students who fail to sit the Step 2 CK within this eight-week window will be required to retake the CCSE before they will be certified again for Step 2 CK. Please note that in that case, the total number of attempts cannot exceed five, which includes any previous attempts. The requalifying score will be 231 regardless of the number of attempts remaining.

As per AUACOM policy, if a student receives their CCSE qualifying score and performance profile in January, an AUACOM student's period of eligibility to sit Step 2 CK will be February through March. In this example, if a student gets their qualifying CCSE score on January 29, a student must sit for Step 2 CK no later than March 26, or they will be required to re-sit the CCSE and achieve a qualifying score of 231 or higher (provided this meets conditions of any type of academic standards or readmission conditions).

- Students must receive a CCSE score and performance profile from the most recent examination before they sign up for the next available CCSE examination because NBME does not allow sitting the CCSE in consecutive months.
- CCSE scores will not factor into any grade; they serve as self-assessment and qualifying examinations only.
- If AUACOM is made aware of irregular testing behavior of an individual taking the CCSE, AUACOM may void the result of that examination and require the student to repeat the examination. In addition, disciplinary action up to and including expulsion could result.

## Registering for the Comprehensive Clinical Science Examination (CCSE)

The fee for each attempt is \$150.00 USD; students can make their sitting fee payment online via CASHNet. Students must submit their receipt of payment to the Office of the Registrar and complete the registration requirements no later than 2:00 p.m. (EST) on the 15th of the month prior to the testing

window they are requesting to sit for the exam. If the 15th of the month falls on a weekend, registration will close on the preceding Friday at 2:00 p.m. (EST). There are no exceptions to this policy.

Upon confirmation of registration by the Office of the Registrar, students will receive a scheduling permit from NBME with an AUACOM-established two-week testing window. With that, students will register for the examination at a Prometric testing center of their choice.

Please note: Students must receive their CCSE score and performance profile from their most recent attempt before they can sign up for the next available CCSE. As a result, students cannot sit for the examination during consecutive months.

For additional information on the CCSE registration process, please contact the Office of the Registrar at [registrar@auamed.net](mailto:registrar@auamed.net).

## United States Medical Licensing Examination Step 2 Clinical Knowledge

The United States Medical Licensing Examination Step 2 Clinical Knowledge (USMLE Step 2 CK) examination is utilized to assess the ability of students to apply medical knowledge and understanding of clinical sciences to patient care (while under supervision) to promote health and prevent disease.

Although NBME policy has allowed the maximum number of attempts of USMLE Step 2 CK to be four, AUACOM policy is that a student is subject to dismissal after failing to pass USMLE within three attempts and may appeal to sit a final fourth attempt to the Appeals Committee.

Students can register for certification to sit Step 2 CK under the following circumstances:

1. After successfully completing the six required core clerkship *rotations*, obtaining a qualifying score on the NBME CCSE, and completing the university online ck prep course.

Or

2. After completing five of the six required core clerkships on the first attempt *with* a minimum *score* of high pass on each CCSSE without a single CCSSE failure, obtaining a qualifying score on the NBME CCSE, and completing the university online ck prep course.

Students must submit the Step 2 CK application with a window of eligibility to start immediately after successfully achieving a minimum qualifying score on the CCSE. The window of eligibility is a two-month period. For example, if the student passes the CCSE in August, the two-month window of eligibility is September through October. Any student whose approved Step 2 CK testing window of time lapses without an attempt will be required to re-sit for the CCSE and is subject to achieving a requalifying CCSE passing score of 231 or higher, as long as the maximum number of attempts have not been exceeded. No extension requests on Step 2 CK testing windows will be approved.

The passing score on Step 2 CK is 218 as of July 1, 2025. Any student who fails Step 2 CK three times will be dismissed from the university. As students prepare for the USMLE Step 2 CK exam, they must be

aware of AUACOM's Academic Standards policy that dictates completion of the MD program within 81 months (6.75 calendar years). Please refer to the *Meeting Academic Standards* section for more information.

Supplemental to the education students receive during their clinical education at the hospitals, web-based study and preparation materials are available free of charge via the internet, AUACOM Library, or Brightspace, including: AMBOSS clinical core study programs and Step 2 CK prep program and UpToDate. In addition, Clinical EED offers individual and small group support including 1:1 Tutoring, Peer Success Mentoring and the Question Partners Prep Series.

## USMLE Step 2 CK Examination Applications

A student must first obtain a qualifying CCSE score BEFORE they are allowed to register for CK. Failure to obtain a qualifying score on the CCSE before registering for CK will automatically result in disciplinary action independently of the CK result; such disciplinary action might lead to dismissal.

## Certification for USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK

Students who are eligible to apply for the USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK are required to register for these Examinations via the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates' (ECFMG) website. The ECFMG interactive web application is the only version of the application materials available on the website for USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK.

The Office of the Registrar is responsible for reviewing and confirming student eligibility to sit for these exams. In addition to the university's academic requirements, students must be in good standing and have met all AUACOM financial obligations.

## USMLE STEP 2 CK Certification Policy – AMBOSS Component

Students will be required to complete the AMBOSS program

## USMLE Step 2 CK Certification Policy – AUACOM Step 2 Preparation Program with AMBOSS

AUACOM will provide students with a complimentary subscription to AMBOSS to supplement preparation for USMLE Step 2 CK. Within the AMBOSS platform, students will be required to complete a dedicated study plan to certify for the Step 2 CK examination, this program is called the AUACOM Step 2 Preparation Program. The AUACOM Step 2 Preparation Program is a six-week program that will augment student preparation for USMLE Step 2 CK.

All students *must* successfully complete the AMBOSS dedicated Step 2 CK Preparation plan, which includes assigned targeted resources and related multiple-choice questions to be certified for USMLE Step 2 CK. **No exceptions will be permitted.**

## USMLE Score Reporting

Students who are required to retake USMLE Examinations will not be certified until their previous score is received.

Students who have passed Step 1 and request to be placed in clinical clerkships must submit a copy of the USMLE score report and complete performance profile to the Office of the Registrar.

If students fail any of the USMLE Step Exams, the Education Department will review their performance to determine whether remediation is required before they retake the examination.

Immediately upon completion of Step 1 and Step 2 CK, students must submit a request for their USMLE Certified Transcript of Scores to be submitted from ECFMG to the Office of the Registrar. It is strongly encouraged that students also request multiple copies for their personal records. Failure to comply with this requirement may delay the issuance of the diploma.

## Prometric Test Center Regulations

Students are required to be professional, civil, and respectful at all times while on the premises of the test center. All examinations are continuously monitored by video and audio recording, physical walk-throughs, and through observation windows. The test center administrator (TCA) is authorized to dismiss students from the test session for violations of any of the test center regulations, including exhibiting abusive behavior toward the TCAs or other students. If students are found to have violated any of the regulations during their exams, the TCA is required to notify Prometric and the students' test sponsor. Prometric, alone or in conjunction with the test sponsor, shall then take any further action necessary to sanction student conduct, up to and including invalidation of the test score and/or pursuit of civil or criminal charges.

Confidentiality of Examination Content and Systems:

- The computer-based test delivery system, tutorial, examination content, and survey are the unpublished, confidential, and proprietary materials of Prometric and/or the test sponsor.
- Communicating, publishing, reproducing, or transmitting any part of an exam, in any form or means (e.g., verbal, electronic, and written), for any purpose is strictly prohibited.
- Any reproduction or disclosure will result in the immediate filing of civil and/or criminal charges against the student and anyone directing or conspiring with the student.

Test Center Processes: Check-In Procedures and Breaks

- An original, valid (unexpired) government-issued photo and signature bearing identification is required to take an exam. Validity and the number of acceptable IDs is predetermined by the test sponsor.
- Students will be scanned with a metal detector wand prior to every entry into the test room.

- Students will be required to raise their pant legs above their ankles, empty and turn out all pockets, and raise shirt sleeves above their wrists prior to every entry into the test room.
- Examinations may have scheduled or unscheduled breaks, as determined by the test sponsor. Each time students leave the test room; they must sign out.
- The TCA will inform students of what is permitted during examination breaks, specifically regarding whether access to a locker and access to cell phones is permitted or not. All students must inform the TCA before accessing a stored item, including medicine, during a break. Repeated or lengthy departures from the test room will be reported to the test sponsor.
- Upon return from a break, without exception, students must go through all security checks, present valid ID, sign in, and, if required by the test sponsor, provide a fingerprint to be readmitted to the test room.
- Students must return to their assigned, original seat after any break.

#### Prohibited Items and Examinee Conduct in the Test Center

- Weapons are not allowed in any Prometric test center.
- Unauthorized personal items may not be brought into the test room. Such items include but are not limited to the following: outerwear, hats, food, drinks, purses, briefcases, notebooks, pagers, watches, cell phones, recording devices, and photographic equipment.
- Written notes, published materials, and other testing aids are strictly prohibited, except where allowed by the test sponsor. Test center staff will refer to the applicable client practices for allowances.
- Only soft earplugs (with no wires or cords attached) and center-supplied tissues are permitted in the test room.
- Clothing or jewelry items that students are allowed to wear in the test room must continue to be worn at all times. Removed clothing or jewelry items must be stored in the locker provided during check-in.
- All materials issued by the TCA must be returned at the conclusion of testing. Used scratch paper must be returned before new scratch paper will be issued by the TCA during the exam.
- Talking to other students in the test room and referring to their screens, testing materials, or written notes is strictly prohibited.

Note: Client/test sponsor practice policies shall supersede these regulations if a conflict exists.

Additional information can be found in the USMLE *Student Handbook* located on the USMLE website: <http://www.usmle.org/security/> and <https://vimeo.com/74953443>.

# Grading System

## Course Grades

At the end of each period, a student's overall academic performance is evaluated based on examinations and all other course requirements using the following grading system. Grades are not rounded up. Please refer to the course syllabus for additional details.

Grade	Quality Points
H 90.00–100%: Honors	4.0
HP 80.00–89.99%: High pass	3.0
P 70.00–79.99%: Pass	2.0
F below 70%: Failing	0

INC	Incomplete
IP	In progress
PNC	Pass – no credit
R	Successfully repeated in a subsequent period
RS	Academic restart
W	Withdrawal without current period grades available
WP	Withdrawal with current passing period grades
WF	Withdrawal with current failing period grades
PASS	Pass - credit earned but no GPA
AU	Audit Course

The University offers two full periods in an academic year, although beginning in Fall 2025 a trimester system is being introduced. One credit hour is equivalent to one week of classroom or direct faculty instruction in one period.

All grades are assigned by academic departments according to methods described in the respective course syllabi (see the Examinations section of Student Handbook). Any questions or concerns that a student has regarding examination scores during the period before the Promotions Committee meeting are to be directed to the respective Course Director or department chair.

An F grade will be forgiven when and if the student subsequently achieves a passing grade for the course. In such cases, the F grade will be replaced by an R grade that will have zero credit value and a zero quality-point value for the purpose of calculating the student's GPA. An R grade denotes a failed course that has been restarted and subsequently passed. WF grades are not replaceable with an R grade.

The grade of Incomplete (INC) is a temporary grade and must be completed in the following period. If not resolved on time, a grade of Incomplete is converted to the assignment of an F for the course(s) that was (were) unable to be completed.

Grades may be withheld until students have submitted all required forms and surveys.

Grade percentage calculations will be truncated to two decimal points (no rounding).

## Transcripts

To protect confidentiality, students must submit a Transcript Request Form to the Office of the Registrar for the request of an official or unofficial transcript. When requesting an official transcript, the payment of \$10 USD via CASHNet must be made. Upon receipt of the Transcript Request Form and payment (if applicable), the Office of the Registrar will process the request accordingly, within three to five business days. For official transcript requests to institutions overseas, students will be notified of the appropriate overseas postal costs, which will be incurred by the student. To request a Transcript Request Form, email [registrar@auamed.org](mailto:registrar@auamed.org)

## Clinical Grade Requirements

The clinical core subject shelf examination (CCSSE) grade will be factored into a student's final grade of the core rotation with a weight of 30 percent. Please refer to the *AUACOM Clinical Rotations Guidelines* for additional information.

Students enrolled in clinical clerkships are required to submit student clerkship evaluations, student faculty evaluations, midterm evaluations, and portfolios at the end of each core or elective rotation. Clinical rotation grades will not be released unless these required forms have been received.

## Student Portfolio

The purpose of the portfolio form is to document all patient encounters and academic activities during any core or elective rotation. This documentation is vital for ensuring consistency of clinical education across the various clinical teaching sites and is required by AUACOM's accrediting bodies and by state licensing boards. The student portfolio will also be reviewed in case of a grade appeal.

The portfolio must contain a log of all patients assigned to the student and all procedures performed by the student, and it must include patient age, sex, diagnoses, and procedures performed. The log must **not** contain any personally identifiable information such as those covered by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Protected Health Information guidelines (e.g., full name, date of birth, or ID number).

The portfolio will account for five percent of the rotation (core and elective) grade and must be submitted within thirty days of the end of the rotation. Failure to submit a completed portfolio within 30

days of the end of the rotation will result in failure of the rotation. Students will receive email reminders during and after the rotation. Please note, any cohort that began FM1/IM1 prior to January 15, 2024, will not be subject to the change.

## Mid-Clerkship Student Formative Assessment Form

This form documents the academic progress of the student during any rotation. It is based on a formative performance discussion between student and faculty, and it is the responsibility of the student to ensure its completion. The midterm evaluation is not a formal part of the summative grade at the end of the rotation. The form will also be reviewed in case of a grade appeal.

## Comprehensive Student Clerkship Assessment Form

This form documents students' overall performance during their rotation. At the end of each rotation, student performance is assessed by the supervising physician, and a comprehensive student clerkship assessment form is submitted to the Office of the Registrar. Students can view their comprehensive student clerkship assessment forms via the AUACOM student web portal or by contacting the Office of the Registrar.

## Student Faculty Evaluation Form

On this form, students evaluate the performance of individual faculty (preceptor) during any core or elective rotation. In the case that students encounter more than one preceptor during a rotation, separate forms are required for each faculty member. This documentation is vital for ensuring consistency of clinical education across the various clinical teaching sites and will be reviewed in case of a grade appeal.

## Student Clerkship Evaluation Form

On this form, students evaluate the overall experience during any core or elective rotation. This documentation is vital for ensuring consistency of clinical education across the various clinical teaching sites. Please refer to the *AUACOM Clinical Rotations Guidelines* for further details.

# Guidelines for Promotion and Dismissal

## Guidelines for Promotion: MED1 through MED5

**This applies to all students in Fall 2025**

Aggregate scores for each term (MED1, MED2, MED3, MED4, or MED5) will be calculated based on the tables in the Examinations section of this Handbook, specifically, Grading of Exams).

- Final grades for the term will be calculated as indicated in the section of the AUACOM *Student Handbook* titled, Grading of Exams.
- Students who receive a final average score for their term of less than 55.00% will be dismissed.

- Students in MED1-MED4 scoring 55.00% or higher but less than 70.00% will be offered a comprehensive remedial examination(s). Students who do not pass the remedial examination(s) and are making satisfactory academic progress may be allowed to repeat the term once. Students who do not pass the remedial examination(s) and are not meeting satisfactory academic standards will be dismissed.
- Students scoring 70.00% or above, and who have achieved a qualifying score in the CBSE in the case of MED5 students, will be promoted to the subsequent term. For students in MED4, promotion will be to MED5. For students in MED5, promotion will be to Clinical Sciences.
- Students may appeal any decision against dismissal within seven calendar days of receiving the notice. In the event of a confirmation of dismissal following a failed remedial examination, any appeal must be submitted within 2 calendar days of receiving the notice.
- Students in MED1, MED2, MED3, and MED4 whose weighted average is equal to or greater than 80.00% at the end of each term and have no record of unprofessional conduct will receive a letter from the Associate Dean of Student Affairs to notify them they have been placed on the Dean's Honor Roll for that term.
- Students may calculate cumulative averages using the on-line grade calculator located at [http://www.benegg.net/grade\\_calculator.html](http://www.benegg.net/grade_calculator.html)

## Master of Health Science Degree

Students who demonstrate successful completion of the pre-clinical MED4 in the AUACOM curriculum will have the opportunity to apply for the AUACOM College of Arts and Sciences Master of Health Science degree program. To inquire about eligibility requirements and obtain further information, we encourage students to reach out to the AUACOM Graduate Studies administration by email at [registrar@auamed.org](mailto:registrar@auamed.org)

## Clinical Sciences Criteria

To be promoted from the pre-clinical sciences component to the clinical sciences component and to enter into clinical clerkship rotations, students must comply with the following - complete all requirements of the preclinical sciences component, including receiving a qualifying score on the NBME Comprehensive Basic Science Shelf Examination or equivalent examination, and Pass USMLE Step 1 within 12 months after the end of MED5.

## Assignment and Arrangements of Clerkships

All assignments and arrangements of core and elective clinical clerkships are handled through AUACOM's Department of Clinical Sciences Administration only. The clinical coordinators contact students, discuss the scheduling options and details, and disseminate all appropriate information. This process begins after all required documentation has been provided by students and their files are complete.

