

Western University of Health Sciences

## College of Health Sciences

**Master of Science in Medical Sciences (MSMS)**  
**2025/2026 Catalog**

## Conditions of Accuracy

The information within is accurate at the time of publication and reflects standard operating conditions for the academic year. Students are responsible for informing themselves of and satisfactorily meeting all requirements pertinent to their relationship with the University. Students and others who use this catalog should be aware that the information changes from time to time at the sole discretion of Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU) and that these changes might alter information contained in this publication. More current and complete information may be obtained in the appropriate department, school, or administrative offices. Some changes can also be found on the Western University of Health Sciences website. Western University of Health Sciences reserves the right at any time, without advance notice, to change any part of the catalog; no vested rights shall run or be created by the catalog, including the right to notice of any modification, novation, amendment, supplementation, or other change of any term, provision, or content of the catalog; such right of Western University of Health Sciences to enact changes shall include but not be limited to (a) attendance or curriculum requirements; (b) changes to tuition and fees; (c) changes in the academic calendar; (d) changes in admission and registration requirements; (e) changes in the regulations and requirements governing instruction in and graduation from Western University of Health Sciences; (f) changes of instructors and faculty; (g) changes of rules and regulations governing the students and student body organizations; (h) changes of on-campus facilities; (i) changes of extra-curricular student activities, programs, and offerings; (j) conduct or academic standing; and (k) changes of any other program or regulation affecting students or other interested parties. Western University of Health Sciences further reserves the right to make such changes should economic conditions, health conditions, changes in law, government orders, or a local, state, or national emergency make it necessary to do so. Such changes may supplement and supersede any inconsistent provisions found in this Catalog, and will be published using typical communication channels, including mail, email, publication to the university web site, press releases, and other channels as deemed appropriate. This catalog does not constitute a contract, or terms or conditions of contract between the student, staff, and/or faculty and Western University of Health Sciences.

Text for the catalog was prepared as of May 2025. The information herein applies to the academic year 2025-2026.

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## College of Health Sciences

The College catalog serves as a supplement to the University catalog. The College faculty, staff, and students must abide by the content of the University catalog in addition to the College catalog. The 2025-2026 catalogs supersede previous versions, and all students are held responsible for the information contained in both the University and the College 2025-2026 catalogs.

### Mission

The mission of the College of Health Sciences parallels the humanistic traditions of Western University of Health Sciences. We are a team of educators, clinicians, and researchers who prepare graduates to improve the health and wellbeing of all populations.

### Goals

1. To educate a health workforce that helps to meet the healthcare and educational needs of the State of California and the west.
2. To achieve an environment and culture that supports all members of the College.
3. To ensure an environment and culture that empowers all persons in the College to maximize their potential as contributing members in the education of students, in research and clinical activities, and in service to the community.

# Master of Science in Medical Sciences (MSMS)

## Accreditation

Western University of Health Sciences is accredited by the WASC Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC). WSCUC's statement of accreditation status can be found at <https://www.wscuc.org/institutions/western-university-of-health-sciences/>. You may contact WSCUC at 985 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 100, Alameda, CA 94501. Phone: (310) 748-9001, Fax: (310) 748-9797, or by visiting <https://www.wscuc.org/contact/>. WSCUC is a non-profit organization that evaluates the quality and educational effectiveness of schools, colleges, and universities. WSCUC is one of six regional accreditation agencies in the United States. While it is not officially regulated by the government, it is regularly reviewed by the US Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation.

## Complaints Regarding WSCUC Accreditation Standards

Western University of Health Sciences is committed to meeting and exceeding the standards for accreditation of colleges and universities as described by the Accrediting Commission for WASC Senior College & University Commission (WSCUC). It is the policy of Western University of Health Sciences that a student, employee, or other constituent of the University that believes that the University may not be in compliance with the standards of accreditation has a right to file a complaint. The complaint submission process can be accessed through the following link:  
<https://www.wscuc.org/resources/comments/>.

## General Information

### Mission Statement

The mission of the Master of Science in Medical Sciences (MSMS) program at Western University of Health Sciences is to provide students with the knowledge, critical evaluation skills and research awareness that will allow them to become well-informed, evidence-based, professionals able to pursue further academic training in medical and health sciences.

### Vision

The Master of Science in Medical Sciences program is designed to produce a diverse population of lifelong learners and leaders who can tackle challenges in healthcare and generate partnerships that will positively impact and champion health equity in underserved areas.

### About the Program

The program emphasizes integration of biomedical sciences and research-based knowledge in clinical decision-making. Courses, laboratory experiences, and research will serve to provide students with the skills required to integrate scientific knowledge, literature evaluation, and clinical decision-making, and will culminate in a capstone course, assessed by a final conference presentation. A minimum of 46.50 credit hours is required for completion of the MSMS program. This includes didactic study, research, and laboratory work.

Program faculty have appointments in the Colleges of Health Sciences, Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific, Pharmacy, and Dental Medicine, as well as accredited outside institutions of postsecondary

education. Their areas of research emphasis include molecular biology, microbiology, biochemistry, immunology, neuroscience, anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, clinical care, psychology, public health, education, and ethics.

## **Curriculum Design**

The MSMS program follows a structured, in-person curriculum designed to provide students with comprehensive instruction in biomedical sciences. Research opportunities are available in various areas, allowing students to explore their interests while developing essential analytical and investigative skills.

## **Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes**

The following illustrates the alignment between student learning outcomes at WesternU, the mission of the College of Health Sciences, and the MSMS program goals and expected student outcomes.

### **Scientific Competency**

- Graduates will demonstrate foundational knowledge in the biomedical sciences.
- Graduates will be able to integrate, synthesize, and explain concepts in human anatomy, embryology, biochemistry, molecular and cellular biology, microbiology, physiology, human pathophysiology, biostatistics, and the relationship of public health to biomedicine

### **Interpersonal Communication Skills & Collaboration Skills**

- Graduates will demonstrate the ability to communicate about current issues in biomedical & health sciences in a manner acceptable to peers, clinical professionals, and the public.
- Graduates will effectively collaborate with colleagues and staff in research, teaching, and clinical settings. Graduates will work collaboratively with others to achieve shared goals, share information and knowledge with others and provide feedback.

### **Professionalism**

- Graduates will consistently fulfill obligations in a timely and satisfactory manner, take responsibility for personal actions and performance, and demonstrate professionalism in comportment.
- Graduates will demonstrate tolerance of stressful or changing environments or situations and adapt effectively to them.
- Graduates will set goals for continuous improvement and learning new concepts and skills, engage in reflective practice for improvement, and solicit and respond appropriately to feedback.
- Graduates will uphold ethical and moral standards, adhere to institutional policies, respect confidentiality, and recognize their responsibility to maintain professional conduct.

### **Emotional Intelligence and Service**

- Graduates will demonstrate a sensitivity to others' needs and feelings and recognize and act on their responsibilities to society, locally, nationally, and globally.
- Graduates will demonstrate an awareness of others' needs, goals, feelings, and the ways that social and behavioral cues affect peoples' interactions and behaviors; and will treat others with respect.
- Graduates will demonstrate knowledge of socio-cultural factors that affect interactions and behaviors; show an appreciation and respect for multiple dimensions of diversity associated with health equity; recognize and act on the obligation to inform one's own judgment; analyze diverse



perspectives and address bias to strengthen critical thinking, academic rigor, and professional effectiveness; **and** interact effectively with people from all backgrounds.

## **Personal Competencies for Admission and Matriculation**

A candidate for admission to the MSMS degree program in the College of Health Sciences must possess, or be able to achieve through a reasonable accommodation, certain sensory and motor functions, that would enable the individual to carry out the activities described in the sections that follow. Upon matriculation to the program, the student must continue to possess, or be able to achieve through a reasonable accommodation, the personal competencies outlined below through their progression in the MSMS degree program. Graduates of the program are eligible for employment in a wide variety of academic and clinical programs/institutions. As a result, they must have the intellectual ability to learn, integrate, analyze, and synthesize numerical, visual, and textual information in the biomedical sciences and health professions fields. They must also be able to effectively and accurately integrate this information and communicate it to others.

A candidate for the MSMS degree program in the College of Health Sciences ordinarily must have abilities and skills of six general varieties, including but are not limited to: (1) observation; (2) communication; (3) motor and sensory; (4) intellectual, conceptual, integrative, and quantitative; (5) behavioral and social and (6) ethical standards.

For candidates or students who require a reasonable accommodation to meet the competencies outlined below, please contact the Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy (HFCDDHP) at Disability Accommodations (e-mail) or (909) 469-5441 or visit the HFCDDHP web site.

Under all circumstances, a candidate or student must have the capacity to manage their lives and anticipate their own needs and should be able to perform the following in a reasonably independent manner, with or without a reasonable accommodation:

### **Observation**

The candidate must be able to acquire knowledge by direct observation of demonstrations, presentations, experiments, and experience in both laboratory and instructional settings. Furthermore, the candidate must observe experimental results and interpret data with or without assistive devices.

