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The five, six, and seven-year MD programs begin with foundational courses. The academic policies, program, standards and processes of the Pre-clinical Program are set and overseen by the School of Medicine; the content of the first two pre-clinical years is delivered by the School of Arts and Sciences.

All registered pre-clinical students are subject to the policies and regulations of the University, the School of Arts and Sciences, the Pre-clinical Program and the School of Medicine; however, should policies differ, the policies of the MD program shall supersede all other said policies.

Doctor of Medicine Pre-Clinical Program

The English for Medicine Pathway (EMP)

The EMP program is designed to instill the academic and medical English communication skills necessary for success as SGU students and future health professionals. EMP integrates additional English courses into the pre-clinical curriculum to allow simultaneous pre-clinical and English skill progression with only one additional semester. Students from the 5-year, 6-year, or 7-year MD/DVM pathway program are accepted into the EMP program on entry and remain in the program for their first three semesters at SGU. There is a standalone one- or two-term EMP program for the 4-year MD/DVM students who will enter the SOM/SVM upon completion of the EMP program. EMP is intensive language and communication support and students who fall below our language proficiency requirements are mandated to participate in the program.

Academic Policies

Additional academic policies for the Pre-Clinical Program are outlined in the [School of Arts and Sciences \(SAS\) Student Manual](#).

Class Participation and Examination

Students must participate in all scheduled educational activities; including but not limited to lectures, labs, small group discussion, as defined in the course syllabus.

Students must be aware that class participation policies may vary across courses. Course directors may take participation into account when determining grades, provided that a clear written statement on attendance policy and its impact on grading are given in the course syllabus. The University considers participation to be an essential component of professionalism. Absenteeism can adversely affect grades and may result in a failing grade.

Students are responsible for complying with the conditions set by the Course Directors and Director of the Pre-clinical Program for remediation of performance deficiencies. Students are expected to access their grades and be aware of their performance in exams and courses. Students who miss any exams for validated reasons are expected to attend the completion exams as outlined in the term schedule. Examinations will not be offered outside these dates. It is the responsibility of students to know the time and dates of all examinations and assignments.

Excused Absence from Required Course Activities (Non-Exams)

In exceptional circumstances, a student may be granted an excused absence from other required course activities (non-examination) that contribute points to a student's grade. In general, having a brief illness does not constitute an excused absence; students should not use the ME form described below for missed, non-exam course activities. The basis for an excused absence from non-exam activities typically relates to religious observances, scholarly/administrative activities, and catastrophic events as described in [Non-Medical Excuses](#). students should follow the procedures described in that section for obtaining an excused absence from required non-examination activities. If an excused absence is granted, then the student is given the opportunity to earn any lost point(s) associated with the missed activity through a makeup assignment, as determined by the Course Director. Unexcused absences result in a grade of "0" for the missed activity. With unexcused absences there will not be an opportunity for the student to earn back the lost points.

In addition, excused absences still count towards the total permissible number of absences a student can have per term, as defined in the course syllabi.

Examination Policies

Please refer to the [University Student Manual Examination Policies and Procedures](#) page for more information.

Excused Absences from Exams

In very limited circumstances, an excused absence from examinations may be granted to students. If the absence is excused, then the student receives an "I" for the exam grade and can take the Completion Examination at its next scheduled time, as outlined in the master schedule.

Medical Excuse

A student may request a [Medical Excuse \(ME\)](#) for an exam. A student may request only one ME per 12-month period. A student must fill out the ME form on the Members Center of the SGU Portal [\[Medical excuse\]](#) form submit it before the time of the first scheduled examination to be missed. This student is excused from all examinations falling within seven (7) days of the ME submission. If a student recovers during the examination period, he/she may attend any remaining examinations that are scheduled.

If a student attempts to submit the ME form more than once in a 12-month period, they will be denied the Medical Excuse and must sit the examination(s). If the student does not sit the examination(s), then the student will receive a grade of "0" for the examination. The University may elect to place the student on [a mandatory Medical Leave of Absence](#) should the student's medical condition prevent them from making normal progress through the Doctor of Medicine program. If a student makes a second ME request within 12 months, the student shall receive a written notice about the consequences of not sitting the examination(s).