## Required Documentation

To be placed in clinical rotations, students must submit all required documents. A list of required documents can be found on Brightspace and as part of the *AUACOM Clinical Rotations Guidelines*. It is the sole responsibility of the student to provide the required documents to the university and automatically update documentation as required.

## Failing a Clerkship

Students failing their rotations must meet with their respective clinical chair to review their performances.

If a student fails a core clerkship, the core must be repeated in order to continue in the program.

If a student fails an elective clerkship, the same elective is repeated or another elective with the same number of credits may be taken.

Students who fail any clinical clerkship will be placed on academic probation until they have successfully repeated the previously failed rotation. Students who fail the same rotation twice or any other rotation while on academic probation will be subject to dismissal.

## Dismissals

Students are subject to dismissal under the following circumstances:

- Receiving an average score of less than 55.00% (not rounded up) at the conclusion of the term.
- Failing to pass a repeated MED5 and/or receive a qualifying score on the final comprehensive basic sciences examination at end of restarted MED5.
- Failure to pass the USMLE Step 1 examination within one year of completing MED5.
- Failing to pass USMLE Step 1 within three attempts.
- Failing to get a qualifying score on the NBME CBSE or its equivalent exam on a maximum of five attempts (please note that NBME now limits students to five attempts at the NBME CBSE, AUACOM cannot increase that NBME limit).
- Failing to pass CCSE within five attempts (It should be noted that NBME now limits students to five attempts at the CCSE, AUACOM cannot increase that NBME limit).
- Failing to pass the USMLE Step 2 CK within three attempts.
- Failing to meet the conditions of readmission.
- Failing to complete MED1, MED2, MED3, MED4, and MED5 within 3.5 calendar years of attendance.
- Failing to complete the MD program within 81 months (6.75 calendar years of attendance).
- Failing to meet Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (FASAP). Students may be placed on Financial Aid Warning or, with an approved appeal, Financial Aid Probation.
- Non-academic reasons or professionalism concerns pursuant to AUACOM's Code of Conduct

- Failing to return to AUACOM after being administratively withdrawn (ADWD) for 12 months (minimum).

Dismissal (DIS) is a full termination of the student's enrollment at the university. The Office of the Registrar is required to report DIS enrollment statuses to all lenders. Students on a DIS status are considered withdrawn for financial aid purposes, effective their Withdrawal Date, as determined by the Office of the Registrar.

Student borrowers on DIS status should do the following:

1. Contact their federal servicer to make arrangements to make either monthly payments or obtain an economic/unemployment deferment or forbearance. If eligible, deferments and forbearances will postpone the necessity of making payments.
2. Complete an exit interview by logging into their account at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov). The results will be sent to the National Student Loan Database System.

## Promotions Committee

All matters related to the promotion of students fall under the jurisdiction of the university's Promotions Committee, which is composed of senior faculty.

The Promotions Committee Chair enacts decisions made by the Promotions Committee. The committee's decisions may be appealed to the Appeals Committee, which reviews the students' appeal and submits its recommendation to the Dean of Pre-Clinical Sciences for the final decision.

At the end of each term, when all the grades are final, the Promotions Committee reviews all grades and issues a recommendation for either continuation in the curriculum or a restart of the previous term.

All official communication from the Office of the Registrar will be directed only to students' AUACOM email accounts. The Office of the Registrar sends grade reports and letters regarding course failures as email attachments to students registered AUACOM email addresses. All students are responsible for monitoring their AUACOM email account and ensuring their correct mailing and email addresses are registered with the university.

The actions of the Promotions Committee are final unless modified on appeal.

## Academic Appeals Committee

If students are not satisfied with a Promotions Committee action which involves dismissal from AUACOM, they have the right to appeal. The deadline for receipt of appeals is seven calendar days after grades or other pertinent information regarding the academic standing of the student is communicated to the student.

All appeals must be forwarded to the Appeals Committee using the electronic form attached as a link to the official grade report. Students may also address procedural questions to the Committee through the Committee's email ([appeals@auamed.net](mailto:appeals@auamed.net)). However, only appeals received using the required form will be considered for action.

While processing the student appeal, the committee may request additional information or an interview. It is important that students provide their current AUACOM email and phone contact information in the appeal.

Appeals for a change in final grade will only be considered in the following circumstances:

1. The student feels that one or more components of the grade have been miscalculated.
2. There were technical issues in an examination, documented at the time, which significantly impacted the final grade.
3. The student feels that a subjective exam component (e.g. OSCE, clinical rotation) was graded in an arbitrary, capricious, or biased manner.
4. The grade awarded was in violation of AUACOM academic policies.

The final decision on the appeal will be communicated to the student by the Dean's office in writing. The decision of the respective Dean is final; it is not subject to further review and cannot be appealed. Student requests/demands for an explanation of the committee's or Dean of Pre-Clinical Sciences reasoning will not be entertained.

## Types of Academic Appeal

All academic decisions (grades, promotions, and dismissals) can be appealed. Students may be administratively withdrawn, dismissed due to remaining in a status of ADWD for more than 12 months, or for not making financial aid satisfactory academic progress (FASAP). These academic decisions can also be appealed. Appeals regarding Financial Aid should be directed to the FASAP Appeals Committee. Students have the right to appeal academic decisions under the following circumstances or conditions:

### Pre-Clinical Sciences

#### Step 1 Appeals

Students who do not pass Step 1 within 12 months from the end of MED5 and are dismissed may appeal the dismissal to the Appeals Committee. The Appeals Committee will review the case and make a recommendation to the Dean of Pre-Clinical Sciences, who will then make a final decision that cannot be appealed.

Please note:

1. The maximum number of attempts permitted by NBME on any Step component is four (4) attempts.

2. NBME limits attempts at CBSE or CCSE to five.
3. AUACOM allows students three attempts at Step 1 or Step 2 CK. If unsuccessful, the student is dismissed and would need to appeal for readmission for a fourth attempt.

## Grade Change Appeals

If students believe a grade was recorded or calculated incorrectly, they should submit an appeal to the Appeals Committee within seven days of the date of notification of the results.

## Appeal of Dismissal Decision

If a student receives a letter of academic dismissal from the Promotions Committee (with the exception of dismissal for actions that are not eligible for appeal), they have the right to appeal.

## Appeal of Administrative Withdrawal or dismissal for not meeting Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (FASAP)

If any student is administratively withdrawn from the university at any time during their studies, they have the right to appeal to the Appeals Committee for readmission. Also, if a student loses eligibility for Title IV funding due to not meeting FASAP requirements, those students may file for appeal in the same manner. Loss of financial aid eligibility should be appealed to the FASAP Appeals committee, not the Academic Appeals Committee Criteria for potential readmission.

A student who has received a notice of dismissal from the promotions committee for the current term may appeal that decision to the Appeals Committee, as above.

If the student's appeal is denied and they are not readmitted at that time they may subsequently appeal to the Appeals Committee to be readmitted under the following conditions:

1. They can provide proof of academic improvement by significant additional courses or remedial work, and
2. No less than 1 calendar year has elapsed from their original dismissal

If a student is dismissed for not meeting FASAP he/she would have to submit an appeal that explained what special circumstances caused the failure and what has changed to permit him/her to meet FASAP. If readmitted the student would be placed on Financial Aid Probation.

## Clinical Sciences

### Grade Change Appeals

If students believe a grade for a clinical rotation was calculated or recorded improperly, they should discuss the matter with the program director of the respective hospital site. If students feel less than objective standards were used in the determination of their grades, they may appeal the grade to the Appeals Committee. The Appeals Committee will review the case and make a recommendation to the Clinical Dean, who will make a final decision that cannot be appealed.

## CCSE/Step 2 CK/Clinical Shelf Examination Appeals

A student who fails all qualifying attempts at the Comprehensive Clinical Sciences Examination (CCSE) will be dismissed and can appeal this decision. A student who fails Step 2 CK after three attempts will also be dismissed and can appeal this decision. Dismissed students will lose financial aid eligibility and, if readmitted, may appeal to the FASAP appeals committee.

# Medical Licensure in the United States

## Immigration – Entry into the United States

If you require a visa to complete clinical rotations in the United States, it is your responsibility to plan accordingly and apply far enough in advance to secure one. Foreign medical students (those who are neither U.S. citizens nor lawful Permanent Residents of the United States) must obtain a B-1

Nonimmigrant Visa from a U.S. embassy or consulate prior to entering the United States in order to begin their clinical training. Students should familiarize themselves with the [Foreign Affairs Manual](#) (FAM), which is published by the U.S. Department of State, contains a provision for foreign medical students who are neither US Citizens nor Permanent Residents to enter the United States for clinical training. See 9 FAM 402.2-5(E)(3). All such international students are required to document the reason for their visit to the United States to officers of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection upon their entry to the United States<sup>6</sup>.

Please note that AUACOM is not responsible for obtaining visas for students. It is up to all students who require visas to enter the United States for their clinical training to obtain the appropriate visas themselves. That said, the Office of the Registrar will provide students with documents to present to the appropriate consulate at which the student has an appointment.

Canadian citizens are exempt from the visa requirement. However, students of Canadian citizenship must still request an immigration and hospital letter from the Office of the Registrar as proof of documentation. Hospitals require a minimum of four weeks to complete and submit their letters to the University, so requests should be submitted to the Office of the Registrar at least 30 days prior to the start of a confirmed clinical clerkship. Late requests may prohibit students from acquiring the documentation they need to enter the United States for clinical clerkships.

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<sup>6</sup> The FAM states that aliens may be classified as B-1 business visitors if they are students at a foreign medical school and are coming to participate in an elective clerkship at a U.S. medical school's hospital, without remuneration from the hospital, as part of the foreign medical school education. An elective clerkship is defined as "practical experience and instruction in the various disciplines of the practice of medicine under the supervision and direction of faculty physicians."

We strongly recommend that all students contact the Office of the Registrar prior to scheduling a visa appointment to discuss which US embassy or consulate is recommended. Recommend embassies or consulates may change, so please check with the Office of Registrar prior to scheduling.

It is highly recommended that all students thoroughly review their social media accounts prior to attending their visa interview. Officers are specifically instructed to look for:

- “Any indications of hostility toward the citizens, culture, government, institutions, or founding principles of the United States.”
- Advocacy, aid, or support for foreign terrorists or other threats to U.S. national security.
- Support for unlawful antisemitic harassment or violence.
- Specific mention is made of public endorsement or support for organizations such as Hamas as potential grounds for ineligibility.

Please keep in mind that immigration regulations are ever changing and can be complex. AUACOM does not guarantee or represent that every student who applies for a visa will be granted one. There have been occasions when AUACOM students who follow our advice and recommendations have been denied visas.

## Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates

The Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) is the definitive agency qualifying the medical education of schools outside of the United States and Canada. The ECFMG’s purpose is “to assess the readiness of graduates of these schools” to enter residency programs. The ECFMG requires strict adherence to the following:

1. Passing all parts of the USMLE (Step 1, Step 2 [CK], and Step 3)
2. Satisfying the medical education credential documentation requirement
4. Receiving ECFMG certification in order to:
  - a. start postgraduate medical training (residency)
  - b. secure an initial license in the state in which the residency program is located
  - c. secure an unrestricted state license for practicing medicine in the United States

## Application for USMLE Exams

Before applying for the USMLE Step 1 exam, students must perform the following:

- Submit an application for ECFMG certification
- Read the appropriate editions of the ECFMG *Information Booklet* and the USMLE *Bulletin of Information*

To apply for USMLE Step 1 and/or Step 2 CK, students must use ECFMG’s interactive web applications (IWA). A complete application consists of the online portion; the Certification of

Identification Form 186, which students obtain through IWA; and any other required documents outlined by the ECFMG.

### **Certification of Identification Form 186**

Before completing and paying the fee for the Step 1 application, you will be prompted to print the FORM 186 which a student will sign, date, and attach a passport sized photo. All new applicants to ECFMG will be required to have Form 186 (ECFMG Certification of Identification Form) completed online using NotaryCam.com. NotaryCam provides convenient, on-line access to professionally licensed and certified U.S. notaries. Both on-demand and scheduled NotaryCam sessions are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. The fee for using the NotaryCam service is included in the fee for Application for ECFMG Certification.

Once submitted to the ECFMG, Form 186 is valid for five years.

### **ECFMG Certification**

Medical licensing authorities in the United States require that AUACOM graduates be certified by the ECFMG, among other requirements, to obtain an unrestricted license to practice medicine. Once students receive their diploma, it is their responsibility to begin the process of becoming ECFMG-certified. For more information on ECFMG's policies and procedures, please visit [www.ecfmg.org](http://www.ecfmg.org).

## **Residency**

### **Overview of Postgraduate Training**

The Graduate Affairs department oversees the information to guide third and fourth year clinical students through the process of applying for residency. Students should review the Manual and guides provided on Brightspace/Graduate Affairs. In addition, the Associate Dean for Student Development oversees AUACOM's comprehensive residency advising program.

Postgraduate residency training traditionally begins on July 1st each year.

To begin residency on July 1st, it is suggested that students complete their medical education by the last Friday in April. This includes passing all clerkships and Step 2 CK by that date. It can take up to two months for final grades to be processed, ECFMG certification and state licensing.

Within the first quarter of each year, students will have access to the most current *Residency Preparation Manual* to help them through the application process. The application process begins about a year and a half prior to the residency start date. The manual includes instructions to request a Medical Student Performance Evaluation. It is mandatory for all students planning to apply for residency to read the *Residency Preparation Manual*. The *Residency Preparation Manual*, along with other instructive and informative guides, is available on Brightspace /Graduate Affairs.

Contact information for the Graduate Affairs department is available in the *Residency Preparation Manual*.

See immediately below for other agencies with which to become familiar.

## The National Resident Matching Program and Specialty Matches

The National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) oversees the Match, which matches students with residency programs. The NRMP website, [www.nrmp.org](http://www.nrmp.org), contains valuable information on the process. There are separate matches for Urology, Ophthalmology, OBGYN, Emergency Medicine (EM) and the military.

Urology: <https://www.auanet.org/meetings-and-education/for-residents/urology-and-specialty-matches>

Ophthalmology: <https://www.aao.org/medical-students/residency-match-basics>

Military: <https://walterreed.tricare.mil/Academics/Graduate-Medical-Education/Graduate-Medical-Education-Programs/NCC-Orthopaedic-Clerkship-Internship-Residency/The-Military-Match>

OBGYN and EM: For the 2025 match and beyond OBGYN will no longer be using ERAS but will use a dedicated platform named ResidencyCAS. Starting in 2026, EM will also be on this platform. Further information on the new system can be found here: <https://www.residencycas.com/>

## The Electronic Residency Application Service

The Association of American Medical Colleges developed the Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) to allow medical students and graduates to apply electronically for residency in accredited US programs of graduate medical education. The ECFMG oversees applications for international medical graduates. The two websites are [www.aamc.org/students/eras](http://www.aamc.org/students/eras) and [www.ecfmg.org/eras](http://www.ecfmg.org/eras).

## Canadian Resident Matching Service

CaRMS, or the Canadian Resident Matching Service oversees the Canadian match for Canadian students seeking residencies in Canada. The CaRMS website at [www.carms.ca](http://www.carms.ca), provides all information regarding the Canadian match, including the additional examinations that applicants must pass.

## The Federation of State Medical Boards

The Federation of State Medical Boards provides a listing of the state medical boards and contact information at <http://www.fsmb.org/state-medical-boards/contacts>.

## Residency Advising Program (RAP)

A collaborative program with Office of the Dean of Student Development and Graduate Affairs, RAP is available to all clinical students with emphasis on those who are entering the match. The purpose of the

program is to better prepare students for the Match Season. The goal is to augment student ability to match at their preferred residency program. RAP workshops are open to all clinical students, and include:

- Match Info-Session
- Personal Statement Workshop
- CV/Resume Workshop
- Experiences Workshop
- Interview Prep Workshop

The 1:1 mock interview and advising session with a specialty specific Clinical Dean, Clinical Chair, Clinical Faculty member or an AUACOM Alumnus who is a practicing physician are for those who are entering the Match this year. Residency Advising Series workshops are also hosted to provide information on the ERAS application, signaling, and other important elements of the Match SOAP season.

## Student Conduct and Discipline – Student Grievances

### Student Honor Code and Professionalism

Honor Code and Professionalism. Students must demonstrate a commitment to professional and personal excellence in all settings, including adherence to ethical principles and sensitivity to a diverse patient population.

**Demonstrate** honesty, integrity, respect, and compassion in all interactions with patients, peers, faculty, staff, and other health-care professionals in all settings.

**Demonstrate** ethical, patient-centered decision-making and respect for the confidentiality of patient information in all settings (e.g. clinical, academic, electronic, or web-based.)

**Demonstrate** sensitivity and responsiveness to the personhood of the patient inclusive of culture, ethnicity, spirituality, gender, age, language, disability, family context, and other aspects of personal and health beliefs, practices, and decisions.

**Demonstrate** a commitment to personal health and well-being, and recognize and address personal attributes, attitudes, and behaviors that may adversely influence one's effectiveness as a physician. Define professional impairment and describe the role and responsibility of health-care professionals in addressing impairment and unprofessional behavior in colleagues and in the profession.