### **Communication**

Candidates must be able to communicate effectively and sensitively in English with other students, faculty, staff, and other professionals, and must be able to read, write, and communicate in English. Candidates must be able to read and comprehend written material and communicate clearly during interactions with classmates, professors, patients, and members of the health care team.

### **Motor and Sensory**

Candidates should have sufficient motor and sensory function, or reasonable accommodations to enable them to operate commonly used lab and educational equipment, (including, but not limited to, computers, microscopes, and overhead projectors). These actions require coordination of both gross and fine muscular movements, equilibrium, and functional use of the senses of touch and vision.

### **Intellectual, Conceptual, Integrative, and Quantitative Abilities**

Candidates must be able to consistently, quickly, and accurately, memorize, measure, calculate, reason, analyze, synthesize, and transmit detailed and complex information across a variety of timeframes, and modalities (i.e., classroom, lab, small group, team and collaborative activities; individual study;

preparation and presentation of reports; and use of computer technology). Candidates must engage in critical thinking and problem solving and be able to draw conclusions about three-dimensional spatial relationships and logical sequential relationships.

### **Behavioral and Social Abilities**

Candidates must be able to work effectively, respectfully, and professionally to interact with faculty and colleagues in a courteous, professional, and respectful manner. Candidates must be able to contribute to collaborative, constructive learning environments; accept constructive feedback from others; and take personal responsibility for making appropriate positive changes. Moreover, candidates and students must possess the maturity and emotional stability required for full utilization of their intellectual abilities, the exercise of sound judgment, and the prompt completion of all academic and patient care responsibilities.

### **Ethical Standards**

Candidates and students are expected to possess and be able to demonstrate the highest level of ethical, moral, and professional behavior consistent with professional values and standards; understand the legal and ethical aspects of biomedical sciences and healthcare; and function within both the law and ethical standards of the profession.

## Admissions Policies and Procedures

Admission to the MSMS program is on a competitive basis and is open to citizens and permanent residents of the United States and international students. WesternU is committed to admitting competitive, qualified individuals. The program will accept applications for admission from all qualified candidates for the MSMS degree. WesternU participates in the Post Baccalaureate Centralized Application Service (POSTBACCAS) for its admissions process.

### Notice of Non-Discrimination and Equal Opportunity

In accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, Western University of Health Sciences (WesternU) is committed to ensuring a campus community free from unlawful discrimination.

WesternU strictly prohibits unlawful discrimination in all its programs, activities, admissions, and employment. WesternU prohibits discrimination based on the following characteristics:

- Race (including traits associated with race, such as hair texture and protective hairstyles)
- Ethnicity, Color, and National Origin
- Immigration Status and Ancestry
- Sex, Gender, Gender Identity, and Gender Expression
- Sexual Orientation
- Physical or Mental Disability
- Age
- Religion (including religious dress and grooming practices)
- Medical Condition and Genetic Information
- Marital Status
- Pregnancy (including childbirth, breastfeeding, or related medical conditions)
- Military or Veteran Status
- Perceived Characteristics - Discrimination is prohibited if an individual is perceived to have any of the above characteristics.
- Association with Protected Groups – Discrimination based on association with a person or group with one or more protected characteristics is also prohibited.
- Other Legally Protected Classes – WesternU complies with all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances regarding discrimination.

WesternU has designated the Associate Vice President for the [Office of Title IX and Equal Opportunity Compliance Initiatives \(OTIXEO\)](#) to coordinate WesternU's compliance with federal and state civil rights laws regarding protected characteristics. Inquiries about WesternU's prohibitions against discrimination, harassment, and retaliation can be directed to Associate Vice President (AVP) for the Office of Title IX and Equal Opportunity Compliance Initiatives (OTIXEO) or to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

### Reasonable Accommodations During the Admissions Process

Candidates and students must be able to perform all essential functions of the program, with or without reasonable accommodation. The Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy (<sup>HF</sup>CDHP) will engage in an interactive process with students to determine appropriate accommodations, ensuring equal access to the program while maintaining the integrity of its essential requirements. To facilitate timely

accommodations, students who may require reasonable accommodations are encouraged to register with <sup>HF</sup>CDHP as soon as they accept their offer to the program. Accommodations must be approved by <sup>HF</sup>CDHP and is not provided retroactively (if approved after the start of the program/semester). Candidates seeking accommodations during the admissions process, including for Interview Day, must contact the Office of Admissions in advance to request accommodations. All requests for accommodations will be handled in a manner that is consistent with the university's policies and in full compliance with the ADA, ADAAA, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and applicable state laws). For further details regarding <sup>HF</sup>CDHP's registration process, please refer to <https://www.westernu.edu/cdhp/registration-process/>, or review the *Student Disability Accommodation Process* section.

## Application Requirements

The application requirements shown in this catalog apply to applicants who are seeking entry for the 2025/2026 academic year. Current admission and application requirements for the MSMS program, including prerequisite coursework requirements, can be found on the [website](#).

The minimum criteria to receive consideration for admission into the MSMS program are listed below. The criteria listed pertain only to the MSMS program. Please note that meeting these criteria does not guarantee admission into the MSMS program.

- A bachelor's degree with a strong science component from a regionally accredited U.S. institution or at an equivalent foreign institution. All coursework taken from non-U.S. institutions, including Canada, must be submitted to an approved service for evaluation.
- A minimum science and cumulative/overall grade point average (GPA) of 2.50 on a 4.00 scale.
- Official standardized test scores (if required by the professional program in which the student plans to matriculate). Students must visit the respective program's webpage for application requirements and information regarding standardized test(s).

Professional Goal	Standardized Test	CAS (Optional)
Pre-Medical	MCAT	AACOMAS or AMCAS
Pre-Dental	DAT	AADSAS
Pre-Optometry	OAT	OPTOMCAS
Pre-Podiatry	MCAT	AACPMAS
Pre-Physician Assistant	PA-CAT	CASPA
Pre-Pharmacy		PHARMCAS
Pre-Physical Therapy		PTCAS

- Three letters of reference from individuals familiar with the applicant's scholarship, appropriateness for a health care profession, and research potential. One letter must be from a science faculty member. A recommendation from a health care professional is highly recommended. These are submitted to POSTBacCAS and provided to the university with your primary application.

In addition to a strong academic record, we are seeking applicants who exhibit the ability to integrate and disseminate information effectively, showcasing exceptional communication and interpersonal skills.

Graduates will consistently fulfill obligations in a timely and satisfactory manner, taking personal responsibility for their actions and performance. They will demonstrate professionalism in their comportment, adapting effectively to stressful or changing environments while setting goals for continuous improvement and learning new concepts and skills. Their ability to engage in reflective practice for improvement and appropriately respond to feedback will be key to their success. The ideal candidate will also uphold ethical and moral standards, adhere to institutional policies, and maintain confidentiality, recognizing their responsibility to exhibit professionalism at all times.

### MSMS Pathway Program

A pathway program is an agreement between the College of Health Sciences – MSMS Program and certain professional degree program(s) at WesternU, which enables highly qualified MSMS students with a strong interest in such programs to accelerate the application process into those programs. To be considered for a pathway program, MSMS students are required to self-nominate by declaring their interest in a specific professional degree program at WesternU, which will be reviewed by the specific program. This typically occurs as part of the MSMS application process.

MSMS applicants who wish to self-nominate for a specific pathway program, in addition to meeting the normal criteria for MSMS admissions, must have completed all prerequisite courses and meet all specific admissions criteria associated with the professional degree program of their choosing. The requirements of each respective pathway program are solely at the discretion of the respective admissions committees. We encourage all MSMS applicants who may be interested in a pathway program to thoroughly review the respective admissions criteria for the professional degree program(s) at WesternU to confirm their eligibility.

If selected for a pathway program, the nominee will be provided with further information associated with the conditions of their participation in the pathway program, including pertinent deadlines and other important requirements. Decisions related to the selection of nominees are non-negotiable and are not open to petition or appeal. Selection in a pathway program is not a guarantee of acceptance into the specific professional degree program at WesternU. The final decision for acceptance into a specific professional degree program is at the discretion of the respective program's admissions committee.

### Application Procedures and Timelines

The MSMS program has a June orientation and matriculation date. The application submission period opens in early August of the year prior to planned matriculation. The application cycle typically closes in February of the planned matriculation year. **Applicants are encouraged to submit their primary application as early as possible to ensure timely processing of their application.**

Applicants who do not meet the criteria by the time of matriculation, and wish to reapply for the following year, must submit a new primary application and will be considered with the new applicant pool. The link to the primary application, and detailed information on how to apply, can be found on the [website](#).

A primary application must be submitted electronically to PostbacCAS. Three letters of recommendation forms must be submitted directly to PostbacCAS along with official transcripts from **all** colleges and

universities attended. To initiate the primary application with POSTBacCAS, visit the POSTBacCAS website at <https://postbaccas.liaisoncas.com/applicant-ux/#/login>.

