

Policy 3.1.13
UAMS COM Undergraduate Medical Education
Section
Student Progression, Promotion, and Graduation
Title
Enhanced Academic Support for M1 and M2 Students
LCME Element(s)
11.1 Academic Advising
Approved By
UAMS COM Curriculum Committee
Version History
7/19/2019; admin updates 3/3/2025; revised 12/1/2025; revised 2/23/2026

Students who have a final percentage score below 80% in three or more M1 and M2 course exams are at higher risk of USMLE step 1 failure. Data from previous classes demonstrate that those students in this group who have academic coaching and regular peer tutoring have a higher Step 1 first attempt pass rate. Therefore, students who have two or more scores of 75% or less on major exams in the M1 or M2 modules are required to do the following:

- Meet with the academic learning specialist in the Student Success Center to develop an individual learning plan. This learning plan will be customized to that student's individual learning needs. The student will continue to work with the learning specialist at least until the Step 1 exam to best optimize learning. The written individual learning plan will be given to the student, with copies in the Student Success Center and the office of the Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.
- Students who do not meet with the learning specialist or comply with the individualized learning plan will meet with the Associate Dean for Student Affairs or the Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Continued noncompliance may result in a negative scholastic noncognitive evaluation. (Approved by the curriculum committee July 2019)

The COM utilizes customized National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) exams as a major part of the curriculum in both M1 and M2 years. The examination materials used in NBME examinations are confidential, copyrighted property of the NBME, which prevents students from reviewing the questions they answered incorrectly, and prohibits instructors from going over specific questions in the classroom or in dedicated feedback sessions with an individual student. Thus, a student who does not perform as well as expected on an exam may not have a comprehensive overview of content areas they need to remediate. To mitigate gaps in learning:

- Students who score less than 70% correct on an NBME exam must meet with the course director to receive guidance on the content areas in which they underperformed. The course director may provide guidance on concepts, but not individual questions. This

meeting should occur within 2 weeks of the exam, excluding weeks when school is not in session.

- If a student does not meet with the course director as required, the course director may file an Areas for Improvement (AFI form).

The intention of this policy is to help ensure that everyone has a good foundation when they get to the Step 1 exam. The COM office will notify each student who is required by this policy to seek this assistance but remember that the folks in the Student Success Center are available to assist all students.



February 23, 2026

Executive Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Date