Students will be required to attest to the following statement at orientation:

*I recognize the importance of personal integrity in all aspects of life and work. I commit myself to truthfulness, honor, and responsibility, by which I earn the respect of others. I support the development of good character and commit myself to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity as an important aspect of personal integrity. My commitment obliges me to conduct myself according to the American University of Antigua Honor Code.*

*"I hereby pledge to commit myself to support and encourage the creation and establishment of an Honor Code at AUACOM. I understand that the development of this Honor Code is led by AUACOM students, and it will be one to which the entire student body and faculty at AUACOM have had an opportunity to contribute. The purpose of an Honor Code is to remind students and faculty of exemplary professional ideals and principles. I pledge to fully support strong professional ideals and principles with the intention that the AUACOM Honor Code will embody those ideals and principles and will cause them to become a foundation of student and faculty culture at AUACOM. I also understand the importance of staying true to the principles represented in such an honor code in all aspects of my physician training, including basic sciences, clinical experiences, and beyond."*

## Professional Conduct and Ethical Behavior

All students at the University must maintain the highest level of ethics and morals and behave in a manner befitting a physician. Professionalism includes appearance and proper hygiene, demeanor, behavior and conduct, integrity, intellectualism, honesty, and respect for others. Students must be aware at all times that they are representing the University on and off campus. These standards apply to students during their entire medical education at the University.

Professional conduct and ethical behavior include but are not limited to the following:

1. The honest and authentic execution of all responsibilities and the submission of all educational and clinical work without misrepresentation or falsification. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and could result in disciplinary action or dismissal from the program.
2. Fulfillment of professional duties in a conscientious, reliable, and punctual manner.
3. Compliance with all rules, regulations, and policies of the University, of clinical sites and elsewhere. Such rules include, but are not limited to, the rules for conduct and behavior set out in this section of the Handbook, nonsmoking policies, library etiquette, classroom behavior, housing policies, laws, rules, regulations and policies relating to the illegal or prohibited possession and/or use of firearms or other weapons, drugs, alcohol or other controlled substances, general campus ethics, as well as civil laws and regulations established by governmental authorities, including, the various ministries of the government of Antigua and Barbuda and U.S. federal, state and local authorities (taken together, AUACOM's Code of Conduct). Students are reminded that AUACOM is a smoke-free campus at all times. This includes vapes and similar substitutes.
4. Visible display of a university identification card (ID) at all times when on campus and when participating in university-sponsored events and activities and, in addition, visible display of the hospital ID when participating in clinical clerkships. The student must show ID when requested by a faculty member or member of administration.
5. Maintaining the proper patient-care environment.

6. Introducing yourself to all patients as a medical student.
7. Respecting patient confidentiality and discussing cases and patient information only in appropriate professional circumstances.
8. Refraining from unauthorized patient care or patient care when the health or physical or mental condition of the student is such that the student is hampered in his/her ability to function professionally and effectively.
9. Respect and compliance with all hospital rules and regulations.
10. Respect for the legal and civil rights of others.
11. Abuse or misuse of social media.
12. Students are obliged to report breaches of AUACOM's Code of Conduct.

Bullying and cyberbullying is using one's influence or authority to control, harm or threaten individuals including, but not limited to, face-to-face interactions and any communication, including electronic.

Bullying fosters a climate of apprehension and disrespect that can impair both the physical and psychological health of its victims and create conditions that negatively affect learning.

Bullying/cyberbullying will not be tolerated and may lead to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

Students are to exercise caution and careful control of messages shared on social media. Social media is NOT a private platform, and caution should always be exercised in all communications, even if the communication may appear to be in a private/direct message folder. Patient information should NEVER be discussed on social media under any circumstance. This includes patient photographs, even if the identity of the patient is not immediately apparent from the image. Photographs should NEVER be taken in a clinical site without prior written permission from the administration of that site.

## Temporary Suspension Policy for Students Who Pose a Threat

AUACOM prioritizes the safety of its students, faculty, staff, and the broader campus community. In circumstances where a student is deemed to pose a significant threat, the university reserves the right to impose a temporary suspension while assessing and mitigating the risk.

**Criteria for Temporary Suspension:** A temporary suspension may be considered if a student:

- Engages in or threatens physical violence against themselves or others.
- Exhibits behavior that is significantly disruptive to the campus community.
- Demonstrates severe psychological distress that poses a safety risk.
- Violates University policies in a way that endangers the campus community's health and safety.

## Procedure for Implementing a Temporary Suspension

**Identification of Threat:** Concerns regarding a student's behavior should be reported to the Office of Student Affairs immediately. The report may come from faculty, staff, students, or any member of the campus community.

**Initial Assessment:** The Associate Dean of Student Affairs, or their designee, will conduct an initial assessment of the reported threat. This may involve consultations with campus security, mental health professionals, and other relevant authorities.

**Decision to Suspend:** An emergency team, including the Dean of Pre-Clinical Sciences, Associate Dean of Student Affairs, Provost, Chief of Campus Security, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, and Legal Counsel, will decide whether to suspend a student. If the initial assessment indicates a significant threat, this team may impose an immediate temporary suspension. The student will be informed in writing of the suspension, its reasons, and its terms.

**Evaluation and Investigation:** A thorough investigation will be conducted to evaluate the validity and extent of the threat. This may include interviews with the student, witnesses, and other parties involved, as well as a review of relevant documents and evidence.

**Behavioral Assessment:** In cases involving psychological distress, the student may be required to undergo a behavioral assessment by a qualified mental health professional. The assessment will determine the student's ability to safely participate in university activities.

**Interim Measures and Support:** During the suspension, the University will implement interim measures to ensure the safety of the campus community. The student may be offered support services, such as counseling, to address the underlying issues.

**Collaboration with Authorities:** AUACOM will work with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to help reduce the risk to the community. If necessary, students may be asked to leave the country to mitigate any potential threats.

## Outcome and Reinstatement

**Resolution of Investigation:** The investigation will be completed as promptly as possible, typically within five business days. The findings will be reviewed by the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, who will decide on the appropriate course of action.

**Professional Standards Committee Hearing:** Depending on the outcome of the investigation, the case may be referred to the Professional Standards Committee (PSC). The PSC will hear the case as promptly as possible. At that time, the temporary suspension may become permanent based on the committee's findings.

**Possible Outcomes:**

1. **Reinstatement:** If the threat is deemed manageable or unfounded, the student may be reinstated with conditions or support as necessary.
2. **Extended Suspension:** If the threat remains significant, the suspension may be extended until the risk is mitigated.
3. **Dismissal:** In severe cases, the student may be permanently dismissed from the university.

**Reinstatement Conditions:** Students seeking reinstatement must meet all conditions outlined by the Associate Dean of Student Affairs or by the Dean of Pre-Clinical Sciences. This may include providing evidence of completed counseling, behavioral assessments, or other relevant interventions.

**Appeals Process:** Students have the right to appeal the temporary suspension decision. Appeals must be submitted in writing to the Professional Standards Committee within seven days of the suspension notice. The PSC will review the appeal and issue a decision within ten business days.

### **Administrative Withdrawal Process for Sufficient Cause, i.e., Disruptive Behavior, Violence, Harm to Self or Others**

The University may summarily place on an involuntary administrative leave of absence any student who the University, in its sole discretion, determines, on the basis of the student's word(s) or deed(s), poses a risk of danger or harm to others, to him/herself or to the University's property. The leave shall continue until such time as the student demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the University by documentary evidence, including medical records/tests, that he/she is no longer a threat to persons or property. The University may require the student to submit to medical or psychological testing conducted by healthcare or other professionals as the University reasonably determines would assist it in determining whether to end the student's involuntary leave.

Applications for termination of an involuntary leave of absence must be made in writing to OSA. A student may challenge the determination of the University to place or keep him/her on administrative leave through the University's published grievance procedures.

Students who are placed on involuntary leaves of absence who violate or who are charged with violating AUACOM's ethical codes, standards and requirements are subject to AUACOM's policies and procedures governing student discipline to the same extent as they would otherwise have been had they not been placed on involuntary leaves of absence and will be afforded the same rights as students who are charged with violating AUACOM's ethical codes, standards and requirements who have not been placed on involuntary leaves of absence. A student who is placed on an involuntary leave of absence and is found guilty of, or pleads guilty or no contest to, a charge of violation of AUACOM's ethical codes, standards and requirements may receive such sanctions as meted out under the policies and procedures of the University governing student conduct and discipline.

## Student Discipline, Disciplinary Hearing, and Appeals

AUACOM's Professional Standards Committee (PSC) is the investigative and judicial arm of the Offices of the Deans in matters involving violations by students of non-academic University rules, regulations, policies, and codes of conduct and ethical behavior. It has no authority over academic matters except insofar any such matters also substantially involve nonacademic issues such as cheating, plagiarism or other academic dishonesty. The Committee is composed of faculty appointed by the Deans. Hearing panels are drawn from members of the Committee, AUACOM's student body and AUACOM faculty, including AUACOM faculty at its affiliated clinical sites. It is the responsibility and obligation of all students and faculty to participate as members of hearing panels when requested by the Committee.

It is also the responsibility and obligation of all members of the University's community, students included, to report to the Office of Student Affairs any instances of violations by students of the University's Code of Conduct behavior about which the member becomes aware. It is also the responsibility and obligation of all members of the University's community fully to cooperate with the PSC and its hearing panels in the performance of its work and to provide such information and evidence as they have or know that the Committee or its hearing panels may request. Failure of students to do either will constitute a violation of the University's Code of Conduct and ethical behavior and may subject them to disciplinary action by the Committee.

The policies and procedures of the PSC are outlined in the Student Discipline, Disciplinary Hearing, and Appeals policy.

### Processes and Procedures of the Committee

Reports of any alleged or perceived violation of the University's non-academic rules and/or Code of Conduct and ethical behavior should first be made to OSA. Upon receipt of such information, the Associate Dean of Student Affairs will promptly conduct an initial investigation to determine if, in their judgement, there is sufficient basis to proceed further with the matter. The Associate Dean of Student Affairs is vested with authority to resolve the matter informally with the accused student(s) in cases of minor infractions of the University's rules and Code of Conduct.

Such resolution may include among others as the Associate Dean of Student Affairs may determine are acceptable under the circumstances of the matter before him/her, acceptance of admissions of wrongful conduct, the tendering of an apology to those aggrieved by the student(s)' wrongful conduct, some form of community service as the Associate Dean of Student Affairs shall determine and direct and/or the placing of a letter of reprimand in the student(s) file(s).

If the Associate Dean of Student Affairs determines that there is sufficient basis to proceed and that either the matter is not one that is appropriate for resolution through his/her informal intervention or he/she is unable to affect a resolution satisfactory to both the Associate Dean of Student Affairs and to the student(s) through his/her informal intervention, he/she will refer the matter to the PSC for further investigation and/or for processing as set forth below.

Matters referred by the Associate Dean of Student Affairs to the University's Professional Standards Committee will proceed as follows:

Once a matter is referred by the Associate Dean of Student Affairs to the University's PSC, the Committee will: (a.) give prompt notice of that fact to the accused student(s), and (b.) designate a member of the Committee as the Committee's representative (hereinafter, the "Appointed Member") throughout the remainder of the proceedings against the accused student(s).

If the Committee determines that there is a sufficient basis to charge the accused student(s) with a violation of the University's non-academic rules or Code of Conduct and ethical behavior, the Committee will also assemble a hearing panel before whom the charges will be brought and adjudicated.

The Hearing Panel shall consist of no fewer than two and no more than four members of AUACOM's faculty and, on each panel, one student. Accordingly, each panel shall have no fewer than three nor more than five members.

Members of the Committee other than the Appointed Member may serve on hearing panels. It is preferable, but not required, that at least one member of the Committee serves on each hearing panel that the Committee constitutes. It is the duty of each faculty member and each student to cooperate with the Committee and to serve on the Committee's hearing panels as determined by the Committee. In assembling a hearing panel, the Committee will take into consideration the schedules and availability of those who are asked to serve on a hearing panel; however, the Committee's determination as to who of the faculty and student body shall serve on a hearing panel will be final.

The Appointed Member shall have and perform the following responsibilities:

- a. The conduct of further investigation and gathering of evidence if either the Committee or the Appointed Member determines that such is needed in order fairly and properly to determine if there is sufficient basis to present charges against the accused student(s) to a hearing panel for adjudication of them;
- b. the drafting of charges as against the accused student(s), which shall set forth in summary fashion, the nature of the violation and the essential acts and/or failures to act that the Committee will offer in support of the charges;
- c. the presentation of the charges to the accused student(s) together with a list of witnesses that the Committee expects to call upon to provide testimony and evidence at the hearing and all evidence gathered by the Dean of Student Affairs, Committee and the Appointed Member that is relevant to the matter to be determined at the hearing whether or not such evidence is to be presented by the Committee in support of the charges and whether or not the such evidence would tend to support or defeat the charges (sometimes referred to as "exculpatory evidence"). The Committee will not be permitted to present any witness or evidence other than as disclosed to the accused student(s) in enough time for them to prepare their defense(s) and responses thereto. However, the Committee shall be permitted to offer "rebuttal" witnesses and evidence; they are, witnesses and testimony the need for which the Committee could not reasonably have

known prior to the presentation by the accused student(s) of his/her/their defense(s) that it would need to respond to testimony and evidence offered in defense of the charges;

- d. the arrangement of the time and date for the hearing before the panel assembled by the Committee with all interested persons. The hearing should occur as expeditiously as possible after the determination is made that a hearing is required taking into account the availability of the panel members, the Appointed Member, the accused student(s) and witnesses whose testimony will be presented at the hearing and, first and foremost, in cases in which a student has been suspended pending the outcome of the charges, the need for a student to resume his/her studies with as little lost time as is practicable under the circumstances should the outcome of the disciplinary process result in the student being allowed to return to his/her studies.
- e. Either the accused student(s) or the Appointed Member may request an adjournment of the hearing once it begins. The Hearing Panel Chairperson will grant the adjournment if good cause is shown, such as the need to accommodate changes in the availability of witnesses or evidence.
- f. The presentation on behalf of the Committee of the witnesses, evidence, and statements in support of the charges and in response to the accused student(s) defense(s) of them.

The accused student(s) may interview witnesses, mindful that harassment of witnesses or potential witnesses is, itself, a violation of the ethical standards of the University and may lead to further charges. The accused student(s) may ask the Committee to assist them in commanding the attendance of witnesses and/or the obtaining and production of evidence reasonably within its power to command, including the pre-hearing interviewing of potential witnesses for the accused student(s) as they may identify. The accused student(s) shall have the right to interview witnesses whose attendance the Committee has commanded or, alternatively, provide the Committee with a list of questions and/or pointed areas of inquiry for any such interview. The Committee may assign these tasks to the Appointed Member or appoint another member of the Committee for those purposes. In most cases, it is preferable that another member of the Committee be appointed. The determinations of the Committee in this regard shall be made in its sole discretion and shall be final.

The hearing shall be closed; that is, except those persons who will participate in the hearing, members of the community or the public may not attend. Witnesses shall be permitted to attend only during the time that they are providing testimony and shall not discuss their testimony or any other aspect of the hearing that they may witness with others until the hearing is completed. The hearing panel's chairperson shall determine whether and to what extent evidence or testimony offered should be permitted. All questions, testimony, and arguments shall be presented with appropriate decorum and courtesy. Badgering of witnesses will not be permitted. Hearings are not recorded. Recording or photographs of the hearing or any part of it in any form by any participant at the hearing shall not be permitted.

## **The Order of the Hearing**

The Appointed Member will offer a brief statement of the charges and the evidence that he/she intends to present in support of them. Upon the conclusion of the Appointed Member's statement, each student charged will be afforded the opportunity to make a brief statement outlining his/her defense of the charge(s) against him/her. A charged student shall have the option to delay the making of such a

statement until after the presentation of witnesses by the Appointed Member is concluded. (These are called “opening statements.”)

Upon the conclusion of opening statements, the Appointed member will present the testimony of witnesses and offer evidence in support of the charges.

At the conclusion of the testimony of each of the witnesses offered by the Appointed Member, the accused student(s) shall have the right to question the witness about the testimony he/she has offered.

Once all of the Committee’s witnesses have offered their testimony and all of the evidence that the Committee, through its Appointed Member intends to offer in support of the charges has been presented, the accused student or, if there is more than one, each accused student in such order as the Hearing Panel Chairperson shall direct, will be afforded the opportunity to make an opening statement if he/she has not already made one followed by his/her presentation of witnesses and evidence in defense of the charges.

The Committee, through its Appointed Member, may question each witness presented in support or in defense of the charges at the conclusion of his/her testimony. If there is more than one accused student, each accused student will also have the right to question witnesses offered by each other accused student in defense of the charges.

The hearing panel shall have the right, in its sole discretion, to alter the order in which the hearing will proceed and to question witnesses presented by any party to the proceeding at any time during the proceedings.

The hearing panel shall not be bound to follow judicial rules of evidence and/or procedure but shall be mindful of basic principles of fairness in the conduct of the hearing. Questions and testimony shall be limited to matters relevant to the issues at hand. The Panel may, in its discretion, deviate from the order in which the hearing will proceed as outlined herein, provided that the accused student(s)’ rights to fairness and due process are not violated.