After receipt of the applicant's PostbacCAS application, as well as all required materials, the Admissions Operations Office will process the application and determine eligibility for review. Upon completion of processing and deeming of the application complete, the application file will be sent to the Admissions Committee for consideration for interview.

Applicants who wish to use coursework completed outside the United States, including Canada, must submit their transcripts for evaluation to at the candidate's expense. A course-by-course evaluation, as well as a calculation of a cumulative/overall GPA are required, and all coursework must be designated as undergraduate, graduate, or professional. The official evaluation must be received by the application deadline.

The MSMS Admissions Committee will review all completed, qualified applications and determine which potential candidates will be invited for an interview. The interview is designed to allow the applicant to learn more about WesternU's MSMS program as well as allow the Admissions Committee to learn more about the applicant. The interview process is conducted in the spring months of the application cycle. Decisions regarding the admission of applicants are final and not subject to petition or appeal.

### **Acceptance Deposit**

Applicants accepted to the MSMS program must pay a non-refundable "acceptance" deposit of \$250.00.

### **International Applicants**

International applicants who are not U.S. citizens and who are living in the U.S. should be prepared to provide proof of legal U.S. residency at the time of the interview. Proof of legal U.S. residency is required prior to any offer of acceptance. For detailed information, please visit our web page for [International Students](#).

### **Transfer Credit**

Ordinarily, transfer credit will not be accepted. Under extraordinary circumstances, the faculty of the MSMS program may allow up to nine (9) credit hours to transfer if the coursework has been completed within an accredited graduate or professional program and there is compelling reason provided for the transfer. To have a course transferred, the student must provide the catalog description and course syllabus so that the appropriate faculty can approve the course's subject equivalency. Once these materials have been uploaded to the applicant's application on the WesternU application site, they will be reviewed ordinarily within 10 business days by appropriate faculty. A decision about equivalency and transferability will be made at that point. The Office of Admissions will notify the student of the decision by email. Under no circumstances will transfer credit be granted for coursework taken while enrolled as an undergraduate student.

### **Transferability of Courses Taken at WesternU**

Whether WesternU course credits transfer to another institution is at the complete discretion of the institution to which you may seek to transfer. Acceptance of the degree or certificate you earn at WesternU is also at the complete discretion of the institution to which you may seek to transfer. Further information regarding the transferability of courses taken at WesternU can be found in the University catalog.

## Registration

All WesternU students are required to register by the registration deadlines specified by the University Registrar. Registration dates are posted on the [Registrar's Office](#) website. Failure to register by the deadline may be grounds for administrative withdrawal. All students registering after the posted deadline will be assessed a \$30.00 per business day late fee.

Full tuition and fees and all prior debts must be paid in full on or by posted deadlines each academic year. Matriculation is subject to the satisfactory completion of all academic requirements and payment of all outstanding debts to the University. The receipt of the final transcript(s) from all colleges/universities attended and a physical examination with documentation of required immunizations (if applicable) prior to registration are additional requirements for incoming students.

### Registration Late Fee Appeals

If you are assessed late fees for a registration period, you may submit an appeal to the Office of the Registrar. For additional information on the appeal process, please see the [Registration Late Fees](#) page on the Registrar's Office website.

### Student Health Insurance Requirement

All full-time students at Western University of Health Sciences are required to have active health insurance while enrolled. All students are automatically assessed half of the entire year's insurance premium and will be enrolled in the student health insurance plan until they submit proof of coverage that meets the University's requirements. For additional information on student health insurance requirements and/or waiving out of the student health insurance plan, please see the [Student Health Insurance](#) page on the Registrar's Office website.

### New Student Orientation/Welcome Week

Attendance at all Orientation and Welcome Week activities is mandatory. There may also be classes during Orientation and Welcome Week in the MSMS program. Failure to attend any required part of Orientation/Welcome Week without prior approval from the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs may result in the rescindment of the offer of acceptance.

### Student Initiated Changes in Enrollment Status

#### *Leave of Absence*

A student may request a Leave of Absence (LOA) with the occurrence of a medical emergency or illness, personal issues, financial hardship, or military service. For additional information on requesting a Leave of Absence, please see 'Student Initiated Changes in Enrollment Status' in the University Catalog, General Academic Policies and Procedures section.

#### *Withdrawal from University/Academic Program*

Matriculation at the University is a privilege granted in consideration of specified levels of performance and of maintaining the established standards of scholarship and personal and professional conduct. The University reserves the right to require withdrawal at any time it deems necessary to safeguard its standards of scholarship, conduct, and orderly operation. The student concedes this right by act of matriculation. For additional information on withdrawing from the MSMS program, please see 'Student Initiated Changes in Enrollment Status' in the University Catalog, General Academic Policies and Procedures section.



**Full-Time/Half-Time Status**

All MSMS students enrolled in at least 8.00 credits are considered full-time students. Students enrolled in 6.00 – 7.99 credits are considered three-quarter-time students. Students enrolled in 4.00 – 5.99 credits are considered half-time students.

**Time Limits**

The Master of Science in Medical Sciences program is designed to be completed in one (1) year of full-time study. The requirements for the degree must be fulfilled within 1 year, 6 months from the date of matriculation to the program. An exception to this may be granted if a student is required to repeat a course offered beyond the 1 year, 6-month limit. Students who are unable to meet the 1 year, 6-month time limit for the MSMS program will be referred to the Student Performance Committee and may be subject to administrative withdrawal.

## Tuition and Fees

By action of the Board of Trustees, MSMS tuition and fees for the 2025/2026 academic year (subject to change) are as follows:

### Institutional Fees

\$32,949.00	Annual Tuition
\$40.00	Student Body Fee
\$350.00	Graduation Fee

### Non-institutional Fees

\$862.00	Textbooks and Supplies
\$160.00	Osmosis
\$75.00	ExamSoft
\$30.00	Registration Late Fee (Per Business Day)
\$50.00	Late Payment Fee (per month)
\$235.00	Annual Parking Permit (Auto) (Optional)
\$118.00	Annual Parking Permit (Motorcycle) (Optional)
\$40.00	Locker Key Replacement Fee (Optional)
\$10.00	Official Transcript (Each)*
\$11.75	Official PDF Transcript (Each)*
\$21.00	Rush Transcript, First Class Mail (Each)*
\$25.00	Rush Transcript, Federal Express (Each)*
\$10.00	Student ID Replacement Fee
\$TBD	Breakage Fee (Replacement Cost)
\$1,500.00 - \$2,000.00	Required Laptop Computer

\*Does not include National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) processing fee.

### Additional MSMS Program Requirements

The MSMS program requires that each enrolled student have a laptop computer with internet access and computer privacy screen. Course assignments and exams will be given that necessitate access to a computer and the internet. Laptop specifications can be found at <https://support.westernu.edu – Laptop Requirements>. When the institution is in remote status for lectures and some exams, students must have an additional device for proctoring exams. The additional device must be able to connect to the internet and have a camera.

### Modified Curriculum/Repeated Coursework Tuition Rate

Students enrolled in a modified MSMS curriculum or who are directed to repeat one or more courses but not the entire academic year are charged a per credit hour tuition rate. This rate is calculated by dividing the total credits required for a class year by the annual tuition. The per credit rate for 2025/2026 are shown below:

\$708.58	MSMS Repeated Coursework Per Credit Charge
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Students remediating a course will not be assessed a per credit charge for that course.

## **General Academic Policies and Procedures**

### **Student Disability Accommodation Process**

The Harris Family Center for Disability and Health Policy (HFCDDHP) values the uniqueness of each student as an integral member of our diverse WesternU community and is the designated office to determine and approve academic modifications or accommodations. Given HFCDDHP's role in the accommodation process is to provide students with disabilities with the legally mandated and necessary support to work toward a higher education, any requests made directly to instructional personnel related to their academic courses, even if implemented, are not considered a reasonable accommodation. Additionally, a student's disclosure of a disability or health-related condition, or the submission of documentation related thereto, in response to a process or procedure established by their respective college, does not constitute formal notification of a request for accommodations. Students must be able to perform all the essential functions of the program with or without reasonable accommodations.

Students must adhere to the enrollment procedures set forth by HFCDDHP to formally request accommodation. In the event a student discloses a disability in such a manner, they will be referred to HFCDDHP for further guidance on the accommodations request process. Requests for accommodations related to circumstances other than the student's own disability (e.g., family bereavement or common illness) shall not be considered requests for reasonable accommodations under HFCDDHP Provision of Academic Accommodation(s) Policy and Procedure or the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

To request accommodations and start the interactive process at WesternU, students are encouraged to visit the HFCDDHP webpage (<https://www.westernu.edu/cdhp/>) to learn more about the registration process, requirements for disability documentation, and to complete the Student Intake Form. All inquiries are confidential, and students are welcome to obtain general information without registering. The University will provide reasonable accommodations but is not required to make modifications that would substantially alter the nature or requirements of the program. To schedule an appointment with HFCDDHP, please email [disabilityaccommodations@westernu.edu](mailto:disabilityaccommodations@westernu.edu). Students are welcome to call the office at (909) 469-5441, or visit the Pomona office in person at 309 E. Second Street, Pomona CA, 91766, Building 390. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information, please visit the website: <https://www.westernu.edu/cdhp/>.

