

Policy Number	UME.CU.106
Policy Title	Perelman School of Medicine Graduation Requirements
Effective Date	August 2025
Last Revision Date (if any)	June 16, 2026
Scope	Undergraduate Medical Education Students
LCME Element(s) (if any)	9.9

Perelman School of Medicine Graduation Requirements

I. PURPOSE

To establish graduation requirements undergraduate medical education at the Perelman School of Medicine (PSOM) at the University of Pennsylvania.

II. SCOPE

Undergraduate medical education students in the MD or MSTP tracks

III. POLICY

Mandatory courses for each Core and year of the curriculum must be completed for each enrolled student in order to advance to the subsequent Core and year. Students will adhere to the required courses and Cores as set in the year in which they matriculated.

These requirements apply to students who matriculated in 2025 and later.

Core 1: Pre-Clerkship (14.5 credits)

Core 2: Clerkship (12 credits)

Core 3: Post-Clerkship (10.75 credits)

- **4-week sub-internship (Sub-I)** in either Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, or Pediatrics (**1 credit**)
- **16 weeks of standard Penn clinical electives** as listed in the online course catalog. One month may be an away clinical rotation, if the student has already completed two months of away clinical rotations at an LCME accredited institution or at an institution with an ACGME accredited program in the specialty of the elective (**4 credits**)
- **8 weeks of other electives:** In addition to standard Penn clinical electives, students may fulfill this requirement with 2 additional months of Scholarly Pursuit beyond the required 3 months, clinical away rotations, non-clinical MD rotations/MD courses completed in Core 3, or coursework counting towards a second degree completed during medical school (**2 credits**)
- **MD/PhD students' elective requirement:** 14 total weeks of electives (8 weeks of Penn clinical electives, 6 weeks of additional Penn clinical electives, away rotations, non-clinical MD rotations/MD courses, or registered post-PhD research completed in Core 3)

- **4 weeks of direct patient contact time** are required in or after September of the final year, completed no later than April prior to graduation. Requirement must be completed via a standard Penn elective or an away U.S. elective at an LCME accredited institution.
 - **Scholarly Pursuit**: minimum of **12 weeks** dedicated, ideally consecutive, OR completion via MD/PhD, dual degree (MD/Masters), OR a yearlong research project post-Core 2 (**3 credits**)
 - **STeP to Residency** (.5 credits)
 - **Bioethics** (1 week) (.25 credits)
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Required Examinations

- United States Medical Licensing Examinations (USMLE)
 - **Step 1**
 - All students must take and pass Step 1 to graduate.
 - Step 1 must be taken by June 30th of the student's 3rd year of study.
 - Step 1 for MD/PhD students must be completed before graduate school orientation begins.
 - A passing grade on Step 1 must be obtained prior to a student beginning a Master's, PhD, or a research year.
 - A passing score is required prior to submitting a Match Ranking List and prior to graduation.
 - **Step 2**
 - All students must take and pass Step 2 to graduate.
 - Students are strongly encouraged to take Step 2 by August 31st of the graduating academic year, or before beginning a scholarly year (Research or MD/Masters).
 - A passing score is required prior to submitting a Match Ranking List.
 - **Clinical Skills Inventory (CSI) exam**
 - CSI must be taken early in the calendar year after all Core 2 clerkships have been completed.
 - **ACLS Certification** or, if applying to Pediatrics residency, PALS Certification
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Every student is required to attend graduation in order to publicly recite a commitment to the precepts of the profession by stating the Declaration of Geneva, the modern version of the Hippocratic Oath after receiving their diploma. Should there be extenuating circumstances that preclude attendance at graduation, the student must recite the Oath in the presence of the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Wellness and at least one other member of the community (staff, family, friend, faculty). Attendance at the White Coat Ceremony and the Student Clinician's Ceremony is similarly required. Any extraordinary exceptions must be presented to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Wellness in advance of graduation.

All of the above categories must be fulfilled. Substitutions are not permitted.

IV. POLICY AUTHOR(S)

Office of the Registrar

V. GOVERNING BODY

Undergraduate Medical Education Committee

VI. POLICY HISTORY

Date	Change
August 2019	Created & Approved
February 2020	Revised
March 2021	Revised
August 2022	Revised
September 2025	Revised
June 2026	Revised & Approved
August 10, 2026	Effective