

Policy Regarding Assessment of Academic Progress for First Year “Unaffiliated” BIMS Students

Assessing Progress at the end of the Core Course

The first major academic milestone of first year BIMS students is completion of BIMS 6000 Core Course in Integrative Biology (CCIB). In the event that a student fails to achieve a passing grade (A+, A, A-, B+, B, or B-) in the course, the student will be at risk of dismissal from the program due to a failure to make satisfactory academic progress under School of Medicine policies. A grade of B- also puts the student at risk for dismissal since it will result in a GPA under 3.0 for the semester. In these instances, a determination regarding the student’s status will be made by a committee composed of:

- 1) the Core Course Director
- 2) the student’s first year advisor, and
- 3) the chair of the BIMS Academic Progress and Achievement Committee

In the event that two of these positions are occupied by the same person, a third committee member who is familiar with the student will be selected by the student’s first year advisor.

The committee will weigh evidence of the student’s performance in the program and make a determination whether the student may continue in the program. Evidence will include details of achievement in the core course, performance in research rotations completed up to that point, additional graded courses, if any, etc. A final vote of at least 2 of the 3 committee members will determine whether the student will be allowed to stay in the program. If the committee finds in favor of the student remaining in the program, a plan for addressing the failing grade will be devised by committee and documented by the first year advisor.

Assessing progress after completion of research rotations

After three research rotations, it is expected that the student will identify a mentor, select a degree-granting program, and begin his/her thesis work. In the event that a student is unable to identify a mentor after three rotations, but is otherwise in good academic standing, he/she will be given the opportunity to complete a fourth rotation. This rotation should be selected only after consultation with the first year advisor, who will work with the student to ensure that the selected lab is likely to be a good match for the student and, should the rotation be successful, has a position available. In the event that the student fails to identify a lab after this fourth rotation, this will be evidence of a failure to achieve satisfactory academic progress and will place the student at risk of dismissal from the program. A determination on this point will be made by a committee composed of:

- 1) the student's first year advisor
- 2) a co-chair of the committee that oversaw the student's admission
- 3) the chair of the BIMS Academic Progress and Achievement Committee

If two of these positions are held by the same individual, the student's first year advisor will name another committee member who is familiar with the student to fill the final slot.

The committee will weigh evidence of the student's overall performance in the program and make a determination whether the student may continue in the program. A final vote of at least 2 of the 3 committee members will determine whether the student will be allowed to stay in the program. If the committee finds in favor of the student remaining in the program, the first year advisor will work with the student to identify an additional rotation with a high likelihood of success.

Policy Regarding Assessment of Academic Progress for First Year Students Affiliated with a BIMS Degree Granting Program

Any student who has already affiliated with a BIMS degree-granting program (regardless of their year in the program) will be subject to the policies and procedures of that program with regards to assessing satisfactory academic progress. The exception to this will be at the end of BIMS 6000 (Core Course in Integrative Biology; CCIB). In the event that a student fails to achieve a passing grade (A+, A, A-, B+, B or B-) in the course, the student is at risk for dismissal from the program due to a failure to make satisfactory academic progress under School of Medicine policies. A grade of B- also puts the student at risk for dismissal if it results in a GPA under 3.0 for either that semester or cumulative. In that case, a determination will be made by a committee composed of:

- 1) the Core Course Director
- 2) the student's Director of Graduate Studies (DGS)
- 3) the chair of the BIMS Academic Progress and Achievement Committee

If two of these positions are held by the same individual, the DGS of the degree program will name another committee member who is familiar with the student to fill the final slot. This committee member may not be the student's mentor.

The committee will weigh evidence of the student's performance in the program and make a determination whether the student may continue in the program. Evidence will include details of achievement in the core course and evidence submitted by the mentor of the student's performance in the laboratory. A final vote of at least 2 of the 3 of the committee members will determine whether the student will be allowed to stay in the program. If the committee finds in favor of the student remaining in the program, a plan for addressing the failing grade will be devised by the student's DGS and mentor.