### **Academic Advising**

Students will be assigned a faculty advisor by the Department Chair upon matriculation. Advisement by faculty should be viewed by the student as a part of the academic process. The student or faculty advisor may seek a change of advisor. Such a request should be made to the Assistant Deans of Student Affairs or the Department Chair. It is the responsibility of the student to meet periodically with their advisor. A student on probation must meet with their advisor and the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs at least once a month, or as specified by the terms of probation.

### **Attendance and Participation**

Students are expected to attend all scheduled classes and activities. Face-to-face learning is a valued part of the curriculum. Per the University catalog, class attendance is mandatory. The course instructor may drop a student for non-attendance at the first class meeting, in the event of habitual absenteeism, or non-

participation in instructional activities. Many courses include participation as part of the overall grading of student performance. All students are also required to attend the following events:

- Orientation in early June of the first year of the program, usually spanning from Monday to Friday.
- Convocation and White Coat ceremonies in August of the first year of the program.
- The first session of every course taken throughout the entire program.
- Attendance at announced mandatory student meetings; usually held once per semester.
- Commencement exercises usually held on a weekday in the month of May.
- Scheduled obligations including program events and commitments.

In the event of an absence or tardiness, it is the student's professional responsibility to notify the MSMS Program Manager and Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, who will inform the appropriate faculty. If an absence, lateness, or early departure is anticipated, it is considered a professional courtesy to discuss this with the appropriate course instructor(s) and faculty advisor at the earliest possible date. It is expected that students will report unanticipated absences due to illness, accident, or unforeseen event/emergency immediately to the MSMS Program Manager, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, and to the appropriate faculty member. Unexpected lateness should be discussed with the course instructor as soon as possible.

Absence or tardiness from class for any reason does not relieve the student from the responsibility for the material covered during the instructional periods. The student is responsible for all course material covered during an absence. Should an absence, lateness, or early departure occur on the day of an examination or announced/unannounced quiz, any make-up exams or quizzes may or may not be allowed, at the discretion of the course instructor.

Three (3) or more unexcused absences will be viewed as violations of the Standards of Academic Integrity, Professionalism and Student Conduct, will be noted in the student's academic record, and will be grounds for a meeting with the Student Performance Committee (SPC). Consequences of this meeting may include placing the student on conduct probation or conduct suspension. If a student is reported as having arrived late to a class three (3) times without an excuse, a note will be made in the student's academic record indicating the lack of promptness. Additionally, students with more than six (6) unexcused late arrivals will be viewed in violation of the Standards of Academic Integrity, Professionalism and Student Conduct and will be called for a meeting with the SPC. Consequences of this meeting could include placing the student on conduct probation or conduct suspension.

In the case that there is a difference of opinion between the student and a faculty member of record for a course, the Chair is the final arbiter in determining if an absence is excused or unexcused.

### **Student Rights and Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of the student to be familiar with the contents of the catalog and to observe all policies and procedures relative to the completion of requirements for the graduate degree that were in effect at the time of initial enrollment in the College of Health Sciences. A student may opt to complete the program of study and degree requirements described in the catalog at the time of their graduation, provided all revised policies of the later catalog are followed.

## Examination Policies

For most examinations, a student will sit in an assigned seat, unless prior arrangements have been made with the Department Chair. Examinations will be administered in the form of a computer-based examination, paper examination, and/or oral examination. During an examination, a student may not leave the room until they have completed the examination, except in an emergency or as excused by the proctor (e.g., restroom break). If a student is excused to leave the room temporarily, the proctor may accompany the student. No additional time will be granted for the student's time out of the examination room. In addition, students are allowed a maximum of one restroom break after two hours of testing.

Once a student completes their examination and leaves the examination room, they will not be permitted to re-enter the room until the examination is complete. All student belongings, except those required for the examination, will be kept in the front of the room.

Students who miss an examination may not be in or near the designated testing area during or immediately following the examination period. Students who violate this may be considered as demonstrating academic dishonesty and may be subject to referral to the Student Conduct Committee.

## Zoom Policies and Procedures

When the campus is in remote status for lectures, the program has set forth a policy regarding student attendance and participation for lectures via Zoom. This policy is applicable to each student in every course unless otherwise stated by the instructor of record. This policy is subject to change and the students will be notified via email and/or Elentra announcements when a change is made.

Any noncompliance with this policy may result in a referral to the SPC as an alleged violation of University or College student conduct policies.

Students will be required to use a laptop to connect to their WesternU student Zoom account. Cell phones may not be normally used during class sessions. Students will log into the Zoom session from a stationary structure (i.e., house, apartment, condo, etc.) conducive to learning. This means that traveling in a car and using a cell phone to attend a Zoom session is not accepted nor approved behavior. Students must adhere to the following:

1. Students are required to attend class via Zoom using their WesternU account (please refer to course syllabi for attendance instructions).
2. First and last names **MUST display** on the student's Zoom account. If a student prefers to be called by a different name, they must display the name as such. Ex: John "Johnny" Doe
3. Students will be muted upon entry into the Zoom session but will always be required to have their video turned on.
4. Students must be in direct view of their camera throughout the ENTIRE class session excluding scheduled class breaks. During class breaks, video can be turned off, and the student must not exit the Zoom session. If a student's video is turned off for an extended period, the student will be removed from the session and may result in a loss of participation points or class materials.
  - a. In the event the faculty calls on a student whose camera is off and said student does not respond, they will be removed from the session and will result in an unexcused absence.
5. Internet connectivity can sometimes be an issue. Students are to ensure that they have the speed and bandwidth necessary to participate in the curriculum without limited issues.

6. Students are encouraged to be aware of others in the same household who may be using the internet simultaneously. In the case of an emergency such as the internet being down, a student may use a cell phone for the Zoom session with consent of the instructor of record.
7. Students must wear appropriate school attire during the Zoom session. Not doing so is considered unprofessional. This may result in a loss of participation points in the course.
8. Private Zoom chats will be disabled by the Instructor of Record in the course.
9. If a student has a question during the lecture, they are to utilize the “raise hand” feature on Zoom (located at the bottom of the screen).
10. If selecting a virtual background, students must select a clean background that is not distracting and lecture appropriate.

### **Zoom Exam Protocol**

During any remote learning period, students will be required to “re-create” the classroom setting required for exams. This means that students will be expected to have a secondary device, either a tablet or phone, which will remain functional for proctoring during the test-taking period. The following protocol will be followed by students until advised otherwise by either the Instructor of Record or Department Chair.

#### ***Preparation – Done the Day Prior to the Exam***

1. Prepare a private, quiet, and un-cluttered setting where they will designate as their exam-taking space. The desk or table where they are taking the exam should be empty or draped. Students should not have any visuals directly in front of or sides of the test space.
2. Make sure they have reliable Wi-Fi connectivity in the area they will be testing in.
3. Any notes and other written documents should be removed from the computer or laptop in which the student uses for testing.
4. Test area will have the secondary device and ensure that the device can be plugged in and/or remain charged throughout the testing period.
5. The secondary device must be positioned so that the camera captures a clear view of the student’s keyboard, screen, workspace, and face during the exam via a side/lateral view.
6. The student will need a portable/erasable whiteboard with dry erase markers and eraser. This may only be used during testing when permitted by the Instructor of Record.
7. The student must put their secondary device in Do Not Disturb mode after connecting to the Zoom session. This will allow the student to concentrate without interruptions to the student or the video feed. Any disruptions to the video feed during the exam will be deemed “suspicious activity” which could be subject to review by the Instructor of Record and/or the program chair.

#### ***Day of the Exam***

1. Students must remove any smartwatches and other electronic devices (if applicable) prior to the test.
2. Students are expected to log-on 15-30 minutes prior to the scheduled Zoom meeting using the meeting information provided by the Instructor of Record.
3. The student’s set-up should be according to instructions from the section above titled “Preparation.”
4. Students may have the erasable white board to write down notes after the start of the exam if permitted by the instructor of record.
5. Upon entering the test “environment” students will need to provide a 360-degree view with their phone/tablet of their testing area and white board (front/back).

