

## Academic Progression Guidelines for the Doctor of Pharmacy Curriculum

**Introduction:** The School of Pharmacy faculty intends that every student admitted to the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm. D.) Curriculum achieves excellence in their professional knowledge, skill, and aptitude. The objectives, abilities, or outcomes defined for the Curriculum and for each course within it provide the framework for assessment of student achievement.

Students enrolled in the Pharm. D. Curriculum receive a grade of **A**, **B**, **C** or **F** as an indication of their achievement of the acquisition of knowledge and/or skills. The grade **A** denotes outstanding academic achievement and/or professional skill on the part of the student. The grade **B** indicates more than acceptable academic achievement and/or professional skill. The grade **C** indicates that the student has achieved acceptable and satisfactory knowledge and/or professional skills. The grade **F** indicates unacceptable achievement and/or performance and requires further study and/or practice by the student. The following appendix includes additional definitions and/or descriptions of these grades.

In view of its responsibility to the people of North Carolina and to the profession, the Pharmacy faculty reserves the right to dismiss a student from the Pharm. D. Curriculum who does not in its judgment show sufficient promise to justify continuation regardless of her/his academic record. If a student's performance, including academic record, promise, or professional fitness is considered unsatisfactory, the Scholastic Achievement and Progression Committee will make appropriate recommendations regarding the student's continuation. The Committee will decide whether a student should be allowed to enter a review program (including appropriate reexamination), enter a decelerated curriculum, repeat a portion of an academic year or entire year, take a leave of absence with conditions upon return, or be dismissed. The recommendation for a dismissal or for a leave of absence will be transmitted to the Associate Dean for Professional Education for final dispensation.

### Guidelines for Progression in the Doctor of Pharmacy Curriculum

1. Students must demonstrate acceptable knowledge and/or skills in all courses and clerkships in the Doctor of Pharmacy Curriculum. Acceptable knowledge and/or skills are determined through evaluation of student performance that reflects objectives or competencies defined for each course within the context of competencies defined for the Pharm. D. Curriculum. Acceptable knowledge and/or skills in all courses administered by the School of Pharmacy are denoted by any of the grades **A**, **B**, or **C** (or **H** or **P** in clerkships and approved courses).
2. Students who do not demonstrate acceptable knowledge and/or skills will be given the grade **F**. A student who receives an **F** grade in a required course must remedy that grade, which must include the demonstration of acquisition of acceptable knowledge and/or skill for that course. The student may not enroll in subsequent courses for which the "failed" course serves as a prerequisite until the student has passed the prerequisite course. A student who again receives an **F** grade upon repeating a course, or who receives **F** grades in two or more required courses is subject to potential dismissal from the Pharm. D. Curriculum. The Scholastic Achievement and Progression Committee will determine whether or not such a student will be allowed to continue in the Pharm. D. Curriculum, and, if the student is allowed to continue, specific conditions for continuation will be determined.
3. The temporary grades of **IN** (Incomplete) and **AB** (Absent from the final examination) can be used consistent with the guidelines within the Undergraduate Bulletin or The Graduate School Handbook.
4. Students admitted to the Pharm. D. Curriculum must complete the curriculum within five academic years, subject to review of individual circumstances by The Scholastic Achievement and Progression Committee.

## APPENDIX – ACADEMIC PROGRESSION

“Grading is the process of a teacher’s arriving at and recording a summarizing, symbolic remark on the academic performances of his or her students. Grading should express neither approval nor disapproval of students as persons.

.....the purpose of a grading system is to give the teacher a regular way to transmit to students, and to other persons who may be concerned with the intellectual development of students, value judgments made by the teacher.

High grades should be used for the one purpose of signaling outstanding academic achievement.”

From the *Report of the Committee on Grading*,  
Ratified by the UNC-CH Faculty Council, April, 1976.

For purposes of further defining **A**, **B**, **C** and **F** grades, the following remarks regarding this grading system are provided.

**A:** Signifies outstanding mastery of course material. Students earning an **A** grade have exhibited performance far above that required for credit in the course and far above that usually seen in the course. The grade **A** should be awarded sparingly and should identify student performance that is relatively unusual in the course. The **A** grade states clearly that the student has shown **OUTSTANDING** promise to enter the practice of pharmacy and patient care at the highest level as related to the course.

**B:** Signifies more than satisfactory mastery of course material. The **B** grade represents student performance that is strong, but not reaching to the level of outstanding mastery signified by an **A** grade. The **B** grade signifies that while the student has not displayed outstanding promise, he or she has shown more than adequate knowledge, skills and aptitudes necessary to practice pharmacy as related to the course.

**C:** Signifies that the student has achieved minimal acceptable knowledge and/or skills. The **C** grade means that the student may have come very close to failing the course, but has achieved enough to earn full credit for the course. A **C** grade should signify to the student (and their advisor) that significant effort and improvement should be made in subsequent courses in order to prevent any further deterioration in knowledge, skills, or aptitudes that would place the student at risk for an **F** grade in a subsequent course, and that would then place patients at risk should the student eventually practice in pharmacy.

**F:** Unsatisfactory mastery of course material. A student who receives an **F** grade has not demonstrated sufficient mastery of course material to earn credit for the course. The grade **F** indicates that the student’s performance has revealed less than acceptable understanding of course content. As related to the course, the **F** grade indicates that patient welfare would be in jeopardy if the student were in a pharmacy practice situation because of inadequate or insufficient knowledge, skills or aptitudes. The remedy to correct deficiencies in the student’s knowledge and/or skills signified by the **F** grade, which could include repetition of the course or other remedial action determined by the course director, must be accomplished before the student can complete the curriculum.

The following descriptions of the **A**, **B**, **C** and **F** grading system are intended for placement in the Pharm. D. Student Handbook.

**A:** The **A** grade indicates that you have attained outstanding mastery of the course content. Instructors will assign **A** grades sparingly and only in those circumstances where a student has exhibited performance far above that usually observed in the course. The **A** grade indicates that you have shown OUTSTANDING promise to eventually practice pharmacy at the highest level as related to the content of the course.

**B:** The **B** grade indicates that you have achieved more than satisfactory mastery of course material, but that your performance has not reached to the level of outstanding. **B** denotes more than satisfactory achievement on all counts, and that you have clearly satisfied course objectives and goals. The **B** grade indicates that you have acquired more than the requisite knowledge and skills for patient care and the practice of pharmacy as related to the course.

**C:** The **C** grade indicates that you have achieved minimal acceptable acquisition of knowledge and/or skills as related to the course. The **C** grade should serve as an indicator or warning that you should direct significant academic attention to subsequent courses so that future course failure does not occur. **C** indicates you have achieved enough to earn full course credit, but any deterioration in your abilities, knowledge and skills might place patients at risk in a pharmacy practice situation.

**F:** The **F** grade indicates that you have not achieved even acceptable acquisition of course knowledge and/or skills. **F** means that your performance has revealed almost no understanding of course content, that you have demonstrated unsatisfactory mastery of course material, that patient care would be placed in jeopardy in a pharmacy practice situation, and that you cannot receive credit for the course. The usual remedy for course failure will be to repeat the course upon its subsequent offering, or an alternative remedy as determined by the course director. Regardless of the remedy, you must demonstrate adequate acquisition of required course knowledge and/or skills before credit can be granted for the course, and you can complete the curriculum. Two course failures will place you in jeopardy for dismissal from the Pharm. D. Program as defined in the Academic Progression Guidelines.