While accused students are free to consult and/or obtain the representation of counsel at any stage of the disciplinary process, such counsel may not attend or directly participate in any aspect of the process except as set forth below. Neither the accused student(s) nor the Committee shall be entitled to legal counsel at the hearing. However, each accused student may be assisted by another member of the University’s community as a support person. Such assistants shall not be permitted to give testimony, ask questions of witnesses, offer evidence, ask the panel questions or make statements at the hearing.

The accused student(s), members of the Hearing Panel, the Appointed Member and witnesses may appear at the hearing in person or, for good cause shown as determined in the discretion of the Chair of the hearing panel, by any other means (telephone, videoconference, Zoom, Teams etc.) as is practicable and available. However, all hearings shall originate from, and shall be deemed to have been conducted, at the University’s campus in Antigua and not where any individual participant of the panel may have been

physically located. In emergency situations, hearings may occur entirely remotely through the use of such electronic means as Zoom or Teams. However, such hearings shall again be deemed to have occurred in Antigua regardless of where the servers or platforms used or the moderators or hearing panel members may be situated. Upon an accused student's request, the hearing panel will make arrangements with Manipal Education Americas, LLC (MEA) for the student(s) or their witnesses to attend the hearing by videoconference from MEA's offices in New York. The same courtesy shall be extended to witnesses who will be called by the Committee.

The accused student(s) may waive the right to a formal hearing in its entirety or on the matter of whether the student is guilty of the charges. An accused student may do so at any time prior to or during his/her hearing. If an accused student does not dispute the charges and/or does not wish to present evidence in defense of the charges, or if he/she fails to attend a duly scheduled hearing without good cause as determined in the sole discretion of the Chair of the Hearing Panel, the Hearing Panel shall proceed with the hearing on the basis of the evidence presented. There shall be no presumption of guilt of the student in such cases.

In cases in which a charged student notifies the Hearing Panel that he/she does not wish to dispute the charges but wishes to offer evidence of circumstances that he/she desires the hearing panel to consider in mitigation of the discipline, if any, that the hearing panel may recommend, the Hearing Panel shall consider such evidence or information as the charged student(s) may offer as well as such evidence as the Assigned Member may offer in recommending whether or to what extent the student should be disciplined. Where a charged student fails to appear at his/her hearing or waives the right to offer any evidence on the merits or lack thereof of the charge(s) against him/her and on the discipline that the Hearing Panel may recommend, the Hearing Panel shall determine the discipline, if any, that it will recommend based solely on the evidence offered by the Committee through its Assigned Member.

Within three business days of the conclusion of the hearing, the hearing panel shall render a written statement as to whether the charges, or any lesser charges, have been sustained by the greater weight of the evidence presented at the hearing. If the Hearing Panel determines to sustain any charge, a statement shall also set forth briefly its factual findings that support the charge(s) sustained and a recommendation to the Dean of the Department (Pre-Clinical Sciences or Clinical Sciences) in which the student(s) were enrolled as of the time of that events and circumstances giving rise to the charge(s) that the hearing panel determines to sustain occurred as to the discipline, if any, that the student(s) should receive.

Discipline may include but may not necessarily be limited to probation, suspension, dismissal from the school, receipt of a failing grade or grades on specified course work, failure of a class or classes, withdrawal from a class or classes, or enforced leave of absence. Any discipline may also include a suspension of any discipline or such other conditions as the hearing panel may determine are appropriate under the circumstances.

The Dean to whom the recommendation is made shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether to accept, reject, or modify in any respect the recommendation of the Hearing Panel with respect both to its determination to sustain the charge(s) and to its determination as to the discipline, if any, that the

student(s) should receive. The Dean shall promptly notify the student(s) of his/her decision. He/she shall also give notice of his/her decision to the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, other Associate Deans and such other persons as may have a need to know of the decision. Such persons would include Security, the Vice President for Administrative Affairs, and the student(s)' home room facilitator if the decision includes suspension or expulsion. In cases in which the Dean of the Clinical Sciences is not the decision maker, but the charged student(s) are, at the time that the decision is made, in the Clinical Sciences component of their education, the Dean of Clinical Sciences should also receive notice of the decision.

The decision of the Dean shall be final and binding with no right of appeal or other review in any forum within or outside of the University in cases in which the discipline imposed by the Dean does not include a sanction of probation, suspension, or dismissal. In cases in which the sanction imposed includes probation, suspension or dismissal, student(s) shall have the right to appeal the decision, be it with respect to the findings or the discipline imposed or both, to the President of the University.

In cases in which the discipline imposed includes a suspension or a dismissal, the Dean of Clinical Sciences or the Dean of Pre-Clinical Sciences may choose to stay the suspension/dismissal while the appeal to the President process is underway. If the suspension/dismissal is not stayed, the student may make written application to the University's President for a stay of the discipline pending an appeal of the Dean's decision of the discipline imposed. The President's decision of the application will be final and not subject to any review or appeal. The discipline will not be stayed or delayed unless and until the President grants the application in writing. If notice of the student's intent to appeal or the student's written appeal is not received by the President within the time set out for such, the application will be deemed as withdrawn.

To appeal a decision of the Dean to the University's President, a student must adhere strictly to the following procedures. Failure to do so shall be grounds for dismissal of the appeal. The procedure to appeal a decision follows:

1. The student must give written notice of his/her intent to appeal the decision against him/her to the President within 14 calendar days of the date that the decision appealed from is rendered.
2. The student must, within 14 calendar days thereafter, submit a written appeal to the President. The written appeal must include all facts, evidence, and circumstances that the student wishes the President to consider in determining the appeal. It may include an acceptance of the determination of guilt and appeal of the sanction and/or a request for leniency. It may not include any matter, information or evidence that the student(s) had not offered for consideration at the hearing except where the matter, evidence, or information was not available for presentation to the hearing panel at the time of the hearing or when it involves a claim that the decision appealed from was the result of failure of the hearing panel to follow the procedures above outlined or undue bias of the hearing panel or of the Dean whose recommendation the student is appealing.
3. The President shall consider the appeal on the basis of the written appeal and supporting documentation that the appealing student offers and will either render a decision on the appeal or consider such other information and evidence as the President, in his/her sole discretion,

determines to consider. The President may request the appealing student to obtain such information or evidence or undertake to obtain it through such means as are available to him/her, including the conduct of an additional hearing over which he or she will preside. The appealing student shall be notified of all such information and/or evidence as the President elects to consider in determining the appeal. Each appealing student shall be entitled to representation of counsel of his/her choice at any stage of his/her appeal. If the President determines to hold an additional hearing or hearings, any such hearing shall be held on the University's campus in Antigua unless the student(s) and President mutually determine otherwise.

The President may, upon consideration of the appeal, accept, reject, or modify the determination appealed from or any aspect of it. Among the actions that he or she may take are the imposition of lesser, different, or greater discipline, the removal or attachment of conditions of discipline, or the granting or removal of suspensions or enforcements of discipline.

The decision of the President shall be final, binding, and non-appealable in any forum within or outside of the University. It shall be communicated to the student in writing.

If, at any time, or under any circumstances, the Associate Dean of Student Affairs or a Dean is unable to carry out his/her responsibilities due to conflict of interest, scheduling, disability or any other reason as he/she shall, in good faith, determine, he/she has the right and duty to appoint a replacement from among the Associate Deans or Chairs in his/her Department. If, at any time, the President is unable to carry out his/her responsibilities due to conflict of interest, scheduling, disability, or any other reason as he/she shall, in good faith, determine, he/she shall have the right and duty to appoint a replacement from among the University's faculty or executive officers. In any such case, the appointed person shall have the rights, powers, responsibilities and duties of the President or the Dean whom they replace as if they were the President or Dean whom they replace, and all references above set forth to the President or Dean whom they replace shall be deemed a reference to that Dean or to the President.

## University Grievance Procedures

### Hearings and Appeals

AUACOM's Grievance Committee is the investigative and judicial arm of the Offices of the Deans in matters involving grievances of any member of the AUACOM community against the University or other members of the AUACOM community. The Grievance Committee does not investigate academic matters (e.g., grades and promotions), matters that are within the province of the University's Professional Standards Committee to administer, or matters that are subject of collective bargaining or resolved through union representation. They also do not include challenges to the University's educational and academic policies. The Committee is composed of faculty and student representatives appointed by the Deans.

It is the responsibility and obligation of all members of the University's community to fully cooperate with the Grievance Committee. This cooperation includes appearing at any hearing conducted by the Committee and providing evidence and information requested by the Committee.

## Filing a Grievance

Any member of the University community may file a grievance with the Grievance Committee by submitting a written statement to the Chairperson of the Committee. This statement should outline the nature of the grievance and should contain a brief statement of the facts and any relevant documentary evidence that supports it. Upon receipt of a grievance, the Committee will designate a member of the Committee as the Grievance Administrator. The Grievance Administrator will gather such information as he/she determines is necessary to determine if the matter should be referred to mediation to be conducted by a member of the school's faculty or administration (as appointed by the Chairperson of the Committee) or to a hearing panel to be constituted by the Grievance Committee.

The aggrieved party may not challenge the decision to refer a grievance to mediation. However, in the event that a mediation that does not conclude satisfactorily for the aggrieved party, he/she has the right to demand that the grievance be heard by a hearing panel.

The Grievance Administrator will give prompt notice of the grievance to those members of the community against whom the grievance is made, together with copies of the grievance and all documentary evidence submitted by the grievant in support of it, as well as other information and documents obtained by the Grievance Administrator concerning the grievance. The Grievance Administrator will also aid both the grievant, and any party against whom the grievance is made, including in obtaining the presence of witnesses and evidence for a mediation or a hearing.

If a grievance is referred for mediation, the person assigned by the Chairperson of the Committee to act as the mediator will set a time and date for the mediation, taking into account the convenience of the mediator and the parties. Failure to attend a mediation shall be grounds for determination of the grievance as against any non-attending party. The mediator may require the parties to attend more than one mediation session.

If it is determined that a hearing should be held, the Committee will constitute a hearing panel to hear the grievance. The Grievance Administrator will give prompt notice to the grievant and to the member(s) of the community against whom the grievance is made of the time and place of the hearing and ensure that both the grievant and each person against whom the grievance is made is provided with all evidence and the names of all witnesses that the other party will present at the hearing.

Hearing Panels shall be drawn from the AUACOM community. Members of the Grievance Committee may serve on hearing panels; however, neither the mediator of a grievance nor the Grievance Administrator may serve on a panel charged with hearing a grievance in which they were involved. Hearing panels shall consist of two members of the University's faculty, one student in the case of a grievance brought by or against a student, and one member of the community who is not a faculty

member or a student in the case of a grievance brought by or against a member of the community who is not a faculty member or student.

United States law may be applicable if the grievance relates to alleged conduct that took place in the United States. If any person believes that the University or any of the school's employees have inadequately applied American law, including allegations of discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, disability, or age, he or she may contact the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, who serves as the University's Section 504/ADA Coordinator. A complaint can be made to the US Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. There is no requirement to follow the grievance procedures prior to filing a complaint with the Office of Civil Rights.

## **Hearing Procedures**

A hearing will be scheduled promptly after it is determined that a hearing is warranted. The panel shall fix the time and date of the hearing, considering the availability of members of the hearing panel, the grieving party, the party(s) charged, and the witnesses expected to appear at the hearing.

All hearings shall be closed to the public except to those persons who will participate in the hearing. Witnesses shall be permitted to attend only while providing testimony. Witnesses shall not discuss their testimony or any other aspect of the hearing that they may witness with others. The hearing panel's chairperson shall determine whether and to what extent evidence or testimony offered should be permitted. All questions, testimony, and arguments shall be presented with appropriate decorum and courtesy. Badgering of witnesses will not be permitted.

Generally, the grieving party will make an opening statement outlining what he/she intends to prove, and then present the witnesses and evidence in support of the charge(s). In cases where the University or any of its departments (including the office of either Dean) is the grieving party, the grieving party may designate a representative for this purpose. After each of the witnesses of the grieving party provides his/her evidence, the party charged shall have the right to examine the witness. Upon completion of the grieving party's presentation of witnesses and evidence, the party charged will be afforded the opportunity to make an opening statement and to offer evidence and testimony of witnesses in defense of the charges.

The grievant shall have the right to examine each of the witnesses who provide evidence in defense of the charge(s) at the conclusion of his/her testimony. The hearing panel may question any witness at any time during his/her testimony or thereafter and may ask the Grievance Administrator to gather and present evidence and witnesses not presented by any of the parties to the hearing for consideration and questioning. The parties shall have the right to question any such witnesses whose testimony is presented during the hearing.

The parties shall also have the right to offer rebuttal testimony and witnesses. Rebuttal witnesses may be questioned by any opposing party.

The hearing panel shall have the right to alter the order in which the hearing will proceed.

The hearing panel shall not be bound by judicial rules of evidence and procedure, but shall be mindful of and practice basic principles of fairness in the conduct of the hearing. Questions and testimony shall be limited to matters relevant to the issues at hand.

Neither party shall be entitled to legal counsel at the hearing but may be assisted by another member of the University's community. This individual shall not be permitted to give testimony at the hearing. If the hearing panel determines that it requires the assistance of counsel, it may have counsel assist it at the hearing.

The parties, members of the hearing panel, and witnesses may appear at the hearing in person or by any other approved means (e.g., telephone or videoconference). However, all hearings shall be conducted at the University's campus in Antigua. The party or parties charged may waive the right to a formal hearing if they do not dispute the charges and/or do not wish to present evidence in defense of the charges. In such a case, or in the case in which a party charged fails to attend a duly scheduled hearing, the hearing panel shall proceed with the hearing and determine from the evidence presented whether the charges should be upheld. If charges are upheld, the hearing panel will recommend appropriate consequences. A charged party or parties may also, at any time before the hearing is concluded, notify the hearing panel that they do not wish to dispute the charges but wish to offer evidence or information about circumstances that they believe provide a basis for mitigation of any consequence that the hearing panel may recommend. The hearing panel gives such weight to the information and evidence offered as, in its discretion.

As soon as practicable, the hearing panel shall render a written statement as to whether the charges or any lesser charges have been sustained by the greater weight of the evidence presented at the hearing. If the hearing panel determines to sustain any charge, the statement shall also briefly set forth its findings that support the charge(s) sustained and shall include a recommendation as to the consequences that should be imposed against the party charged. The hearing panel's determination and recommendation shall be made to the Dean of Clinical Sciences in the case of events and members of the AUACOM located principally outside of Antigua and to the Dean of Pre-Clinical Sciences in the case of events and members of the AUACOM community located principally in Antigua.

The Dean to whom the recommendation is made shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether to accept, reject, or modify in any respect the recommendation of the hearing panel with respect both to its determination to sustain the charge(s) and to its determination of the consequence, if any, which should be imposed. Both parties shall promptly be notified of the decision of the Dean.

## Grievance Appeals

Either party shall have the right to appeal the determination of the Dean to the President of the University. In order to appeal a decision of the Dean, a party must adhere strictly to the following procedures. Failure to do so may be grounds for dismissal of the appeal.

1. The party or parties must give written notice of their intent to appeal the decision to the president within fourteen calendar days of the date on which the decision was rendered.
2. The appealing party or parties must, within fourteen calendar days thereafter, submit their written appeal to the President. The written appeal must include all facts, evidence, and circumstances that the appealing party wishes the president to consider. It may include an acceptance of the determination of guilt or responsibility with a request for leniency. It may not include any matter, information, or evidence that the appealing party had not offered for consideration at the hearing except for evidence or information that was not available for presentation to the hearing panel at the time of the hearing. It may involve a claim that the decision appealed was the result of failure of the hearing panel to follow the procedures outlined above or from undue bias of the hearing panel.
3. Upon receipt of the appeal and supporting documentation, the President shall supply copies of those documents to the other parties to the grievance, who, within fourteen calendar days of delivery to him, her, or them of the appeal and supporting documents, may submit a written response to the appeal and provide supporting evidence for the President to consider.
4. The President shall consider the appeal on the basis of the written appeal papers and the written submissions in response thereto, if any, and will either render a decision on the appeal or advise that he or she requires further information that he or she will seek to obtain.

The President may, upon consideration of the appeal, accept, reject, or modify the determination appealed from. Among the actions that he or she may take are the imposition of a lesser, different, or greater consequence. The decision of the President shall be final.

If at any time or under any circumstances any of the Committee Chairperson, the Grievance Administrator or the Dean responsible for consideration of the determinations of a hearing panel is unable to carry out his/her responsibilities due to conflict of interest, scheduling, disability, or any other reason as he/she shall in good faith determine, he/she shall have the right and duty to appoint their replacement from among the Committee in the case of the Chairperson's or the Grievance Administrator's inability or the Associate Deans or Chairs of their departments in the case of a Dean's inability.

If at any time the President is unable to carry out his or her responsibilities due to conflict of interest, scheduling, disability, or any other reason as he or she shall in good faith determine, he or she shall have the right and duty to appoint his or her replacement from among the University's executive officers.

In any of such cases, the appointed person shall have the rights, powers, responsibilities, and duties of the person whom they replace.