6. If there is a question about a test question, the policy of the department is to not answer questions regarding exam questions or answers. If there is an operational question, students should DIRECTLY/PRIVATELY put their question in the Zoom meeting chat box.
7. Exam password will be available via Zoom shared screen just prior to the start of the exam.
8. Students are to log-on to ExamSoft within five (5) minutes of receiving the password. Any technical difficulties that may impede the student's experience, are to be sent to the proctor immediately using Zoom chat.
9. Exams are INDIVIDUAL and closed book (unless advised differently by the instructor). There should be NO NOTES or cues visible to the student during the exam. Students may NOT have someone else within their view throughout the exam.
10. Students are to have their Zoom profile on "mute audio."
11. The chat box on Zoom will be kept open during the exam and messages will be private and sent to the proctor only. The chat may be saved with the video to the Chair of the Department.
12. Students are NOT to leave the test setting under any circumstances during the exam – except when there is an emergency at which point the student must check with their proctor before leaving.
13. The student's test will need to be uploaded within five (5) minutes by the end of the testing period.
14. Once the student has submitted the exam, they will show their Green/Uploaded screen along with their cleaned white board to the Proctor for five seconds on Zoom to be excused.
15. Finally, the Zoom session may be video recorded during the exam period and any suspicious behavior will be reviewed by the instructor of record and/or the Chair of the department and result in a "0" on the exam.

The faculty place a high value on compliance with applicable standards of student conduct, including but not limited to the standards of professionalism and the honor code. Conduct such as taking screenshots, sharing portions of exam questions, or having reference material out during an exam would be considered a violation of the standards of professionalism and the honor code. Noncompliance with such policies may result in a referral to the SPC and result in adverse action, up to and including dismissal from the program.

### **Research Requirements**

MSMS candidates will choose a topic for their research projects from a list of available mentors provided by the research course director. The chosen topic will be selected in consultation with the assigned mentor to ensure it aligns with both the student's academic interests and the mentor's expertise. Students will be expected to document their research effectively through a written report, a poster, and an oral presentation.

### **Children in the Classroom/ Labs**

The classroom/laboratory is an environment for enhanced learning. For this reason, children are not permitted in the classroom/laboratory during lectures or examinations, no exceptions.

### **Communication**

All students will be assigned an email account by the Office of University Student Affairs. The WesternU email address is the primary means of communication utilized by the University and the MSMS program. Students are to be advised that the use of personal email accounts may result in messages defaulting to the spam filter process. Students are required to check their WesternU email accounts at least twice daily. The WesternU communication policy requires that all email messages receive a response within 48

hours (two business days). Students are required to keep the Office of the Registrar informed of their current address and telephone number by updating their information in the [Student Portal](#).

Each student is responsible for advising the Registrar and Assistant Dean of Student Affairs of telephone number changes as soon as they occur. Cell phones must be turned off during all class times and examinations.

### **Protocol for Input on Matters of Student Concern**

When an issue or dispute arises between students, the issue/dispute resolution process starts with communication among the involved students. If a satisfactory resolution is not arrived at that level, the matter should then be addressed with the faculty advisor. If the problem is not resolved at the faculty advisor/course director level, the matter should be brought to the appropriate college's Student Affairs personnel, then the College Dean, or Dean's designee. If the matter has not been resolved at those levels, the final arbiter is the Provost.

When an incident arises involving a faculty member, the first step in the issue/dispute resolution process is discussion with the faculty member. If the matter is not satisfactorily resolved at that level, then the matter should be referred to the Department Chair, then Dean, or Dean's designee, in that order. The final arbiter is the Provost. Please note that grade appeals cannot be handled under this protocol.

When an incident arises involving a staff member, the dispute resolution process begins with the Supervisor/Department Chair followed by the Dean, or Dean's designee. The Office of Human Relations is the final arbiter.

Failure to follow this sequence of steps will only serve to delay the appropriate resolution of the issue or dispute as the matter will only be referred back to the correct level in this chain of responsibility. Specific college policies regarding issue/dispute resolution are indicated in the appropriate sections of this catalog.

This protocol does not apply to concerns involving discrimination, harassment or retaliation. For information related to complaints involving discrimination, harassment and retaliation, including community resources, emergency and on-going assistance; mental health services; reporting options and other available support are as follows and can be located on the University's Title IX resource website.

### **Drugs and Alcohol on Campus Policy**

The Drugs and Alcohol on Campus Policy can be located in the University Catalog. Students will be required to complete a drug screening along with a background check on an annual basis to be permitted to begin any clinical practice experiences. This is in addition to what is outlined in the University Catalog. Students are expected to be aware of, and abide by, both University and applicable College policies.



## **Standards of Academic Integrity, Professionalism and Student Conduct ("Standards of Student Conduct")**

The University Standards of Academic Integrity, Professionalism, and Student Conduct can be located in the University Catalog. The standards outlined below are in addition to those outlined in the University Catalog. Students are expected to be aware of, and abide by, both University and applicable College policies.

### **Student Performance Committee (SPC)**

The Student Performance Committee (SPC) shall consist of voting members of the faculty who are primarily based at the Pomona campus. The SPC may also include non-voting, ex-officio members. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the CHS Dean, or Dean's designee, and are voting members. The Committee will meet at the request of the Chair/Vice-Chair.

#### **The Committee is charged with the following responsibilities:**

1. Periodically reviewing the performance and comprehensive evidence of progress of all students who are pursuing degrees in the CHS. Particular attention will be given to the students in academic difficulty. For the purposes of clarification, "performance" is defined as those activities of a behavioral-conduct and/or academic nature.
2. Receiving and reviewing reports from the Department Chairs or administration regarding any student whose professional/personal conduct or behavior is deemed unsatisfactory. Appropriate and professional conduct shall include, but is not limited to, compliance with the student conduct policies, student attendance at all required activities, completing all assigned coursework and examinations on time, and a cooperative attitude toward fellow students, WesternU employees, and personnel of affiliated clinical and community sites. It additionally includes ethical decision making, appropriate demeanor and personal appearance, and interactions with peers/colleagues, patients, clients, staff, faculty, and others who engage in program and/or university activities.
3. Reviewing the academic/professional records of the students who appear before the committee and making a recommendation to the CHS Dean, or the CHS Dean's designee, regarding appropriate actions. Actions may include promotion, probation, remediation, repeat, suspension, dismissal, administrative withdrawal, medical assessment, and/or educational assessment. Additional action(s) may be recommended as deemed appropriate to the situation.
4. Forwarding recommendations to the CHS Dean or CHS Dean's Designee.
5. Recommending to the college faculty as a whole, the awarding of the degree pursued upon satisfactory completion of all requirements for graduation is stated in the College Catalog.

The CHS Dean or CHS Dean's Designee has the authority to accept SPC recommendations or make other decisions they deem appropriate under the circumstances. The CHS Dean or CHS Dean's Designee will issue a decision, in writing, to the student. A student may appeal the decision of the CHS Dean or CHS Dean's Designee to the Provost. The CHS Dean's decisions (or CHS Dean's Designee) related to the

imposition of academic probation and any associated terms or conditions of such probation are considered final and non-appealable to the Provost (See University Catalog Student Appeal Process).

While the SPC addresses situations that cover academic performance, professionalism, and student conduct; there may be times where the hearing process in the University catalog supersedes the College catalog. Generally, this occurs when a student is alleged to be in violation of the University's Standards of Student Conduct. In the event that the University Catalog applies, the College will follow all University hearing policies and procedures as applicable. For a full account of the hearing process applicable to allegations of the Standards to Student Conduct and associated College conduct policies and procedures, please refer to "Information for Students about Hearings Involving Alleged Violations of the Standards of Conduct", located in the General Section of the University Catalog.

### **Evaluation of Student Academic Performance – SPC Procedures**

When an academic matter is referred to the SPC, the student will receive written notification that a review has been initiated. The student will have the opportunity to submit a written statement or any supporting information for the SPC's consideration. If potential outcomes could include suspension, repeating a course or academic year, dismissal, or any action likely to delay academic progress or incur financial cost, the student will be invited to appear before the SPC to present additional information. The student may request to have a mentor present for support during the SPC meeting. It is the student's responsibility to make the request to the Chair of the Committee in writing, and to identify the proposed mentor. The mentor's role is advisory only; mentors may not question witnesses or otherwise participate directly in the proceedings.

The SPC will forward its recommendations to the CHS Dean or CHS Dean's Designee. The CHS Dean or CHS Dean's Designee has the authority to accept the recommendations or make other decisions they deem appropriate under the circumstances. The CHS Dean or CHS Dean's Designee will issue a decision, in writing, to the student. A student may appeal the decision of the CHS Dean or CHS Dean's Designee to the Provost. The CHS Dean's decisions (or CHS Dean's Designee) related to the imposition of academic probation and any associated terms or conditions of such probation are considered final and non-appealable to the Provost. (See University Catalog Student Appeal Process).

Please see ***Standards of Academic Progress*** for details concerning expectations for adherence to MSMS program academic standards, requirements for graduation, and adverse actions that may be possible in the event student performance is found to be deficient. Refer to specific sections addressing probation, remediation, academic suspension, conduct suspension, summary suspension, and dismissal.

### **Reporting Alleged Violations of Standards of Student Conduct**

All members of the WesternU community have the professional and ethical responsibility to uphold the standards. Witnesses or individuals who become aware of potential violations of academic integrity, professionalism, or student conduct are required to submit:

- a. Name and signature of the individual making the report, and date, time, and place of alleged violation(s)
- b. Name of the accused student
- c. Description of the alleged violation(s)

Concerns should first be reported to those closest to the source of the violation, such as faculty, program director, Dean of Student Affairs, etc. When appropriate, students may report an eyewitness account of a violation to the Office of Student Affairs.