Non-Medical Excuses

Excused absences from examinations for non-medical reasons generally fall into three domains:

1. Religious Observance: A student who wishes to observe a religious holiday may receive an excused absence, if appropriate protocol is followed for seeking the excused absence. Specifically, the student must inform the Office of Student Affairs of the dates of the religious holidays within the first 30 days of each academic term, in order for these absences to be approved. Any dates of travel associated with the religious observance, beyond the actual holiday, are NOT covered by excused absences.
2. Scholarly/Administrative Activities: Activities that enhance a student's scholarly achievement and/or contribute toward the administrative activities of SGU's School of Medicine may be eligible for an excused absence. Examples may include presenting at a national conference or attending required meetings with officials of SGU.
3. Catastrophic Events: Unforeseen and extraordinary events (e.g. funerals, prolonged hospitalization), may be considered an excused absence. An application for an excuse for a non-medical excused absence, should be made in writing by the student to the Pre-Clinical Office of Student Affairs (studentaffairs@sgu.edu). If approved, the Pre-Clinical Office of Student Affairs will inform the Pre-Clinical Program Director and the Course Director of a student's excused absence.
- 4.

Academic Progress

Preclinical Tuition Repeater Policy

****Effective for students repeating coursework as of January 2023***

Preclinical students (5/6/7 Year MD Pathway) who repeat a course due to:

1. Failure
2. or as required remediation

will be charged the published tuition rates when they return to repeat the coursework.

Academic Standards

There are professional behavioral, quantitative and qualitative standards for academic progress, promotion, and retention. The quantitative standards relate to the progression of students through the academic program in a timely fashion. The qualitative standards relate to the ability of students to have a satisfactory grade point average at the end of each term.

The Director of the Pre-clinical Program on behalf of the SOM Basic Sciences Office, (through the Academic Progress Review Committee (APRC)) reviews the progress of all students after midterms, at the end of each academic term, and at the end of each academic year. Based on its review of student progress, the Director of the Pre- Clinical Program advises and/or makes decisions on the academic status of students, including the promotion and retention of students, according to the following standards.

Quantitative Standards

The Pre-Clinical Program is designed as three academic years, or a six-semester program that leads to entrance into Term 1 of the four-year Basic Sciences Doctor of Medicine Program. The Pre-Clinical Program is designed to be continuous with minimal time off. Each term serves as a building block for subsequent terms.

Quantitative Deficiency

Students who are not progressing in the Pre-clinical Program, according to the quantitative standards, receive a warning when it is apparent that they cannot complete within the allocated time frame.

Students may petition through the Pre-Clinical Program Director for an extension if medical problems, family obligations, or other significant factors make it impossible to complete the program within the required time frame.

Qualitative Standards

Students must pass all required core coursework and must achieve the minimum GPA, or WMPG in the 5 year-MD program.

Monitored Academic Status (MAS)

Students may be allowed to continue in their program, despite failing to meet academic progress and performance standards, if the following conditions are met:

1. No previous D or F grade in any course in a prior term in a course less than 2 credits
2. No previous recommendation for dismissal
3. No timeline delays that may prevent students from completing their programs within the maximum allowable timeframe

Students who are allowed to continue in their program will be given an opportunity to repeat courses with F or D grades and will be placed on MAS for the subsequent term.

4. Additional stipulations relating to promotions criteria that must be met will be applied (e.g., specific WMPG requirements, repeating and passing comprehensive examinations, etc.).The student will be permitted to register for the course a second time and to earn a second grade for the course.

The new grade and credits earned will be calculated into the WMPG/cumulative GPA. The grade earned on the second attempt does not replace the grade earned on the first attempt. Both grades will appear on the student's transcript.

5. Students who repeat a course will receive whatever grade is earned. Only the higher grade is used to compute the cumulative GPA; however, all grades for a course appear on the transcript.

Students who fail to meet the minimum requirement for a comprehensive exam may be given the opportunity to repeat and pass the examination within a stipulated timeframe. If the student fails the comprehensive exam on the second attempt, the student may be allowed to repeat the term (as per stipulations listed above) or will be recommended for dismissal.

It may be necessary for the student to repeat one or more courses to maintain a minimal 15 credits and maximum 20 credits workload.

Administrative Policies and Process

Pre-Clinical Program

Students in the Pre-Clinical Program have been reviewed and accepted by the Faculty Student Selection Committee of the Admissions Committee for the School of Medicine, into the 5, 6 or 7-year medical program according to the educational achievement documented by the Admission's Committee.

Students entering the 6- or 7-year MD Program are required to participate in the Professional Learning Institute (PLI). The PLI is designed to help students new to the St. George's University School of Medicine in the process of building a professional identity as a medical student.