## University Ombud

The Ombud serves as a confidential, off-the-record, informal, neutral and independent resource for students who have issues or concerns with, or are having difficulty, conflict or confusion relating to, their studies or other aspects of their lives as AUACOM students. The Ombud offers an accessible and safe place to have disputes and differences with other members of the AUACOM community resolved informally, to bring issues and concerns about the University, its faculty, its administration, its staff, its programs, its facilities, its rules, regulations and policies, and, more broadly, student life in and outside of the University to the attention of the appropriate persons within and outside of the University; to explore and evaluate options for dealing with such concerns and issues and, generally, to improve communications between the students and others within the AUACOM community.

The Ombud will attempt to resolve, correct, or ameliorate those conditions that students may find are impeding their ability to succeed as students or to be satisfied with their lives and times at AUA.

Students are encouraged to contact the Ombud at the earliest stages of their problems, concerns, and issues in order that the Ombud can assist before the matter escalates.

Talking with the Ombud does not constitute filing a formal complaint or notice to the University of problems, issues, circumstances, or events but rather provides a confidential forum where various options for resolution of issues and/or to the filing formal complaints can be discussed and considered.

There are systems, processes, and procedures in place at AUA for students to file formal grievances, register complaints or report issues and matters about which the student is concerned or has a duty to report. While the Ombud is not a substitute for these systems, processes, and procedures, it is recommended that the Ombud be consulted before complaints or grievances are made as this is often a helpful step in students' efforts to resolve disputes.

### Confidentiality

Confidentiality means that the Ombud will not disclose any information that a student shares with him/her unless the student has given him/her permission to do so. The exception to this confidentiality is that, if a student discloses information that gives the Ombud reasonable cause to believe that there is an imminent risk of serious harm to the student or to someone else or that a crime is about to be committed, the Ombud will disclose that information to those who are appropriate to manage the matter.

### Neutrality

The Ombud does not take a side in a dispute, nor advocate for an individual, a particular point of view, office, department, or any other party. The role of the Ombud is to be an objective third party who is available to assist with the resolution of the matter.

## Informality

The Office of the Ombud operates informally. The Ombud does not keep the names of individuals who visit the office, or any documents or materials of any kind relating to a student's visit beyond the conclusion of the student's engagement with him/her. If a student would like the Ombud to review documents (e.g., a transcript, performance evaluation, email, or any other material), he/she will do so but will either return the materials to the student or shred them upon completion of the engagement. Any such documentation should be delivered to the Ombud in hard copy and not electronically when possible. Any personal notes that the Ombud may take will also be destroyed upon the conclusion of the engagement. Emails and voicemail messages will be deleted by the Ombud promptly.

## Independence

The Office operates independently of the University hierarchy and reports only to the President or his/her designee in order to avoid the risk of undue influence, conflict of interest, or appearance of conflict of interest by other members of the University hierarchy.

What the Ombud does not do:

- Provide legal services
- Accept notice on behalf of the University
- Represent students or others at the Professional Standards Committee or other disciplinary hearings

Contact information for the University ombudsperson is as follows: [Ombud@auamed.net](mailto:Ombud@auamed.net)

## Use of Rooms for Group Study on Weekends & Public Holidays

AUACOM recognizes the importance of collaborative learning and supports students' need for group study spaces outside of scheduled classes. This policy, therefore, applies to all students who wish to use designated study spaces for group study on weekends and public holidays. For the complete policy, including rules and regulations that must be adhered to, please go to [Brightspace at this link](#).

## Eligible Spaces

Only designated study areas — Homerooms 19–23 (Quad B) and 34–38 (Quad G) — approved by the University may be used for group study.

Laboratories, faculty offices, and other restricted areas, such as Homerooms 1–4, SGTs, Flex Room, QUADS E & F), are not to be used for group study unless specifically authorized.

## Booking Requirements

Students must reserve rooms in advance through the Library Assistant.

Booking must be completed no later than 3:00 PM on Fridays.

Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis and must specify the date, time, and number of participants.

Walk-in use without a reservation is not permitted when a prior booking exists.

## Hours of Use

Rooms may be used for group study only after scheduled academic activities have concluded for the day.

Approved hours for group study use are:

- Weekends: Between 6:00 PM on Friday through to 11:00 PM on Sunday (continuous access during this period)
- Public Holidays: 8:00 AM – 11:00 PM

## Group Size

Group study rooms are intended for groups of a minimum of four and a maximum of 12 students, depending on room capacity and fire safety regulations.

## Campus Dress Code Policy

To maintain a professional and respectful environment, AUACOM enforces its dress code policy through a balanced approach that includes consequences for violations and restorative justice practices. This approach aims to educate and rehabilitate rather than merely punish, promoting a culture of accountability and continuous improvement.

Restorative Justice and other potential consequences:

1. Verbal Warning: A verbal warning will be issued for first-time or minor infractions.
2. Written Warning: A formal written warning will be given for repeated or more serious infractions. The student will be required to write a reflective essay on the importance of professional attire in the medical field and how their behavior impacts the community.
4. Meeting with Associate Dean of Student Affairs or designee: The student will meet with the Associate Dean of Student Affairs to discuss the infraction and develop a plan for compliance. The student may also be required to complete a major social project.
5. Referred to the Professional Standards Committee.

The Office of Student Affairs is responsible for monitoring compliance, issuing consequences, and facilitating restorative justice practices.

By combining clear consequences with restorative justice practices, AUACOM aims to create a supportive environment that fosters personal growth, accountability, and a deep understanding of professional standards. Students are responsible for adhering to the latest dress code.

Dressing Guidelines		
Setting	Items	Guidelines
Clinics Hospitals Any Professional Setting Meetings with Administration or Faculty Campus Operations Ceremonies	ID Badge/Nametag	Always worn in all settings
	Attire	Professional, neat, clean, comfortable; business casual preferred
	Accessories	Minimal; avoid those hindering hygiene
	Shoes	Professional, comfortable, closed toe
	Grooming	Hair tied back, short fingernails, no strong fragrances
	White Coats	Clean and frequently washed
Locations where exams are conducted	Exam Days	Familiarize yourself with the specific dress code for exam days as per the <i>AUACOM Student Handbook</i>
ICM labs and Anatomy Labs	Assigned Days	Follow the guidelines of the labs. Certain labs require scrubs while others use white coats, they have rules that are specific and evolving
Academic Settings (classrooms lectures, SGAs, TBLs, tutoring, etc.) and general campus locations	Avoid Wearing	Clothing that is too tight, revealing the imprint of private body parts (sex organs, buttocks)
		Clothing that reveals too much skin including when you bend, stretch, or lean over (i.e. cropped, low-cut, or sheer tops; very low riding pants; etc.)
		Torn clothing, revealing attire, open-toe shoes in clinical areas
		Low-cut revealing tops, blouses, or shirts

		<p>Wearing swim wear, or undergarments on the exterior</p> <p>Shades, Baseball Caps, fashion hats, etc.; face coverings that are not for religious purposes.</p>
Off Duty or Studying on Campus	Maintaining Professionalism	Even when off duty, medical students are part of the medical community and may prefer to avoid clothing that could be considered unprofessional or inappropriate, especially in public settings where they might encounter colleagues, professors, or patients
Exceptions	Certain environments are excluded from the general guidelines, but you should maintain AUACOM professional standards in all settings	Gym

## Policy of Nondiscrimination

The University prohibits any form of discrimination against any person on the basis of age; citizenship status; arrest or conviction record; caregiver status; color; credit history; creed; disability; familial status; gender (sex); gender identity; genetic predisposition or carrier status; lactation accommodation; marital status; national origin; pregnancy; race; religion; salary history; sexual or reproductive health decisions; sexual orientation; status as a victim of domestic violence, stalking, or sex offenses; unemployment status; veteran or active military status; or any other applicable, legally protected status in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, employment, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other University-administered programs and functions.

The policy governs the conduct of all University faculty, staff, and students, and applies on AUACOM premises and during AUACOM sponsored events.

Any person having inquiries concerning discrimination, including with compliance of American laws, when applicable, are directed to contact the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, who has been designated by the school to coordinate efforts to comply with the regulations regarding nondiscrimination.

## Harassment Policy

The University is committed to providing an educational environment free of unlawful harassment, discrimination and retaliation. In accordance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”), the University has enacted a Title IX Policy that applies to alleged harassment, discrimination, and retaliation on the basis of sex. This Policy applies when the alleged harassment, discrimination, or retaliation takes place in the United States.

Sexual harassment, defined as non-gender specific, is subject to disciplinary action, and includes the following:

- Harassment of one individual by another, regardless of gender
- Unwelcome sexual advances
- Requests for sexual favors and sexual displays of any kind
- Inappropriate sexual behavior or verbal abuse that is sexually based and offensive in nature

## Notice of Nondiscrimination

Applicants for admission and employment, students, parents, persons with disabilities, employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with AUACOM are hereby notified that this school does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, age, or disability in admission or access to, treatment of, or employment in its programs and activities. Any person having inquiries concerning the school's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), or Section 504 is directed to contact the Associate Dean of Student Affairs, at University Park, Jabberwock Beach Road, Coolidge, Antigua, 268-484-8900, or [studentaffairs@auamed.net](mailto:studentaffairs@auamed.net). This individual has been designated by the school to coordinate efforts to comply with the regulations regarding nondiscrimination.

## Clinical Clerkship Duty Hours Policy

### Purpose

Programs and sponsoring institutions must educate faculty and medical students concerning the professional responsibilities of physicians to appear appropriately rested and fit for duty to provide the services required by their patients. The purpose of this policy is to establish definitions and procedures to ensure students and faculty are educated about duty work hours and protect patients from preventable adverse events associated with excessive duty work hours.

### Statement

It is the policy of AUACOM to provide quality education in a safe patient-centered care environment. It is also the intent of AUACOM to provide a safe work environment for our students and faculty,

ensuring safe, quality care is protected. AUACOM is fully compliant with the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) Duty Hours Policy as outlined in the Residency Review Requirements. The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) follows these same policies for suggestions of duty hour requirements.

Medical students and faculty members must demonstrate an understanding and acceptance of their personal role in the following: assurance of the safety and welfare of patients entrusted to their care; provision of patient-centered care; assurance of their fitness for duty; management of their time before, during, and after clinical assignments; recognition of impairment, including illness and fatigue, in themselves and in their peers.

## Scope

This policy applies to all AUACOM students. Duty hours are defined as all clinical and academic activities related to the clerkship or elective rotation. Duty hours include all inpatient and outpatient clinical care, in-house calls, transfers of care, and administrative activities related to patient care such as medical record documentation and ordering and reviewing of lab or radiologic tests. Duty hours do not include reading, studying, research, or academic preparation.

## Section One: Duty Hours

The ACGME common program requirements state the following: “Duty hours must be limited to 80 hours per week, averaged over a 4-week period, inclusive of all in-house call activities. Time spent in the hospital by medical students or on at-home calls must count toward the 80-hour maximum weekly hour limit. LCME policy reflects that medical students should not have duty requirements greater than ACGME policies.”

## Section Two: Mandatory Time Free of Duty

Students must be scheduled for a minimum of one day free of duty every week (when averaged over 4 weeks). At-home calls cannot be assigned on these free days.

## Section Three: Maximum Duty Period Length

Medical student duty periods must not exceed 16 hours of continuous duration. This coincides with ACGME Post Graduate Year 1 requirements. Programs should encourage medical students to use alertness-management strategies in the context of patient care responsibilities. Strategic napping, especially after 16 hours of continuous duty and between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., is strongly suggested. Discontinuous on-call duty should not exceed 24 hours plus time for safe transfer of patient responsibilities.

## Section Four: Minimum Time Off Between Scheduled Duty Periods

A medical student should have 10 hours and must have 8 hours free of duty between scheduled duty periods. The faculty must monitor circumstances of return-to-hospital activities with fewer than 8 hours away from the hospital by the medical student.

## Section Five: In-House Calls

Medical students cannot be scheduled for in-house calls more than once every three nights, averaged over 4 weeks. The sponsoring institution must provide adequate sleep facilities and/or safe transportation options for students who may be too fatigued to safely return home. Appropriate facilities, including a call room, bed, clean linens, and towels with suitable phone and bathroom facilities must be provided by the hospital to all students taking in-house calls. The frequency of at-home calls is not subject to the every-third-night limitation but must satisfy the requirement for one-day-in-seven free of duty, when averaged over 4 weeks.

## Section Six: Personal Responsibilities for Minimizing Fatigue

Students should apply all expertise and knowledge when performing duties at work. This demands that the activities at the end of the work shift will command one's attention just as fully as those at the beginning of a shift.

Medical students are responsible for assuring that they are receiving adequate sleep to maximize their performance and minimize the chance of a fatigue-related adverse outcome. This may include alertness management and fatigue mitigation processes.

Medical students are to notify their faculty supervisor if they believe they are not able to function at full capacity.

## Section Seven: Reporting of Violations of Duty Hours Policy

Violations of this duty hour policy are to be reported to faculty and appropriate adjustments in scheduling are made if necessary to avoid further violations. If repetitive violations occur, it is to be reported to the AUACOM's chairperson of the respective department and/or to the Dean of Clinical Sciences. It is the responsibility of all to provide a safe environment for patients and students.

Please refer to the *AUACOM Clinical Rotations Guidelines* for further details.

## Policy on Peer-to-Peer File-Sharing and Copyright Infringement

Students are expected to comply with AUACOM's Peer-to-Peer File Sharing Policy, which outlines the appropriate use of university networks and the prohibition of unauthorized distribution of copyrighted materials. For full details including potential disciplinary and legal action, please refer to the official policy [available in Brightspace](#).

## Acceptable Use of Technology

Our computers' email and information systems have been organized to improve communication and reduce the time and effort it takes to complete administrative activities. Use of university-supplied computers, email, and information systems must always reflect that these are shared resources that have been established for the good of AUACOM and the university community. For full, please refer to the official policy available in Brightspace.

## Artificial Intelligence (AI) Responsible Use Policy

Students are expected to use AI tools ethically and in accordance with academic integrity standards. Unauthorized or unacknowledged use of AI in coursework, assessments, or clinical training may constitute academic misconduct. For full guidelines, including acceptable and prohibited uses, please refer to the university's official AI Policy [available in Brightspace](#).

## Student Auxiliary Services

### University Wellness Center (UWC)

<https://uwc.auamed.org/>

[UWC@auamed.net](mailto:UWC@auamed.net)

The University Wellness Center includes the University Health Clinic (UHC), University Counseling Center (UCC), and University Fitness Center (UFC).

The University Wellness Center strives to create a healthier campus with a balance between prevention and intervention. For students, we strive to address physical and mental health needs to support academic success and improved retention. For faculty and staff, we strive to foster a work-life balance and an overall enhanced quality of life through our support efforts and programs. Overall, we strive to provide comprehensive services and programs that promote healthy minds and bodies, positive

development, healthy change, wellness, and success for the entire campus community and the community at-large.

### **UWC Medical/Mental Health Excuse Policy for Students**

The University Wellness Center will only provide medical and mental health excuses to students for medical and mental health conditions that prevent them from attending an exam, lab, group activity, and meet the following conditions:

- A student UHC or UCC provider is involved in the medical/mental health care, and
- The condition is deemed significant by the UHC or UCC provider, and
- Based on an examination by the UHC or UCC provider, the student is advised not to attend class, or
- The student has proof of a documented hospitalization.

In general, the following conditions will not warrant a medical/mental health excuse:

- A request for a medical/mental health excuse from the UHC or UCC for verification of an illness after the illness is over.
- Missing class or an examination for an appointment at the UHC or UCC.

The following medical conditions do not warrant an excuse note:

- A sinus, ear, eye, or respiratory infection; sore throat; headache; or cough without significant symptoms (e.g., fever).
- Gastroenteritis (abdominal pain, cramps, vomiting, or diarrhea), unless there is fever and/or severe dehydration.
- Musculoskeletal conditions that do not prevent ambulation (such as minor ankle injuries, wrist sprains, etc.).

This policy is consistent with recommendations from the American College Health Association as well as with the policies of other peer institutions. This policy is also consistent with our commitment to maintain confidentiality, encourage appropriate use of health-care resources, and support meaningful dialogue between professors and students. Students are responsible for communicating directly with faculty regarding class attendance and/or completion of class assignments. If professors require written documentation of a UHC or UCC visit, due to the confidentiality of medical/mental health information, only the date and time of the visit will be provided.

### **UWC Dress Code**

The UHC/UCC dress code is to ensure the comfort of all present. All students should adhere to the General Dress Code Guidelines presented by the Office of Student Affairs. Persons arriving for routine visits in attire deemed inappropriate by the UHC or UCC staff may be asked to change prior to receiving service.

Students should wear appropriate workout clothing to the University Fitness Center.

## University Health Clinic (UHC)

<https://uwc.auamed.org/service/university-health-clinic/>  
[Clinic@auamed.net](mailto:Clinic@auamed.net)

The University Health Clinic (UHC) provides comprehensive medical and preventative healthcare that meets the needs of our diverse community in order to improve health outcomes, reduce health disparities, and support the wellbeing of the campus community and the community at large.