The Department Chair has the discretion to resolve minor infractions (matters which can be resolved through a coaching or counseling session) or escalate the matter to the Office of the Dean or Dean's designee. If the conduct involves a particular course or field experience, the Instructor, Clinical Instructor/Field Supervisor, or Field Coordinator will advise the Department Chair. In reviewing the matter, the Department Chair will meet with the student, the instructor or field coordinator, and/or the student's faculty advisor, individually or in a group, to discuss the nature of the reported violation(s) and potential actions. The Department Chair will provide a written notification of the violation(s), and any resulting resolution to the student involved, with copies to the SPC, Department Chair, and Faculty Advisor within five business days. A copy of this notification will be placed in the student's file, subject to removal if no further violations occur before graduation.

Matters that could not be resolved at the program level through coaching or counseling will be referred to the Office of the Dean, or Dean's designee, for review and referral to the SPC. The Department Chair may issue a written recommendation to the Office of the Dean of the College of Health Sciences for referral to the SPC. Conduct issues include, but are not limited to, (a) attendance, (b) cooperation with faculty, (c) interest shown in assigned work, (d) attitude towards fellow students and associates or toward personnel of the University or its affiliate organizations, (e) approach to and interaction with patients, research subjects and all other colleagues, as well as (f) personal appearance appropriate to the circumstances. Please note: Notwithstanding the protocol above, the Dean reserves the right to refer a matter directly to SPC.

For a full account of the hearing process applicable to allegations of the Standards to Student Conduct and associated College conduct policies and procedures, please refer to "Information for Students about Hearings Involving Alleged Violations of the Standards of Conduct," located in the General Section of the University Catalog.

### **Appeals Procedures**

In accordance with the University catalog, the Dean, or Dean's designee, shall have authority to make decisions regarding a student's status in matters of academic progression/promotion, suspension, student conduct, dismissal, and graduation. The decision will be based on input from appropriate sources that may include the following: individual instructors, faculty, and appropriate committees.

The Dean, or Dean's designee, will issue a decision, in writing, to the student. A student may appeal the decision of the Dean, or Dean's designee, to the Provost. Dean's, or Dean's designee's, decisions related to grades or related to the imposition of academic probation and any associated terms/conditions of such probation are considered final and not appealable to the Provost (See University Catalog, Student Appeal Process).

## Standards of Academic Progress

Students whose performance falls below the minimum acceptable standards for any area of study will be notified of such deficiency by the instructor of the course, the Assistant Deans of Student Affairs, or the Department Chair as soon as evidence of such sub-standard performance is available. Students whose performance is considered unacceptable because of not meeting the minimum requirements, or who are not able to bring their performance to the minimum standard within the allotted time in the academic term, will be placed on probation. The duration and conditions of the probationary period will be determined by the Student Performance Committee (SPC). The SPC may recommend the appropriate action, which may include but is not limited to remedial study or repetition of a unit of study, resulting in extending the length of the program. (See section on Probation in the General Academic Policies and Procedures section in University Catalog). To be considered making satisfactory academic progress and to be considered in good academic standing, MSMS students:

- Will have an overall GPA of 2.50 or above.
- Will complete the coursework for degree in two semesters unless a leave of absence is granted, or remediation of a course is required. If remediation is required, a student may have up to six (6) months additional time to complete the degree and to be considered to be making satisfactory academic progress.

## Graduation

A student will be recommended for the Master of Science in Medical Sciences degree provided the student:

1. Is not on probation or suspension, has completed all prescribed academic requirements with a cumulative grade point average of above 2.50 and has no outstanding grade of "I," "NCR," or "U."
2. Has demonstrated no serious deficiencies in ethical, professional, or personal conduct, as defined in University Catalog, "General Academic Policies and Procedures" section, which would make it inappropriate to award the degree of Master of Science in Medical Sciences.
3. Has complied with all the legal, immunization, and financial requirements of the University as stated in the University Catalog.
4. Has attended in person and participated in the Commencement ceremony at which time the Master of Science in Medical Sciences degree is conferred. Unless special permission has been granted by the Dean, or Dean's designee, each student must participate in his or her respective commencement ceremony. If the Dean, or Dean's designee, grants special permission for excusal from commencement, the graduate may be required to present themselves to the Dean or their designee at another specified date to take their profession's oath before their diploma will be released. Requests for excusal will only be granted for extenuating circumstances, such as a prior military commitment.

Students may participate in commencement activities provided they will complete all requirements of the program by December 31 of that calendar year. No student will receive their degree until the student has completed all requirements for graduation. Degrees will be dated as appropriate to completion date.

## Adverse Actions

### *Probation*

The student who demonstrates unacceptable performance in any unit of study during any phase of the program is notified of such performance by the Instructor of the course, Faculty Advisor, the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, or Program Chair as soon as it becomes evident.

Students whose performance is considered unacceptable because of not meeting the Standards of Academic Progress will be placed on probation. The duration and conditions of the probationary period will be determined by the CHS Student Performance Committee (SPC). The Committee may require remedial study and/or repetition of a unit of study in addition to the terms of probation recommended by the faculty.

Probation is defined as a period of time specified by the Dean of the College of Health Sciences, or Dean's designee, during which the student's progress will be closely monitored by (a) the SPC, (b) program faculty, and c) the department chairperson. A student will be recommended for probation and may be asked to appear at a Student Performance Committee (SPC) meeting for any of the following reasons:

- A student earns a failing ("U") grade in any course.
- A student's cumulative GPA is below 2.50 at the end of any academic term in the MSMS program.
- Failure to perform in a professional manner.
- Serious deficiencies in ethical, professional, or academic conduct.

The terms of probation for ethical, professional, or personal misconduct will be specified at the time the student is placed on probation.

When a student is recommended for probation, they will be notified in writing by the program and the reasons will be stated. The written notification will be sent via mail, email or hand delivered. A copy of the notification will be placed in the student's permanent file, and a copy sent to the Chairperson of the Student Performance Committee (SPC). SPC will determine the final terms and conditions of probation.

A student on probation may not serve as an officer of any official University club or organization and shall not engage in time-consuming extracurricular activities.

Students are removed from probation under the following conditions:

1. After one semester, provided they have regained both a semester and cumulative GPA of at least 2.50.
2. When all 'U' grades have been satisfactorily remediated.

3. When the specified terms of probation conduct are met. For information concerning the handling of infractions to the standards of student conduct, the function of the SPC, the status of a student with an action pending, academic suspension, conduct suspension, summary suspension, dismissal and the student appeals process, all students are referred to the General Academic Policies and Procedures section of the University catalog.

### ***Financial Aid Warning Policy (Title IV and Title VII)***

#### **Academic Probation Policy**

If a student is not making Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) they will be placed on “Financial Aid Warning” status for the next payment period and continue to receive financial aid for that period. Financial Aid is any financial assistance offered to the student for paying for their education, such as loans, scholarships, Federal Work-Study, Grants and stipends (based on the criteria of the stipend). Students who fail to make SAP by the end of that payment period lose financial aid eligibility.

It is the policy of the Financial Aid Office (FAO) that once a student has been placed on academic probation for not meeting SAP standards as defined by the College, the Financial Aid Office will automatically place the student in a Financial Aid Warning status. During the next academic term if the student does not meet SAP standards and the College places the student on academic suspension the student will no longer be eligible for financial aid. If the student appeals the academic suspension and the appeal is approved, financial aid will be reinstated. If the student is directed to audit courses, those courses will not be charged tuition for the audited courses. Students that are required to repeat coursework are encouraged to meet with a financial aid counselor with respect to their financial aid eligibility.

#### **Conduct Probation Policy**

If a student has been placed on conduct probation by their College, it is the policy of the Financial Aid Office (FAO) that the student be placed on “Financial Aid Warning” status.

The financial aid warning for a conduct probation is a status that is assigned to the student who fails to meet the College’s standards for professional/personal conduct, as defined by the College. If the student does not meet the Colleges’ professional/personal conduct standards and the College places the student on conduct suspension the student will no longer be eligible for financial aid. Financial Aid is any financial assistance offered to the student for paying for their education, such as loans, scholarships, Federal Work-Study, Grants, and stipends (based on the criteria of the stipend). If the student appeals the conduct suspension and the appeal is approved, financial aid will be reinstated.

Students are encouraged to meet with a financial aid counselor with respect to their financial aid eligibility.

#### ***Tutorial Assistance Program***

A Tutorial Assistance Program (TAP) has been established to assist students experiencing academic difficulty. Students will be recommended for this program by a faculty member, the Department Chair, or the Assistant Deans of Student Affairs. Students may self-identify to TAP to receive assistance. The tutors will be chosen on the recommendation of the faculty in each discipline. Group tutoring is the methodology most used by the TAP department. TAP support is contingent upon availability of tutors and the support of the college program. For assistance, contact the Learning Enhancement and Academic Development Office (LEAD).

