

Policy Number	UME.AC.121
Policy Title	Total Allowable Time in Medical School
Effective Date	7/15/2025
Last Revision Date (if any)	
Scope	All UME Students
LCME Element(s) (if any)	

Total Allowable Time in Medical School

I. PURPOSE

Students enrolled in the Perelman School of Medicine (PSOM) must complete their degree programs within the time frame specified in this policy.

II. SCOPE

All students enrolled in the undergraduate medical education program or a combined MD degree program who matriculated after July 2025.

Students enrolled in the MD/PhD Program are beholden to a pre-existing policy of total time allowable (defined below).

III. POLICY

MD Program

The typical length of the MD program is 4 years. It is expected that time from enrollment for any MD student will not exceed 6 years, including time for remediation and/or deceleration, and not including personal, family, military, or medical leaves of absence.

Students may not take more than 10 years from the time of matriculation to complete the requirements for the MD degree, including time spent on leave of absence. This will include any time enrolled in a combined degree program for a Master's degree.

There may be circumstances that require a student to have an extended period of time to complete graduation requirements, and they must petition the [Student Standards Committee](#) (SSC) to request an extension.

MD/PhD Program

Students are enrolled in the MD program and in the PhD program simultaneously, also known as the Medical Scientist Training Program (MD/PhD).

Pre-Existing Policy

Enrollment in the MD/PhD program must not exceed 14 years, with the 'time clock' beginning when the student enters the PhD phase of their combined degree program. Any further extension of time in the MD/PhD program must be approved by SSC and the Combined Degree program.

Note: Most medical licensing authorities allow a seven-year gap between a student taking Step 1 and Step 3. Students exceeding that time may be required to repeat Step 1.

IV. POLICY AUTHOR(S)

Office of the Registrar

Office of the Vice Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education

V. REFERENCES

[Leaves of Absence Policy](#)

[Student Standards Committee Policy and Procedure](#)

VI. GOVERNING BODY

Undergraduate Medical Education Committee

VII. POLICY HISTORY

Date	Change
6/1/2025	Created
7/15/2025	Approved