### Appointments

The University Health Clinic operates on an appointment system, which decreases waiting times and allows for better planning by all parties. Appointments can be made using this link <https://auamed.medicatconnect.com>, calling ext. 1562 or emailing [clinic@auamed.net](mailto:clinic@auamed.net).

Students seeking health services should check in at least 15 minutes prior to their appointment and bring the following:

- Student ID
- Government issued ID
- Insurance card

Cancellation of appointments should be done at least 24 hours in advance.

A non-refundable no-show/late cancellation fee of US\$50 will be charged. This fee is not covered by insurance.

All billing is processed by the University Wellness Center Billing Department.

### Hours of Operation

Opening hours of the University Health Clinic are Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30pm.

The UHC is closed on all observed holidays.

### Life-Threatening Emergencies

Students should call 911 if they are experiencing a life-threatening emergency and contact the UHC. For after-hours emergencies (between 4:30pm-8:00am), contact the AUACOM Emergency Phone at 268-764-0164. This number is also available via WhatsApp.

## Medical Records

The University Park Health Center operates with standards of care for all patients. To provide you with optimal and continuous care, we request that patients and prospective patients share updated medical records in their profile/chart in Medicat (the UHC's EHR system):

- From their attending physician at the beginning of each term
- After visiting their doctor overseas at any point during the term
- After visiting a local healthcare facility outside of the UHC

If needed, assistance can be provided with obtaining medical records.

## Confidentiality

UHC is committed to maintaining the privacy and security of your Protected Health Information (PHI) in accordance with HIPAA guidelines.

Information regarding the physical or mental status of patients is strictly confidential. Information will not be released to persons outside of the student health center without the patients' written consent, unless legally mandated (e.g., for insurance purposes).

## Authorization to Release Healthcare Information

All patients are required to complete the Authorization to Release Healthcare Information form at the front desk of the University Wellness Center. This applies to copies of a patient's chart and medical reports issued by the physicians at this facility.

The Authorization to Release Healthcare Information form will be added to the patient's chart in Medicat.

The date of the request will be logged, and the request will be completed within seven business days.

A government-issued picture ID must be presented at the time of the request.

Expiration of the Authorization to Release Healthcare Information form occurs after 90 days.

## Services Provided

Services are available to faculty, staff, and students who are actively enrolled in academic course work. Services are also extended to family members. Insurance cards and identification badges are required to be seen at the health center.

We provide routine medical treatment to include screening, vaccinations, some routine blood tests, electrocardiograms, ultrasounds, and referrals for specialized services such as Surgical, Orthopedic, Optical, and many more. Our other services include:

- Medical care: Skilled physicians and nurses provide primary care services

- Preventative medicine: We offer immunizations, screenings, and health education
- Pharmacy services: Convenient access to medications and consultations with pharmacists
- Radiology services, including ultrasounds and referrals for x-rays
- Doctor consultations + referrals to specialty services
- General health laboratory tests (cholesterol/lipid profile, hemoglobin, liver and renal function, HbA1c, other screening tests)
- Vaccinations [HPV, Varicella (chicken pox), Hepatitis B, MMR (measles, mumps, rubella), Influenza, TDAP]
- Tuberculosis Skin Test (PPD)
- Electrocardiogram (ECG)

#### Services Not Provided

- Surgical procedures (outpatient and inpatient)
- Cost of inpatient medical care and hospitalization
- Routine eye care (refraction, prescription glasses, contact lens care, etc.)
- Routine dental care
- Ambulance services
- Obstetrical care
- Male and female fertility evaluation

## University Counseling Center (UCC)

<https://uwc.auamed.org/service/university-counseling-center/>  
[UCC@auamed.net](mailto:UCC@auamed.net)

The University Counseling Center (UCC) addresses the psychological, social, emotional, and developmental needs of a diverse population of AUACOM students, faculty, and staff through a commitment to provide counseling and preventive services. In alignment with the AUACOM mission, the UCC also provides a supportive environment to enhance all students' potential for academic success.

### Appointments

The University Counseling Center operates on an appointment system, which decreases waiting times and allows for better planning by all parties. Appointments can be made using this link <https://auamed.medicatconnect.com>, calling ext. 1587, or emailing [ucc@auamed.net](mailto:ucc@auamed.net).

Students seeking counseling services should check in at least 15 minutes prior to their appointment and bring the following:

- Student ID
- Government issued ID
- Insurance card

Cancellation of appointments should be done at least 24 hours in advance. A non-refundable no-show fee/late cancellation fee of US\$50 will be charged. This fee is not covered by insurance.

All billing is processed by the University Wellness Center Billing Department.

## Hours of Operation

Opening hours of the University Counseling Center are Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 6:00pm. The UCC is closed on all observed holidays.

## Life-Threatening Emergencies

Students should call 911 if they are experiencing a life-threatening emergency and contact the UCC. For after-hours emergencies (between 4:30pm-8:00am), contact the AUACOM Emergency Phone at 268-764-0164. This number is also available via WhatsApp.

## Confidentiality

The University Counseling Center staff maintain professional ethical standards, regarding confidentiality. We honor the counselor-client relationship. Therefore, confidentiality is one of the most important parts of each counseling session. Upon entering counseling, clients are notified of the Privacy Policy and the limits of confidentiality. Documentation from sessions is not placed in any personnel, academic, or educational file regarding attendance, content of sessions, or progress.

## Authorization to Release Mental Health Information

All clients are required to complete a Release of Information form to request or share confidential mental health information.

The Release of Information form will be added to the client's chart in Medicat (the UCC's EHR system).

The date of the request will be logged, and the request will be completed within seven business days.

A government-issued picture ID must be presented at the time of the request.

Expiration of the Release of Information form occurs after 60 days.

## Services Provided

Many students experience life events or academic pressures that leave them feeling anxious, confused, lonely, angry, depressed, or overwhelmed, and it is often helpful to speak with an unbiased, objective professional. Any personal issue that is troubling students is confidentially discussed in counseling. Our counselors can assist with navigating many of the more challenging aspects of the human experience including but not limited to the following:

- Adjusting to AUACOM and Antigua

- Alcohol- and drug-related issues
- Anger Management
- Anxiety and stress management
- Depression
- Eating and sleep concerns
- Interpersonal conflicts
- Learning difficulties
- Loss and grief
- Psychological issues
- Self-esteem and personal growth
- Sexuality and gender issues
- Test Anxiety
- Trauma
- Understanding cultural differences

UCC services include individual counseling, group counseling, workshops, and AA/NA meetings.

## University Fitness Center (UFC)

<https://uwc.auamed.org/service/university-fitness-center/>  
[AUAFitnessCenter@auamed.net](mailto:AUAFitnessCenter@auamed.net)

### Hours of Operation

Opening hours of the University Fitness Center are:

Monday through Friday	5:00 am to 10:00pm
Saturday	10:00 am to 6:00pm
Sunday	10:00 am to 4:00pm

The UFC is closed on all observed holidays. UFC hours are modified during School Breaks.

### Services Provided

The University Fitness Center (UFC) includes the Gym and the Wellness Spa.

The Gym provides the following services:

- Cardio Machines
- Weight Machines
- Conditioning Machines
- Fitness Accessories
- Locker Rooms with Showers
- Lockers

The Wellness Spa provides the following services:

- Massage Therapy
- Massage Chair
- Sauna Services

The University Wellness Spa operates on an appointment system, which decreases waiting times and allows for better planning by all parties. Appointments can be made using this link <https://tinyurl.com/WellnessSpaAppointments> or emailing [AUAspa@auamed.net](mailto:AUAspa@auamed.net).

## AUACOM Student Policy for Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention

The University maintains a substance-free workplace. Individuals impaired by the use of alcohol and drugs are harmful to themselves, the University's mission, the treatment of patients, and the wellbeing of co-workers, students, and visitors. The University expects students to adhere to the policies contained herein regarding the consumption and serving of alcoholic beverages on University property and at University events. AUACOM also expects students who are of legal drinking age in Antigua to act responsibly on the occasions when they choose to consume alcoholic beverages.

The University prohibits the illegal use or the abusive use of alcohol or other illegal drugs on University property or at events that utilize the University's name. In accordance with Antiguan law, the University also strictly prohibits the use, possession, manufacture, sale, or distribution of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia in Antigua. Students who are located in other jurisdictions, including the United States, for their clinical clerkships must follow applicable law in those jurisdictions, as well as the rules and regulations of their clinical sites. Students are expected to use only those prescription medications that are prescribed for them within the confines of a provider/patient relationship. Students are prohibited from using prescription medications not prescribed for them. The full policy on Substance Abuse Prevention and Intervention can be [viewed in Brightspace](#).

## Accommodation and Disability Services Policy

The University complies with all laws and regulations applicable to qualified individuals with disabilities as required in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Amendments Act of 2008. These laws mandate reasonable accommodations that ensure students with disabilities the opportunity for equal access to, and participation in, all University facilities, programs, activities, and services.

It is the responsibility of the student to request accommodation by registering with OSA and to provide appropriate documentation from a qualified clinician in support of the request for services. Students must confer with OSA each term, as appropriate accommodation may vary from course to course or

your testing accommodations needs may have changed. The Office of Student Affairs will prepare accommodation notices which will be provided to the student, exam center or instructor at the student's request.

## Confidentiality

All documentation provided to OSA will be strictly confidential. No information, except as provided by law, will be released to anyone, including parents, without the student's written consent.

## Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity

AUACOM, an equal access/equal opportunity institution, complies with all applicable state and federal laws granting rights to applicants for employment or admission to the University, employees, and students and therefore does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, age, religion, marital status, veteran status, disability, genetic information, pregnancy status, and any other factor protected under the law, state or federal, in employment, admissions, or educational programs and activities.

Harassment of any kind, including sexual harassment, is prohibited.

If a student believes that he or she has been subjected to discrimination or harassment based on their disability, they may file a complaint with OSA.

## Who is Eligible for Accommodation Services?

The University provides services to all qualified students with disabilities as defined by law.

No otherwise qualified individual with a disability in shall, solely by reason of her or his disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, 29 U.S.C. § 794).

A qualified individual with a disability means:

“...an individual who, with or without reasonable accommodations to rules, policies, or practices, the removal of architectural, communication, or transportation barriers, or the provision of auxiliary aids and services, meets the essential requirements for the receipt of services or the participation in programs or activities” (Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §12131 [Sec. 201.])

The definition of a disability includes a person who:

- has a physical or mental impairment which substantially limits one or more of such a person's major life activities
- has a record of such impairment or is regarded as having such impairment (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 34 C.F.R. [Part 104])

A “qualified” person with a disability is defined as one... “who meets the academic and technical standards requisite to admission or participation in the education program or activity.”

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 protects the rights of qualified individuals who have disabilities such as, but not limited to:

Blindness/Visual Impairment	Cerebral Palsy
Deafness/Hearing Impairment	Specific Learning Disability
Orthopedic/Mobility Impairment	Multiple Sclerosis
Spinal Cord Injury	Speech Disorders
Arthritis	Traumatic Brain Injury
Psychiatric Disability	Terminal Illness

## Student Responsibilities

Students with disabilities have the responsibility to:

- Meet and maintain the institution's academic and technical standards for courses, programs, services, activities, and facilities.
- Self-identify as an individual with a disability when accommodation is needed and seek information, counsel, and assistance as necessary.
- Provide appropriate documentation of the disability and how it limits participation in courses, programs, services, activities, and facilities to the University to determine eligibility for services.
- Follow procedures for obtaining reasonable accommodations, academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids and services.
- Meet and abide by the University's academic, conduct, and technical standards.
- Request accommodations with the campus OSA representative at the beginning of each term by completing a Term Request for Services form and submitting it to your campus OSA representative.
- Follow published policies and procedures of OSA and the American University of Antigua.
- Contacting the Office of Student Affairs if reasonable academic adjustments or accommodations are not implemented in an effective or timely manner.
- Accommodations are designed to meet students with disabilities' individual learning needs and does not reduce students' responsibility for meeting the academic standards, conduct codes and course requirements at the American University of Antigua.

American University of Antigua has the responsibility to:

- Provide information to students with disabilities in accessible formats upon request.
- Ensure that courses, programs, activities, and facilities, when viewed in their entirety, are available and usable in the most integrated and appropriate settings.

- Evaluate students on their abilities and not their disabilities.
- Provide or arrange reasonable accommodations, academic adjustments, and/or auxiliary aids and services for students with disabilities in courses, programs, activities, and facilities.
- Maintain appropriate confidentiality of records and communication.

## Student Rights

Students with disabilities have the right to:

- Participate equally in and benefit from courses, programs, services, activities, and facilities offered through the University.
- Access reasonable accommodations and/or auxiliary aids and services with equity.
- Expect confidentiality regarding disability-related information and to choose to whom information about that disability will be disclosed except as disclosures are required/permitted by law.
- File a grievance if a disability discrimination issue cannot be satisfactorily resolved.

## Steps to Register with the Office of Student Affairs

Disclosure of a disability is voluntary. If you are a student with a disability and may need services, accommodations, or access, follow these four steps:

1. Make an appointment with OSA
2. Submit current documentation from a qualified professional to support the disability claim prior to meeting with an OSA Accommodation/504 Officer
3. Meet with the Accommodation/504 Officer to complete the intake process.
4. Request services each term (minimum of three weeks' notice) through OSA.

## Testing Accommodations

AUACOM recognizes the right of students with certified disabilities to have appropriate test access and accommodations. The purpose of testing accommodations is to enable students with disabilities to participate in assessment programs on an equal basis with their nondisabled peers. Testing accommodations provide an opportunity for students with disabilities to demonstrate mastery skills and attainment of knowledge without being limited or unfairly restricted because of their disability.

Testing accommodations promote access for students with disabilities to assessment programs.

Testing accommodations should not be excessive and should not alter the standard administration of the test.

Testing accommodations are neither intended nor permitted to do the following:

1. Alter the construct of the test being measured or invalidate the results
2. Provide an unfair advantage for students with disabilities over students taking tests under standardized conditions
3. Substitute for knowledge or abilities that the student has not attained

Students with disabilities are eligible for test accommodations as determined on an individual basis. This includes any quizzes or examinations taken during the term in conjunction with an academic class.

Examples of test accommodations provided at AUACOM include the following:

1. Up to double time for quizzes and examinations
2. A quiet, low-distraction environment
3. A proctor remaining in the testing area

Additional accommodation may be provided as determined on an individual basis by the Office of Student Affairs.

## Procedures for Requesting Testing Accommodations

The procedures for requesting testing accommodations are as follows:

1. Students requesting accommodations must notify and bring their documentation to the Office of Student Affairs. Appropriate documentation that establishes the disability and need for testing accommodations must be on file with that office.
2. Notification of the appropriate accommodations will be provided to the Examination Center, the Registrar, and to the Associate Dean of Student Affairs.

Students with disabilities have the right to privacy and confidentiality regarding their disability.

Instructors and proctors will not ask students why they need testing accommodations nor disclose the names of the students requiring testing accommodation to other parties (especially other students).

Approval by the Office of Student Affairs for a quiet, low-distraction environment in which to sit an examination is not approval for a separate or private room in which to sit an exam. The Office of Student Affairs has determined that the test facilities on AUACOM's campus and at Prometric Centers are sufficiently quiet and free from distraction to accommodate most students with disabilities that require a quiet, low distraction environment to accommodate their disabilities. If OSA having evaluated the clinical documentation provided by a student seeking test accommodations concludes that a private or separate room is necessary to accommodate a student's disability, it will recommend that accommodation, whereupon AUA will pay for this separate or private testing room. Students can opt for a separate testing room even if they are not approved for test accommodations, however, unless they are approved by OSA for a separate testing room, they themselves must pay the additional \$400 charged by the Prometric Center.

## Procedures for Providing Testing Accommodations

Although the documentation of a student's disability and the determination of the appropriate, reasonable examination accommodations are the responsibility of OSA, these examination accommodations will be provided and administered by the Examination Center. Tests are to be scheduled on the same day and time but in a different location.

The Examination Center is responsible for coordinating the following:

1. A quiet, low-distraction location for the test
2. A proctor for the test
3. Private, confidential dissemination of the location and time to students with testing accommodations

Students are responsible for the following:

1. Being prompt and on time for tests. Students who arrive after the scheduled seating time will not be permitted to sit for the examination.
2. Adhering to the University's Honor Code. Students suspected of academic dishonesty will be referred for disciplinary action.

### **Requesting Testing Accommodations for the Comprehensive Basic Science Examination and Comprehensive Clinical Science Examination**

If students require testing accommodations for either the Comprehensive Basic Science Examination (CBSE) and/or the Comprehensive Clinical Science Examination (CCSE), they must have prior documentation on file with the Office of Student Affairs that indicates the disability and need for testing accommodations.

If students require these accommodations for testing, they must email [registrar@auamed.net](mailto:registrar@auamed.net) the same date they register for the comprehensive examination. If students do not request testing accommodations when they register for the comprehensive examination, accommodations cannot be made. If students require accommodations, they must email a request for testing accommodations every time they register for a comprehensive examination.

### **Requesting Testing Accommodations for the Clinical Core Subject Shelf Examination**

If students require testing accommodations for the Clinical Core Subject Shelf Examination (CCSSE), they must have prior documentation on file with OSA that indicates the disability and need for testing accommodations.