### ***Remediation***

Every effort will be made to give each student an opportunity to demonstrate proficiency in each area of the academic program. Remediation is to be regarded as a privilege that must be earned through active participation in the educational program as demonstrated by regular attendance, individual initiative, and utilization of available resources.

If a student receives a “U” or “NCR” for any course, the student will be reviewed by the faculty who will make a recommendation for remediation to the SPC.

In reviewing the student’s academic deficiencies, the following guidelines shall be applied:

1. Educational objectives underlie remedial teaching, and evaluation should be the same as the educational objectives that underlie regular courses in the curriculum. Where deemed appropriate, the SPC, following consultation with the faculty, may recommend one or a combination of the following options:
  - a. Take a comprehensive examination.
  - b. Complete special projects or studies in the deficient area(s)
  - c. Repeat the course (Students repeating a course(s) will be charged full tuition for the course).
  - d. Where remediation is not an option, the faculty may recommend dismissal from the university.
2. The score/grade achieved by remediation will be the grade recorded EXCEPT that the highest grade a student may earn on options (a) or (b) is a grade of C. If the student is directed to repeat a course, the grade for the repeated course will be recorded on the official transcript. Only the most recent grade received for a repeated course will be included in the student’s GPA calculation. Students will be charged full tuition for repeated coursework.
3. Decisions regarding remediation will be made on an individual basis after considering all pertinent circumstances in each case. The SPC will base its decision on the student’s academic record, considerations based upon the faculty recommendation, and the student consultation. Course remediation by exam(s) will take place during the summer following the academic year in which the student failed the course. Remediation by repeating the course will take place at the time the course is offered during the following academic year. All summer remediation exams will take place no sooner than June 1 and no later than August 1 of the following summer after the student has failed a course. Students who require remediation but are unavailable on the designated examination date will not be allowed to progress in the curriculum and will be placed on academic suspension. The grade, either earned upon remediation of the course, by exam or repeating the course, will replace the original course grade in the final GPA calculation.
4. Any student who is required to remediate a course or a portion of a course will be notified in writing at least two weeks prior to the date of remediation (or within two weeks of the close of the academic year, whichever comes first). Notification will be by certified mail, email, or hand-delivered to the student. The notification must be acknowledged with the signatures of the Dean, or Dean’s designee and the student.

Only students who have failed a course or otherwise earned a “U” or “NCR,” will be allowed to remediate a course. At no time will a student with a passing grade (C or better) be allowed to remediate a course.

### ***Academic Suspension***

Students who are deemed unable to continue in the curriculum due to inadequate performance and are required to repeat a given academic year or portion thereof will be placed on academic suspension

through such time as they can resume their studies by starting the courses the student is required to repeat. Throughout the time the student is academically suspended, he or she is also on academic probation, and remains on academic probation until all coursework has been satisfactorily remediated/repeated. A student may not receive financial aid during any time of suspension.

### ***Conduct Suspension***

A conduct suspension is a period of time when a student is barred from enrollment in an academic program because of a violation of applicable University or College conduct policies, as implemented through the procedures outlined in the University Catalog. A student may not receive financial aid during any time of suspension.

### ***Summary Suspension***

Actions that threaten or endanger, in any way, the personal safety, and/or well-being of self or others, or that disrupt or interfere with the orderly operation of the College or University are cause for immediate disciplinary action. Either the University President, Provost, or Dean, or Dean's designee, has the authority to summarily suspend a student when the student admits to guilt or when, in the opinion of these entities, such action is appropriate to protect the health or safety of any individual, or to preserve the orderly operation of the University. Further details regarding the summary suspension action can be found in the University Catalog.

### ***Dismissal***

The University may require withdrawal at any time it deems necessary to safeguard its standards of scholarship, conduct, and orderly operation. A student may be permanently dismissed from the program if the student fails to accomplish course-learning objectives and/or fails to achieve academic expectations even after granted the opportunity to repeat coursework. Any student permanently dismissed from the program is not eligible for Title IV, HEA programs. A student may be permanently dismissed when:

- A student earns a failing grade ("U" or "NCR") in any course that the student has remediated.
- A student earns two or more failing grades ("U" or "NCR") throughout the duration of the program.
- A student currently repeating coursework due to sub-standard academic performance is found in violation of University or College Standards of Academic Integrity, Professionalism and Student Conduct at a level that merits course failure or repeating the course.
- Failure to perform in a professional manner.
- Serious deficiencies in ethical or personal conduct.



## Evaluation and Grading

Competency is expected of all program graduates upon completion of the degree curriculum as defined by the “Program Goals.” The curricular components of the program are designed so that students work toward achievement of these competencies. The following grading scale is applied to students enrolled in the Master of Science in Medical Sciences program:

### Grading Scale

Final course grades are given based upon the traditional 4-point letter system, as follows:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Equivalent</u>	<u>GPA Points</u>
A	92-100%	4.00
A-	90-91.9%	3.70
B+	87-89.9%	3.30
B	84-86.9%	3.00
B-	80-83.9%	2.70
C+	76-79.9%	2.30
C	70-75.9%	2.00
U	Unsatisfactory	0.00
CR	Credit	N/A
NCR	No Credit	N/A

### ADMINISTRATIVE GRADES

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Equivalent</u>	<u>GPA Points</u>
AU	Audit	N/A
I	Incomplete	N/A
W	Withdrawal	N/A
M	Missing	N/A

### Audit

An “AU” (Audit) is assigned to a student who attends class activities but does not complete examinations and does not receive course credit. However, under certain circumstances, at the discretion of the College Dean, or Dean’s designee, a student who is repeating or undergoing remediation may be required to complete course examinations and/or other required work products while auditing the course for no grade.

### Missing Grades

A grade of “M” for Missing will be input by the Office of the Registrar if a student’s grade is not available by the deadline for grade submission. An “M” grade is not included in the GPA calculation and will be replaced by the grade earned in the course once submitted by the course director/instructor. “M” grades should not be used by the program in place of an Incomplete (I) grade.

### Incomplete Grades

An Incomplete grade “I” will only be assigned to students whose health and/or personal responsibilities prevent them from completing the requirements of the course. A student may remove an incomplete by completing course requirements within six (6) weeks after the end of the semester when the course took

place, or the final grade will be permanently recorded as a “U.” The instructor must certify any grade changes. The “I” grade will remain on the student’s transcript, along with the final grade assigned by the instructor.

### **Grade Reports**

Official grades are turned in to the Registrar by the College of Health Sciences, at which time the online student records system, BanWeb, is updated. Official grade reports and unofficial transcripts will be available on the BanWeb student records system throughout the academic year. No course grade will be changed unless the instructor certifies in writing that an error in computing or recording the grade has occurred or that the student has completed course requirements for an incomplete grade or remediated grade. It should be noted that the GPA shown on BanWeb is not necessarily the same as that which would be calculated by a Centralized Application Service.

### **Appealing a Course Grade**

No course grade will be changed unless the Instructor or Department Chair certifies in writing to the Registrar that an error in computing or recording the grade occurred. If the student believes there is just cause to dispute a grade for a course, the procedure is as follows:

1. Within three (3) business days of the date the course grade is posted to BanWeb, student must make an appointment to talk with the course Instructor(s) who issued the grade and submit written request for review. Upon receipt of written request from the student, the course Instructor(s) shall review the case with the student and a decision shall be made by the course Instructor(s) to affirm or modify the grade. Within five (5) business days of the student’s written request, the course Instructor(s) shall notify the student in writing of the decision. A copy of the letter shall be sent to the student and the Department Chair.
2. Within three (3) business days following written notification to the student regarding the instructor’s decision, the student may appeal the decision in writing to the Department Chair. The appeal request must be accompanied by a narrative explaining the basis of the appeal. The narrative should fully explain the student’s situation and substantiate the reason(s) for advocating a reversal of the instructor’s prior decision. The Department Chair may grant an appeal only if a claim of (1) bias, (2) the appearance of new material and documentable evidence that was not available at the time of the instructor’s decision, or (3) procedural error that unfairly affected the decision-making process is substantiated by the Department Chair. Upon written request from the student with a valid appeal rationale, the Department Chair shall review the case and within five (5) working days shall issue a decision in writing to the student, which may affirm, modify, or reverse the previous action. A copy of that decision will be provided to the instructor. The Chair’s decision is final in all course grade appeals (didactic and experiential), except when the Chair is also the official Instructor of the course in question. In such a case, the student will direct his or her appeal to the Dean of the College of Health Sciences, or Dean’s designee, following the same guidelines for an appeal to the Department Chair. In addition, in such a case, the decision of the Dean, or Dean’s designee, is final and not subject to appeal.

### **Credit Hour Calculation**

Courses are rated at one credit hour for each 15.0 hours of lecture or 30.0 hours of laboratory practicum, directed independent study, or small group sessions.