Baccalaureate/Md Combined Degree Program (BS/MD)

Pre-Clinical students, especially those admitted to the first year of the Pre-Clinical Program, may choose to obtain a degree of Bachelor of Science in Medical Sciences in addition to the medical degree. Students who wish to pursue the Baccalaureate/MD combined degree must notify the Office of the University Registrar (OUR), and the Pre-clinical Program Office in writing during the first semester of matriculation. Students may request the opportunity to simultaneously complete the Bachelor of Science Degree later in the program; however, they may be precluded from doing so due to program and time restraints.

Registration

All students in the pre-clinical program are required to complete check-in on or before the first day of classes each term as scheduled by the Office of the University Registrar OUR).

Enrollment Requirements

SGU Pre-Clinical students must obtain approval from the Pre-Clinical Program Director in order to register, drop, or add courses. An average student academic load is 15-17 credit hours per term in the first two years and 19-20 credit hours per term in the third year of the Pre-Clinical Program. Students may register for up to 18 credit hours per term in a balanced (science and non-science) academic load. Students are not permitted to accelerate their academic program.

Under special circumstances, permission to register for additional credits may be granted by the Pre-Clinical Program Director. To be eligible for such consideration, students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.30 or higher. In addition, students must not undertake excessive amounts of work or extracurricular activities during this period.

Pre-Clinical students are expected to maintain a full-time schedule each term unless otherwise mandated by PCAPPS.

Registration Check-In

In order to check-in for the Pre-Clinical program, students must have financial, academic and health insurance clearance.

Students who are not in good financial standing are required to work with the Office of [Student Finances](#) to receive permission for provisional or full registration. Students should not proceed to Grenada without financial and academic clearance.

New students who are not pre-registered in specific courses must first meet with the Combined Degree Coordinator in the Department of Pre-clinical Sciences to determine their course schedule.

A student who has paid in full for all previous academic terms, but who has not yet paid for the upcoming/current term, will be reviewed by the Office of Student Finances for approval for a payment plan. If approved, the student is permitted to register for classes.

Students who choose the provisional registration option must be aware that there will be a financial charge of 1.5% per month on any unpaid balances.

Technical Standards

Technical Standards for Pre-Clinical

Candidates for admission to the MD programs must have functional use of the somatic senses, adequate motor capabilities to negotiate situations in which these senses would be employed and the ability to integrate data acquired via these senses.

Compensation through technology for deficiencies in any of these areas may be acceptable; however, such compensation should not preclude candidates' abilities to act reasonably and independently. The use of a trained intermediary would mean that candidates' judgment must be mediated by someone else's power of selection and observation; therefore, third parties cannot be used to assist students in accomplishing curricular requirements in the skill areas specified below.

Observation Skills

Applicants/Medical students must be able to participate actively in all demonstrations and laboratory exercises in the first two years of the curriculum and to assess and comprehend the condition of all patients assigned to them for examination, diagnosis and treatment.

Communication Skills

Applicants/Medical students must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively with patients in order to elicit information, describe changes in mood, activity and posture, assess verbal and non-verbal communications and be able to effectively and efficiently transmit information to patients, fellow students, faculty, staff and all members of the health care team. Communication skills include speaking, reading and writing, as well as the observation skills described above.

Motor Skills

Applicants/Medical students must have sufficient motor function to elicit information from patients by palpation, auscultation, percussion and other diagnostic maneuvers, be able to perform basic laboratory tests, possess all skills necessary to carry out diagnostic procedures and be able to execute motor movements reasonably required to provide general care and emergency treatment to patients.

Intellectual/Conceptual, Integrative and Quantitative Abilities

Applicants/Medical students must be able to measure, calculate, reason, analyze, and synthesize. Problem-solving, a critical skill demanded of physicians, requires all of these intellectual abilities. In addition, applicants/medical students must be able to comprehend three-dimensional relationships and to understand the spatial relationships of structures. Applicants/Medical students must have the capacity to perform these problem-solving skills in a timely fashion.

Behavioral and Social Attributes

Applicants/Medical students must possess the emotional health required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of good judgment, the prompt completion of all responsibilities, attendant to the diagnosis and care of patients and the development of mature, sensitive and effective relationships with patients and others. Applicants/Medical students must also be able to tolerate taxing workloads, function effectively under stress, adapt to changing environments, display flexibility and learn to function in the face of uncertainties inherent in the clinical problems of many patients. Compassion, integrity, concern for others, commitment and motivation are personal qualities which all applicants/ medical students should possess.

Computer Literacy

In the 21st century profession of medicine, basic computer literacy is a necessary skill. Students and graduate physicians must understand and be able to utilize-unaided-technology used in education, medical records and in the transmission of data and information with the patient and throughout the medical community.