If students require these accommodations for testing, they must email [registrar@auamed.net](mailto:registrar@auamed.net) no later than 1 week from the scheduled start date of their current clinical rotation. If students do not request testing accommodations within 1 week from their core rotation start date, accommodations cannot be made. Students requiring accommodations must email a request for testing accommodations every time they are scheduled for a core rotation.

### **Requesting Testing Accommodations for USMLE Step 1 and Step 2 CK**

Students who have a documented disability covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and wish to have accommodations when taking any USMLE licensing examination must apply to the

NBME in writing for such accommodations. Information regarding procedures and documentation requirements for accommodation requests on USMLE licensing Examinations is available at the USMLE website at [www.usmle.org/test-accommodations/](http://www.usmle.org/test-accommodations/). Students who seek accommodations should submit their requests and accompanying documentation to the NBME at the time they apply for USMLE licensing exams. If necessary, OSA will assist in the process.

Students must submit documentation from a qualified professional to support their requests for accommodations; this documentation will be carefully considered by the NBME. Should the NBME's review of the documentation result in a denial of a student's request, the NBME will explain its reasons in writing. The fact that a student has previously received accommodations in other contexts or on other exams, in and of itself, is not a sufficient basis for, or sufficient documentation for, the grant of accommodations on subsequent exams. USMLE Step test accommodation inquiries should be directed to Disability Services via email at [disabilityservices@nbme.org](mailto:disabilityservices@nbme.org) or telephone at 215-590-9700.

## Service Animal and Emotional Service Animal Policy

The University is committed to ensuring that students with disabilities who rely on service animals can have access to all public areas, attend classes, and participate in campus activities.

The University complies with the American with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADA Amendments Act) in allowing the use of Service Animals for students, staff and visitors. The University is committed to allowing Service Animals as necessary to provide individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to access the programs, services, and physical facilities of the University. The full policy can be [viewed in Brightspace](#).

## University Library

### Library Overview

The University Library is an integral part of the educational mission of the University, and as such it is involved heavily with curriculum and its updates.

The library serves the students and the faculty of university by providing information resources that meet the education and research needs of the students and faculty.

The library works with faculty to embed relevant information resources – eBooks, journal articles, multi-media, etc. - at point of need in curricular units.

To promote self-directed learning, faculty and students have continued access to textbooks and biomedical eBooks, databases, and eJournals. These are available in the library, in the classroom, on clinical rotations, and at home; in short, available anywhere.

## Physical Space

The library provides over 25,000 sq. feet of study space, with a seating capacity of approximately 850, available 23/7, with reliable Wi-Fi.

## Library Information Resources

Students and faculty can access over 3000 print books, 1500 eBooks important knowledge-bases like ClinicalKey, Access Medicine, MEDLINE, LWW health Library, UpToDate and DynaMed, practice Qbanks and a growing collection of eJournals in the biomedical, clinical, and education disciplines including JAMA, NEJM etc.

For more information, please visit [library.auamed.net](http://library.auamed.net) or contact the Associate Dean of Library Learning Resources +1 (268) 484-8900 Ext. 1171

## Internet

The library provides free access to computer workstations and wireless internet access to students and faculty for learning, research, and teaching. The entire library has Wi-Fi hot spots. The university encourages students to bring their personal laptops to the library to take advantage of Wi-Fi connections.

The Acceptable Use of Technology Policy (AUT) details policies regarding appropriate use of copyrighted material, computer equipment, the email system, and the internet. The AUT Policy can be [accessed in Brightspace](#). Students are encouraged to contact the Campus Technology Services service desk ([servicedesk@auamed.net](mailto:servicedesk@auamed.net)) for more information.

## Identification Cards

Students must display their AUA identification card to gain entry to the library and for all library transactions and services, including borrowing books, making photocopies, and using multimedia resources. Although the library also serves Antiguan health professionals, only AUA students and faculty members have the privilege of borrowing library materials.

## Library Hours

Monday - Sunday 8:00am to 7:00am.

Cleaning and maintenance are done between the hours of 7:00am – 8:00am daily.

The library observes Antigua National Holidays and will be closed on those days.

## Library Policies

1. Eating, smoking, vaping, using mobile phones, and speaking loudly are prohibited in the library at all times.
2. Students are permitted to bring coffee, water and soft drinks inside the library.

3. Students are expected to return library materials on time.
4. Overdue charges are assessed on overdue items borrowed from the library to ensure the prompt and timely return of frequently used items. Students will sign an invoice for all such charges, which will be submitted to the Bursar's Office on the Antigua campus.
5. Students who steal, damage, or vandalize library materials, equipment, or furniture will incur the costs of replacing these items and/or face disciplinary action. Students should not move the library furniture, especially the sofas, as they intend to remain in their designated positions.
6. Students are urged not to leave valuables (laptops, phones, iPads, purses, etc.) on library tables. The library is not liable for the loss or damage of a student's property (e.g., notebooks, laptops, and personal items) left unattended in the library.
7. The library staff initially will warn any student who ignores library policies. Thereafter, the staff will inform the Director for Library Services, who then refers the issue to the Associate Dean of Student Affairs. Students who receive more than three warnings for inappropriate behavior are subject to disciplinary action, which includes but is not limited to denial of library access and services for the remainder of the current term and/or the following term.
8. Students are required to be respectful to library staff. They must understand that the library personnel are performing their duties as assigned; these duties also include assisting students in the provision of information and reading materials. Students who threaten a staff member physically will be suspended immediately, pending a hearing that may result in dismissal from AUACOM.
9. If any incidence of rude behavior is noted by the library personnel, please report the matter in writing to the director for library services or the associate director of administration so that the necessary investigation can be carried out.
10. Photocopying is available in the library. Students will be billed for photocopies by the Bursar's Office.
11. All students have full off-campus access to online resources through the library website, <http://library.auamed.net>, using their network username and password.
12. Students should refrain from attempting to reserve study spaces by leaving personal belongings; they should store their items in the cubbies in case they return to the library on the same day. Belongings will be cleared to allow others to use study spaces. Particular study spaces may not be designated by students as only for a particular semester or group. Seats may be reserved exclusively for students with special accommodation, and got approval from Associate Dean of Students Affairs.
13. Animals are absolutely not allowed in any part of the library. The only exception to this policy would be service animals with proper documentation.
14. Visitors need to obtain written permission from the Associate Dean of Library Learning Resources to use the library facility.

## AUACOM-Approved Housing

New trimester students enrolled in preclinical sciences courses are required to live in AUACOM-approved housing for two trimesters. The housing provider will collect and maintain a \$1,000 USD housing damage deposit to cover damages to AUACOM-housing, missing inventory and unpaid utilities charges. Provided there is no damage to the housing, missing inventory or unpaid utility charges, this deposit will be refunded in full at the end of the student's lease.

Housing for students enrolled in clinical clerkships and most housing for pre-clinical sciences students is completely independent. Students must make their own arrangements with outside providers; costs for such housing vary greatly depending on the clinical site and the students' requirements for amenities and location.

### Deposits

A non-refundable Seat deposit of \$500 USD to be applied against the cost of tuition is due upon acceptance of AUACOM's offer of enrollment in pre-clinical sciences courses. Students who will live in AUACOM-approved housing are required to remit a non-refundable housing deposit of \$750 USD to the housing provider, which will be applied against the cost of housing. If a student pays both deposits together (Seat and Housing bundle) then they are eligible for a discounted fee of \$1000 USD covering both Seat and Housing deposits. If a student pays the seat deposit of \$500 USD within 72 hours of acceptance to the university, then they are eligible for a housing deposit waiver.

Student housing is restricted to the students of AUACOM while they are attending classes on campus in Antigua. Fees are levied for the entire term and do not include utilities or internet charges. Housing fees are not pro-rata and are not refundable.

Students who leave school for whatever reason are required to pack and leave housing and submit their keys to the department of Residential Services within 3-5 business days of leaving school. Utility charges will cease to be levied against them once the keys are returned. Key return steps outlined in the following section should be followed.

### Key Return Policy

At the end of the term, students in AUACOM Housing are required to return keys within 3-5 business days using the below process:

1. Using the following Cognito Form Link, students must submit request to return keys.  
<https://www.cognitoforms.com/AUA10/AUAHOUSINGKEYLOG>
2. Keys should be returned to the Residential Services office between 8:00am and 4:30pm. If a student is vacating on the weekend or after business hours, keys must be returned to Campus Security.
3. Residential Services or Campus Security will confirm receipt of the keys via the Cognito Form and a receipt will be issued to the student's email for record purposes.
4. Note that student keys are not considered returned until the above process takes place.

It is important to note the following:

- Students are required to return keys with the key labels as received. If we receive a key without a label, the student is subject to charges for a replacement.
- Students who are issued gate remotes are required to submit them, clearly labelled with their apartment number. If gate remotes are not received, students are subject to charges for a replacement.
- When vacating housing, all personal items must be removed. You are considered vacated when both keys are returned to Residential Services and all personal effects removed from the housing facility. It should be noted that if personal items remain in the room, even if keys are returned, it will not be considered vacated and therefore rent and utilities will be applicable.
- After inspections and damage assessments, the housing damage deposit refund will be issued less any damage charge, missing inventory and outstanding utility amount. Students should see this issued to their account within the term following the end of their lease.

## Lock Out Housing Policy

If a student is locked out of their room, these procedures should be followed:

1. Find a roommate so that he/she can let you in to retrieve your keys
2. Contact your RA for your apartment building (if applicable)
3. During business hours (8 AM – 4:30 PM go to the Residential Services office on Campus for assistance
4. Between the hours of 4:30 PM - 7:00 AM Monday – Friday and on weekends call Campus Security at 268-484-8900 or WhatsApp 268-764-4591 for assistance. Note that students who are locked out after the hours of 12AM may be asked to find alternate accommodation until appropriate arrangements can be made to safely let them into their housing.

The student will not receive a charge for the first lockout. Continued lockouts throughout the term will result in the following charge: 2nd lockout and each additional lockout = \$25 USD service fee.

## Lease Renewal

Students can submit an application for AUACOM housing at the end of their mandatory two trimester requirement and each term after. For students who are renewing Leases, this can be either for the current room or another housing facility within the AUACOM housing inventory. Note that applications being accepted will depend on room availability. Once assigned, students will be required to sign leases to hold their room assignments.

The housing sublease agreement, once signed, is binding. Students are subject to the written terms of the lease and the housing fee is non-refundable and non-prorated.

Lease cancellation requests before the lease term period commences will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and if granted, are subject to a penalty fee of a prorated amount equivalent to one (1) month of the

assigned housing fee. Any cancellation allowances will solely be at the discretion of the AUACOM Office of the Associate VP for Administration.

## Campus Transportation

In conjunction with an independent bus company, the university provides subsidized transportation for students between university-sponsored housing locations and the campus. The AUACOM transportation plan includes a weekly supermarket shuttle which is provided based on students' weekly subscription. The transportation service is available to students residing in university-sponsored housing. This service is also available to students who live in independent housing along the bus route between university housing and campus and are on the AUACOM transportation plan. Students can purchase bus transportation for a term's duration. Once purchased, bus transportation is non-refundable.

New students living in AUACOM housing must use the transportation provided by the university for one trimester. These students will be billed at the beginning of the trimester.

Contact the Bursar's Office to inquire about or subscribe to the bus transportation plan.

## Campus Safety and Security

### Campus Parking Guidelines

All vehicles driven by students MUST be registered with the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board (ABTB) and legally allowed to be driven on the country's roads/streets. All AUACOM community members are also required to register their vehicle with the Department of Campus Safety and Security and must have a valid parking permit. Students registering a vehicle must have the following:

1. Valid Antigua and Barbuda permanent or temporary Driver's License
2. Valid vehicle registration card (Yellow card).
3. Valid Student ID

AUACOM assumes no responsibility or liability for fire, theft, damage to or loss of any vehicles parked on its campus, or any article left therein.

Parking regulations are detailed below for students who are required to comply with the university's policies.

If a vehicle is sold or no longer in use, the AUACOM parking permit holder must remove the permit and return it to the university. Any violations issued to the vehicle will be the responsibility of the original AUACOM parking permit holder.

## Parking Permits

Parking permits are available for purchase for students with valid Antigua and Barbuda driver's licenses and vehicle registration information. The parking permit enables the student vehicle to park on campus in designated student parking spaces, according to availability of those spaces; it also facilitates the ability for Security to be able to make contact should any situation or emergency arise concerning the vehicle warrant a prompt notification.

A new permit is required for each term. Student Parking Permits cost \$100 USD per term. Please purchase on Cashnet and provide receipt to Campus Security.

Altering a parking permit is a violation of the college's parking policy. This may result in the vehicle being towed and the owner being fined and/or referred to the Professional Standards Committee. Altered permits will be confiscated and the vehicle's owner will lose their parking privileges for the remainder of the academic year.

Any vehicle, including rentals, parked on any campus without a current, visible AUACOM parking permit, will be towed, ticketed, and/or have a windshield annoyance sticker affixed.

If a vehicle is sold, developed mechanical problems or involved in an accident that renders it inoperable, the old permit must be removed and returned to the office of Campus Safety and Security; a replacement permit will then be issued without additional cost. Lost or stolen permits must be reported to security immediately. Failure to do so may result in the owner's vehicle being towed from campus, a fine and/or a referral to the Professional Standards Committee.

## Student Parking

Students are not allowed to park in designated faculty and staff parking spots which are marked with Yellow Lines. Students are never allowed to park in spots that are specifically reserved for the handicapped or a named individual.

## Bicycle Parking

Bikes are not allowed in the academic buildings and must not be parked in hallways, stairwells, lobbies or against posts, trees, fences, benches, signs, railings, gates or other objects. Bikes which are not parked in the designated bike rack often constitute a hazard and will be removed or immobilized by Campus Security. Students will need to provide proof of ownership to campus security to claim a bike which has been immobilized or removed.

## Visitor Parking

Students are not allowed to park in designated visitor spots. Visitors must present their driver's license to be held by the security guards at the designated security stall. The security guard will record the plate identification number and issue a visitor parking pass, which must be prominently displayed on the

vehicle while parked on campus. Visitors are required to return the pass to the security guard. Upon surrendering the pass, visitors' driver's licenses will be returned.

## Enforcement Policy

Campus security officers are empowered to enforce the university's rules and regulations. Tickets are issued by security when rules and regulations are broken. Once a ticket is written, a guard is not permitted to void, erase, or destroy the summons. It must be complied with. Security guards are under specific instructions not to speak to anyone while in the process of writing a ticket.

All AUACOM community members are required to observe all posted signs and comply with the instructions of campus security officers. The verbal instructions of security officers supersede all posted signs. Failure to recognize the authority vested in the security guards is an offense.

## Parking Ticket Appeals/Suspension of Driving/Parking Privileges

Parking fines will be applied directly to student accounts. Students who receive excessive parking tickets will be reported for student conduct review and may lose their parking privileges.

Appeal of tickets is welcome; however, frivolous parking appeals will be dismissed by the University. Appeal of tickets for vehicles parked in handicapped spaces, fire lanes or specifically reserved spaces will not be considered. Student appeals are reviewed by Campus Safety and Security and Student Affairs. Ticket appeals may be made in writing within seven calendar days (no exceptions) of the date of the ticket and will be accepted only if the citation is attached (no exceptions). A decision will be made by the appeals committee regarding the merit of the appealed circumstances and the determined course of action. The reviewed decision will be considered final.

## Parking Ticket Appeals Form

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/AUA10/ParkingTicketAppeals>

Insulting guards while they are performing their duties is unacceptable behavior and will result in further action and charges against the community member. Anyone charged with disobeying a security officer will be automatically referred to the Grievance and Professional Standards Committee. Any flagrant offense, multiple offenses, and/or three or more violations of the same offense in a term will result in an automatic referral to the Grievance and Professional Standards Committee.

## Violations & Fines

The registered permit holder is responsible for all traffic citations received on the vehicle, regardless of whether or not they are in immediate control of the car.

Violations are assessed as follows:

Failure to register a motor vehicle	\$50.00 USD
Failure to properly display a parking permit	\$50.00 USD
Parking a bicycle in an unauthorized space	\$50.00 USD
Parking in a faculty/staff space (if student)	\$50.00 USD
Parking or driving on grass or walkway	\$50.00 USD
Dangerous driving/Excessive speed	\$100.00 USD
Parking in a handicap space	\$100.00 USD
Driving the wrong way on a one-way road	\$100.00 USD
Blocking fire hydrant/Parking in a fire lane	\$100.00 USD
Noncompliance to campus security instruction	\$100.00 USD
Forging or tampering a parking permit in any manner	\$200.00 USD
Using a parking permit on a vehicle it was not issued on	\$200.00 USD
Selling or transferring your parking permit	\$200.00 USD
Tampering with Immobilizer/Boot	\$200.00 USD
Boot Removal Fee	\$200.00 USD
Suspended vehicle (10 tickets or more)	\$200.00 USD
Warning (at S/O discretion)	No fine

For additional information please refer to the Campus Parking Regulations & Policies or if you have questions contact Campus Safety and Security at ext. 1206/7, WhatsApp 2687644591 or email: [campussecurity@auamed.net](mailto:campussecurity@auamed.net).