## Curriculum Organization

To graduate, students must complete a minimum of 46.50 credit hours.

Fall Semester		
Subject/Course #	Course Title	Credit Hours
CHS 5020	The U.S. Healthcare System	2.00
CHS 5030	Intensive Human Anatomy and Embryology	8.50
CHS 5042	Biochemistry	5.00
CHS 5043	Molecular and Cellular Biology	5.00
CHS 5061	Introduction to Biomedical Research	2.00
CHS 5070	Biostatistics	4.00
CHS 5082	Medical Ethics and Professionalism	3.00
Fall Total Credit Hours:		29.50
Spring Semester		
Subject/Course #	Course Title	Credit Hours
CHS 5021	Introduction to Human Pathophysiology	2.00
CHS 5071	Research - Capstone	4.00
CHS 5075	Medical Physiology	4.00
CHS 5079	Medical Microbiology	4.00
CHS 5083	Clinical Environments in Health Care	3.00
Spring Total Credit Hours:		17.00
Program Total Credit Hours:		46.50

## Course Descriptions

All courses are awarded letter grades, except when indicated otherwise.

### **CHS 5020 The U.S. Healthcare System (2.0 credit hours)**

The U.S. Healthcare System course aims to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the structure, organization, and functioning of the healthcare delivery systems in the United States. The course explores key components of the healthcare system, the role health policy and regulation play, analyzes the interplay of various stakeholders, and addresses financial, ethical, and legal issues and challenges facing the system. Moreover, this course will rely on historical data, policy, and events that have shaped our healthcare delivery system(s) and students will be challenged with discussing, deliberating, and recommending potential solutions.

### **CHS 5021 Introduction to Human Pathophysiology (2.0 credit hours)**

The course's principal aim is to provide the students with knowledge of essential concepts that will enable them to understand human body responses and manifestations of disease. Emphasis is placed on a functional understanding of imbalances of homeostatic mechanisms and how these correspond to and manifest as disease processes. In the course, students will explore cause, effect, and progression of disease. The students will be introduced to extensive medical terminology of clinical cases to understand disease etiology, pathogenesis, signs and symptoms, prognosis, complications, and treatment implications. The students are expected to develop in-depth knowledge of physiological processes associated with disease or injury.

### **CHS 5030 Intensive Human Anatomy and Embryology (8.5 credit hours)**

The Intensive Human Anatomy and Embryology course is an accelerated equivalent of OM 5002 with the added component of human embryology. Material covered in this regional approach includes the shoulder and upper limb, thorax and its viscera, abdomen and its viscera, the pelvis and its viscera, the male and female perineum, the lower limb, the neck, and the head. The objectives include the mastery of nomenclature and spatial relationships of human anatomical systems. The course consists of didactic and practical components and includes dissection of human cadavers. Assessment is by means of written and laboratory practical examinations, as well as regular quizzes.

### **CHS 5042 Biochemistry (5.0 credit hours)**

The overall goal of this course is to introduce students to the most important concepts and principles of biological chemistry. Topics previously covered in earlier chemistry and biology courses will be expanded and placed in the context of the living organism. The key objective is to understand and be able to apply concepts rather than merely memorize information. Subject areas covered include macromolecular structure, reactivity and function, thermodynamics, carbohydrate, lipid, amino acid metabolism and nucleotide metabolism, and metabolic interrelationships between organs and pathways. Students attending this course will develop an understanding of the principles of biological chemistry, including thermodynamics, kinetics and macromolecular structure, function, and reactivity. They will learn the basic concepts of metabolism in human systems, in both health and disease and demonstrate skills in the interpretation of contemporary biochemical data on each of the major classes of biological macromolecules, as well as in the interpretation of clinical data relating to the understanding of the roles of biomolecules and the integration of metabolism.

**CHS 5043 Molecular and Cellular Biology (5.0 credit hours)**

Building on CHS042, this course will further explain topics in cellular biology and introduce concepts in cancer biology and immunity. Students will gain proficiency in intracellular organization, membrane transport, cell membrane properties, cell signaling, cell cycle, cancer biology and immunology. As this is an extension of Physical and Biochemical Systems, CHS 5042 is a pre-requisite.

**CHS 5061 Introduction to Biomedical Research (2.0 credit hours)**

This course aims to introduce students to the conduct of basic, translational, and clinical biomedical scientific research. In addition, participants will gain a broader understanding of research in the community and how to develop a research agenda from existing community-based programs. This is an introduction to several key concepts, and students are not expected to have a deep mastery of statistics, research methodology, or online bibliographic databases prior to taking the course. Students attending this course will be introduced to research methods including key statistical concepts, the IRB process, ethics in research, lab safety, HIPPA and oral and written presentations. Students will be linked with mentors appropriate to their research interests and will develop a precise question in the research context.

**CHS 5070 Biostatistics (4.0 credit hours)**

This course aims to introduce students to basic concepts in biostatistics and manuscript writing. In the course, students will gain proficiency in interpreting data, calculating statistical parameters, and communicating those data in manuscript form. Students will learn how to calculate statistical parameters, apply parametric and non-parametric tests to data sets, conduct t-tests, and understand the principles of ANOVA testing. Moreover, the course is also designed to provide students with the knowledge needed to identify the different components of a research manuscript, differentiate between types of research papers, and write a mini-review article.

**CHS 5071 Research - Capstone (4.0 credit hours)**

This course is designed to train students in design and preparation of a scientific poster, techniques in presenting data and public speaking. The course is a culmination of student's research work in the program and will culminate in a research symposium where students are expected to present their research findings to their peers and faculty.

**CHS 5075 Medical Physiology (4.0 credit hours)**

This course builds on CHS 5042 and 5043 and will examine human physiology of the nervous, musculoskeletal, integumentary, cardiovascular, respiratory, endocrine, renal, digestive, and reproductive systems in an integrated fashion. The course will focus on the physiological interrelationships of organ systems in the maintenance of homeostasis. The students will be introduced to pathophysiology, clinical correlations, medical screening, differential diagnostics and treatment of selected disease states and conditions.

**CHS 5079 Medical Microbiology (4.0 credit hours)**

This course builds on CHS 5042 and 5043 and presents an integration study on the basics of microbiology, including microbial structure, function, metabolism, genetics, and the relationship of microbes with the host and host-defense mechanisms. Major diseases caused by microorganisms will be considered. In addition, mechanisms of infectious disease transmission, asepsis, and control of microbial growth will be discussed. The students' knowledge of anatomy and physiology will be applied to understand the effects of microbial infections on various organs systems. The students will be expected to learn basic and clinical lab techniques as well as their application in the identification of various microbes.

**CHS 5082 Medical Ethics and Professionalism (3.0 credit hours)**

The Medical Ethics and Professionalism course will provide the pre-health care professional student with the opportunity to experience and begin to understand the multi-faceted and complex nature of the health care professions as they relate to society. The student will gain insight into the many social components that both influence and shape health care practice and the societal perspectives that influence how the health care practitioner is perceived by society. At the end of this course, students will be able to describe the historical development of modern health care practice and the contributions of health care practitioners from antiquity to the present who made key contributions to the evolution of medicine and medical practice. During the course students will explore ethical concepts and theories which apply to current as well as inform future medical practice. Students will also explore ethical issues related to social justice and inequity as it pertains to access to healthcare for vulnerable populations. Throughout the course students will be encouraged to reflect deeply on their personal call to the profession of medicine and the role they will play in society as practitioners of healing.

**CHS 5083 Clinical Environments in Health Care (3.0 credit hours)**

This course provides a critical experiential learning opportunity for the Master of Science in Medical Sciences specifically placing the clinical provision of care in its broader context, integrating both theory and practice. The learner constructs knowledge, attitudes, skills, competencies, and understanding through direct experience.

## **Honors and Awards**

The following awards are considered for presentation to MSMS students annually:

Dean's List  
Dean's Scholarship  
East-West Scholarship  
Research Presentation Honors

## Academic Calendar

Fall 2025	
June 9, 2025	Orientation/Fall Classes Begin
June 19, 2025	Juneteenth – No Classes
July 4, 2025	Independence Day– No Classes
August 4-8, 2025	WesternU Welcome Week
August 8, 2025	White Coat Ceremony
September 1, 2025	Labor Day – No Classes
October 13, 2025	Indigenous Peoples Day – No Classes
November 11, 2025	Veterans Day Observed – No Classes
November 26, 2025	Last Day of Classes - Thanksgiving Recess Begins @ 5:00 p.m.
December 1, 2025	Fall Classes Resume
December 5, 2025	Fall Classes End
December 19, 2025	Winter Recess Begins
Spring 2026	
January 5, 2026	Spring Classes Begin
January 19, 2026	Martin Luther King Day – No Classes
February 16, 2026	President’s Day – No Classes
March 16, 2026	Spring Break Begins
March 23, 2026	Spring Classes Resume
May 8, 2026	Spring Classes End
May 18-20, 2026	University Commencement Ceremony