## Access to Campus

Security Gate #1 - Conference Center  
 Security Gate #2 - Main Entrance  
 Security Gate #3 - Closed  
 Security Gate #4 - Service Entrance  
 Security Gate #5 - Wellness Center Entrance

There is no other authorized access to campus. Campus Security will deny you access to campus by another route.

## Prior to Entering Campus

### Identification

Identification must be valid and be visible at all times. To gain access to campus students must present a valid school ID and/or show Envoy app clearance. Security officers are authorized to request identification of any person on campus property at any time. Staff and Faculty may also request to view your identification.

## Replacing a Missing ID Card

A replacement ID card costs \$10 USD and should be purchased on Cashnet. The receipt should be sent to [registrarbookings@auamed.net](mailto:registrarbookings@auamed.net) to arrange collection of newly printed ID. On weekends students without an ID will be issued a temporary ID card by Security to be returned to Security when leaving the campus. Students must present a valid government issued ID card to obtain a temporary ID. If the temporary ID is not returned when leaving campus or is lost, a \$25 USD charge will be applied to the student account.

## Reporting Incidents

The College requires that all criminal actions, suspected criminal actions, accidents, or unusual incidents be reported immediately. For students this can be done in a variety of ways, through Campus Safety and Security, Officer of Student Affairs or your professor.

In cases of emergency, the University's Switchboard Operator (-0- from any campus phone) should be contacted immediately. The Switchboard Operator will directly contact Campus Security. If the switchboard is closed your call will be directed to Campus Security. Assistance can be requested by dialing 911 from any phone.

### Incident Reporting Form

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/AUACollegeOfMedicine/IncidentReportingForm>

## Visitor Access to Campus

In order to better protect our students and staff visitors to campus must enter through the main security check point (Gate 2 Main Entrance).

Visitors to students may only be granted access if

1. Preapproval for access is granted,
2. The student is present at the security desk to sign them in, and
3. The student is responsible for their guests at all times.

### AUACOM Visitor Form

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/AUACollegeOfMedicine/AUAVisitorForm>

## Hours of Access

All School academic facilities are open for visitor access 9:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.

Visitors are allowed access to the common areas on campus.

## Restricted Access

Visitors are not allowed in the following areas unless authorized in advance by Office of Vice-President for Administration:

- Classrooms/Homerooms
- Laboratories, and laboratory support rooms
- Gym

Library visitors require permission from the Associate Dean of Library Learning Resources

Visitors are expected to abide by university policies and follow instructions given by the Campus Safety and Security Team. AUACOM reserves the right to refuse or revoke access to anyone if, in our sole discretion, we believe the individual could present a health, security, or safety risk to our campus.

## Campus Recreation

The primary function of the gym, tennis courts, sports field, volleyball court, and basketball court is to serve the recreational, educational, wellness, and athletic needs of AUACOM students, faculty, staff, spouses, and immediate family members. The following rules apply:

- Patrons utilize all recreational facilities at their own risk.
- All patrons must follow proper court etiquette at all times (no swearing, throwing sports equipment, etc.) and be considerate of players on adjoining courts.
- No food, drink (except water in closed containers), or chewing gum is permitted. Patrons are expected to keep the courts and surrounding areas clean.
- Appropriate athletic footwear is required. Shoes that leave black marks on the courts are prohibited.
- Proper athletic attire, including a shirt, must be worn at all times.
- Alcoholic beverages are not permitted anywhere on AUACOM property.
- Smoking and vaping are not allowed on campus.

Use of the Gym by Immediate Family Members:

- The gym is an adult facility.
- Use by immediate family members is permitted during non-peak hours: 8:00 AM–11:00 AM or 1:00 PM–3:00 PM.
- The university reserves the right to review and make changes to this policy without notice or to deny or revoke access to its facilities at its discretion.
- The university may also temporarily suspend this privilege based on equipment wear and tear, availability, or other operational considerations.

## Holidays and Weekends

AUACOM is a nonsectarian secular institution.

The official holidays of the nation hosting the campus are the only holidays that may be recognized.

Excellence in education is part of the mission of AUACOM. Both formal (e.g., examinations) and informal academic activities may also be held on weekends and holidays.

## Handicapped Access

The island of Antigua provides limited special accommodations for handicapped or disabled individuals.

However, in compliance with the [Disabilities and Equality Opportunities Act of 2017](#), AUACOM provides individuals with a disability the accommodations to access spaces within the campus, by providing elevators, ramps, and other accommodations as needed. If any individual on AUACOM's Antigua campus is in need of accommodations due to a disability, they should contact [studentaffairs@auamed.net](mailto:studentaffairs@auamed.net). Individuals who are participating in clinical clerkships should contact their site directly, if their accessibility needs are not met. Individuals at clinical sites may also contact the Office of Student Affairs at the above email address.

## Student Government Association

The Student Government Association (SGA) meets regularly to review matters of concern to the student body. The SGA also organizes social, athletic, and community outreach events. Policies and procedures of the SGA can be [found in Brightspace](#).

## Licensed AUACOM Medical Faculty

Several AUACOM faculty members are licensed medical practitioners in Antigua. Individual faculty members' private practices are separate and distinct from their positions at AUACOM.

# Basic Life Support/Advanced Cardiac Life Support Certification

## Basic Life Support

Basic life support (BLS) is an emergency cardiac care phase that

1. prevents circulatory or respiratory arrest or insufficiency through prompt recognition and intervention; or
2. externally supports the circulation and respiration of a victim of cardiac or respiratory arrest through cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

The BLS course at AUACOM is conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the American Heart Association. A practical evaluation (with a manikin) is done to determine performance proficiency. Successful completion of performance evaluations and a written test score of 84 percent or above are required to complete the course.

## Course Content

Included in this course are the following techniques:

- Adult CPR: one and two rescuer
- Adult obstructed airway: conscious and unconscious
- Infant CPR: one and two rescuer
- Infant obstructed airway: conscious and unconscious
- Child CPR: one and two rescuer
- Child obstructed airway: conscious and unconscious
- Safe operation of an automated external defibrillator

## Written Statement of Completion

Upon successful completion of the 4- to 5-hour course, each participant receives an American Heart Association card. This will reflect successful completion of cognitive and performance evaluations related to the material presented in accordance with the established criteria of the American Heart Association.

## Certified Students

Students certified by an institution other than AUACOM must attend their scheduled BLS session, during which the lead instructor will provide additional guidance. Only certifications issued by an authorized American Heart Association or the Heart & Stroke Foundation training center will be accepted.

## Certification & Fee Waiver Deadline

Certified students seeking a waiver for BLS fees must submit valid certification proof to [jjarvis@auamed.net](mailto:jjarvis@auamed.net) no later than two (2) weeks before the first day of the term. Once the two-week period has ended, no extensions or exceptions will be granted.

## Advanced Cardiac Life Support

Through the American Heart Association's Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS) course, students can develop or enhance the skills needed for the treatment of the adult victim of a cardiac arrest or respiratory emergency. ACLS emphasizes the importance of basic life support to patient survival, the integration of effective basic life support with advanced cardiovascular life support interventions, and the importance of effective team interaction and communication during resuscitation.

ACLS is based on simulated clinical scenarios that encourage active, hands-on participation through learning stations where students practice essential skills individually, as part of a team, and as team leaders. Realistic simulations reinforce the following key concepts: proficiency in basic life support care, recognizing and initiating early management of peri-arrest conditions, managing cardiac arrest, identifying and treating ischemic chest pain and acute coronary syndromes, recognizing other life-threatening clinical situations (such as stroke), and providing initial care, ACLS algorithms, and effective resuscitation team dynamics.

Successful completion of performance evaluations based on resuscitation team concepts and a written test score of 84 percent or above is required to complete the course. Upon completion of the course, participants will have been taught to demonstrate proficiency related to the following:

1. Utilizing adjunct airway equipment to establish and maintain effective ventilation in an adult victim
2. Integrating electrocardiograph monitoring, defibrillation, and pacing equipment and/or techniques into the adult resuscitation process
3. Identifying and determining the need for treatment related to basic adult cardiac dysrhythmias
4. Establishing and maintaining intravenous access during an adult resuscitation
5. Recognizing early signs and symptoms of myocardial infarction and cerebral vascular accident
6. Determining the treatments necessary to preserve myocardial and cardiovascular tissue
7. Assuming the team leader role for emergency treatment of cardiovascular and/or respiratory compromise or arrest during a portion of a simulated code
8. Reviewing therapy related to post-resuscitation of a cardiovascular arrest

Each participant who successfully completes the 12- to 15-hour course receives an American Heart Association certification card. This card serves as recognition of successful completion of an instructional course, which includes cognitive, and performance evaluations related to the material presented in accordance with the established criteria of the American Heart Association.

## BLS and ACLS Certified

Students who have completed either BLS or ACLS from an AHA authorized training center are required to submit proof of course completion to the course coordinator via email at [jjarvis@auamed.net](mailto:jjarvis@auamed.net).

## Certification & Fee Waiver Deadline

Certified students seeking a waiver for ACLS fees must submit valid certification proof to [jjarvis@auamed.net](mailto:jjarvis@auamed.net) no later than two weeks before the first day of the academic term. Once the two-week period has ended, no extensions or exceptions will be granted.

## Testing policy

The ACLS (Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support) megacode is a practical evaluation used in ACLS training to assess a participant's ability to respond to a simulated cardiac arrest scenario. During the megacode, participants are required to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in managing a patient in a critical situation following ACLS protocols. Students who are unsuccessful on their initial megacode attempt have one (1) opportunity for remediation. If the student is still unsuccessful after remediation, they will be required to pay for and retake the entire ACLS course.

The ACLS exam assesses both theoretical knowledge and practical skills to ensure proficiency in advanced cardiovascular life support. The written portion includes 100 multiple-choice questions covering core ACLS concepts. To successfully pass, participants must score at least 84% on the written exam and demonstrate competence in all required hands-on skills during the megacode practical assessment.

## Certified Students

Students certified by an institution outside of AUACOM or repeating MED4 must attend the first day of class and submit all required prerequisite documentations. Only certifications from the American Heart Association or the Heart & Stroke Foundation will be accepted. While certified students may not need to complete the entire course, they are required to attend their scheduled megacode session to demonstrate hands-on skills for grading. Failure to attend the megacode testing will result in an "F" as the final grade.

Please note: Students are required to demonstrate their ACLS megacode skills, regardless of prior certification at AUACOM or any other training center outside AUACOM.

## BLS Certification Requirement for ACLS Enrollment

All students must hold a valid Basic Life Support (BLS) certification card, valid for at least 6 months, as a prerequisite for enrolling in the ACLS course. This requirement verifies that students have a valid BLS card, which forms the foundation for ACLS coursework.

# Vaccinations, Testing and Health Screen Requirements

## Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)

A student must have two MMR vaccines received on or after age 12 months of age.

If born before January 1, 1957, a student must have one MMR vaccine received after December 31, 1967.

Each student must provide a copy of the Immune MMR IgG Antibody Quantitative Titer report or a positive or reactive qualitative titer report with a numerical range indicating immunity (titers must be performed every 10 years).

If the titer report is negative or equivocal, the student is given a booster, followed by a repeat antibody titer after 30 days.

## Varicella

Each student must provide a copy of the lab report of the Immune Varicella IgG Antibody Quantitative Titer or qualitative titer with lab cut-off values indicating immunity (titers must be performed every 10 years).

If students have not had titers and they either had the disease or only had one dose of the vaccine, they are given a second dose and titers are checked a month later.

If the titers are negative or equivocal, students are given a booster followed by a repeat antibody titer after 30 days.

## Hepatitis B

If previously immunized, students must provide dates of vaccines and a copy of the lab report for the immune Hepatitis B Surface Antibody Quantitative or Quantitative with the numerical range identified (titers must be performed every 10 years).

If students have received less than three doses of the Twinrix hepatitis B vaccine or less than four for the Engerix-B type, they must complete the series.

If the hepatitis B vaccine series was given and there are no previous titers, then the hepatitis B surface antibody titer is drawn. If the titer is negative or equivocal, students are given a booster (another hepatitis B vaccine) followed by a repeat antibody titer after 1 month. If these results are still negative or equivocal, students need two additional doses, thus completing the three-vaccine series again. After

completion of the series, another hepatitis B surface antibody titer is drawn to determine immune status. If still nonimmune, the student will be considered a non-responder.

### **Tetanus and Diphtheria**

Each student must provide documentation of Tdap booster given within the last 10 years (required every 10 years).

Students must receive a single dose of Tdap as soon as feasible if they cannot provide the date of their previous Tdap, regardless of the time since their last Tdap vaccination. After one Tdap, it should be followed up by 1 booster every 10 years.

### **Purified Protein Derivative Test (PPD)**

Initial documentation within 12 months of negative results is required annually.

If students have a history of positive PPD with the date of positive PPD provided, they will need one of the following annually: chest X-ray (CXR) and/or negative QuantiFERON gold test and possible symptom screening.

If students have a history of positive PPD without the date of positive PPD test, a QuantiFERON gold test will be accepted and will need to be repeated annually.

If newly positive, students must receive a baseline CXR to exclude a diagnosis of TB disease, with one of the following annually: CXR and/or negative QuantiFERON gold test and possible symptom screen.

### **Covid-19 Vaccine**

AUACOM strongly recommends students be fully vaccinated against COVID-19, including all CDC-recommended boosters. However, many clinical teaching hospitals affiliated with AUACOM in Antigua and the U.S. mandate full vaccination. Unvaccinated students may face challenges in completing clinical clerkships, which could be more costly, inconvenient, or even impossible, potentially delaying or preventing graduation. Additionally, preclinical students must train at Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre in Antigua, which currently requires full vaccination. AUACOM will make reasonable efforts to provide alternative training options when necessary.

### **Influenza Vaccine**

Students must receive a flu shot yearly as appropriate for flu season (September to May).

### **Documentation of Compliance with these Requirements**

All incoming students are required to have the AUACOM Immunization Form completed by a health-care provider and mailed to the Admissions Office **prior** to registration date. All student coming and/or required to come to campus must have proof acceptable to the University of full vaccination against, measles, mumps, rubella, tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, varicella, and hepatitis B (as per CDC). Please

note that individual hospitals may have additional requirements. These records are reviewed by the Admissions Office and provided to the relevant departments.

It is the responsibility of each individual student to ensure that his/her vaccination status is current and updated.

Prior to Clinical Medicine in the beginning of Year Two, students are required to update their AUACOM Immunization Form, ensuring that all documentation listed above is still up to date. These forms are evaluated by the University Health Center, and updates are provided as needed by the on-campus health clinic.

This process is again repeated during MED5, ensuring that all students have the proper requirements to start their clinical rotations in the United States. All students are then required to submit a completed AUACOM Immunization Form to their document specialist. Upon receipt, the document specialist will ensure the record includes all necessary requirements for acceptance (i.e., student name, date of birth, and all required immunizations and titers).

## Refusal of Required Immunizations and Health Screenings Policy

Students will not be granted exceptions to AUACOM's above set forth requirements in order to enter campus regardless of the reason.

Failure to satisfy these requirements may result in disciplinary action. Students may also be refused entry to Campus or to train in affiliated hospitals and/or clinical facilities thereby preventing the student from completing required curricular elements needed to receive their medical doctorate (MD) degrees.

The University reserves the right to revise and amend these requirements at any time in its sole discretion. It is incumbent on each student to keep themselves informed about any such revisions or amendments.

## COVID-19 Contact Tracing Policy and Procedures

It has always been, and will continue to be, AUACOM's strict policy, consistent with the HIPAA laws in the United States, to keep private, confidential and free from disclosure except as applicable laws and regulations may require, matters of health, medical care and treatment of any persons whether members of the AUACOM community be they students, faculty, staff or administrators or members of the general public.

In furtherance of those policies and procedures, except as applicable laws and regulations may require, AUACOM will not provide the name of, or, to the extent reasonably possible, information that may lead one to be able to identify, any person who has contracted the Covid-19 virus, has tested positive for the virus or has experienced COVID like symptoms, whether during the course of contact tracing or otherwise, without the express consent of the afflicted person.

When engaged in contact tracing, unless such consent has been given by the afflicted person, those contacted will be advised only that they were identified by a person who has contracted the Covid-19 virus [or who has tested positive for it as the case may be] as having been in recent contact with that person. Other information about the contact may be provided if providing such information is not likely to disclose the identity of the afflicted person.

Participation in contact tracing and subsequent testing is mandated. Failure to comply will result in disciplinary action.

## Student Research Policies and Procedures

Students engaged in research activities at AUACOM must follow the university's Student Research Policy, which outlines the ethical, procedural, and academic standards for conducting research. This includes requirements related to supervision, data management, authorship, funding, awards and institutional approvals.

All research projects involving students from AUACOM must be cleared by AUACOM Office of the Associate Dean of Research and the AUACOM IRB, before the project starts. This requirement must be fulfilled irrespectively of whether the research is or not considered human subjects research. The AUACOM IRB is the only entity that can deem IRB clearance necessary and/or determine if research is human subject research or not. These include some basic science and lab-based research, structured/systematic literature reviews, and more.

For complete details, please refer to the full policy [in Brightspace](#).