

**University of Illinois College of Medicine**  
**College Committee on Student Promotions**  
**Annual Report AY 2009-2010**

**Year in Review**

All sites operate under a common set of student academic promotion policies and procedures. The CCSP considered the cases of five students who were subject to dismissal, during the period of June 2009 through May 2010. Four of the five students had been recommended to continue in the College of Medicine by their site promotions committees because of compelling, extenuating circumstances, of which CCSP reaffirmed three. One student's appeal was granted and he was allowed to repeat the M1 year. The student who had been recommended for dismissal by her site (following three extensions of the time limit policy) was dismissed by CCSP. Her appeal to be allowed to remain and be granted additional time to pass Step 1 and complete all other requirements was denied.

In addition, the Committee heard many petitions to be allowed to take make up examinations in lieu of a repeat year, to retake only certain courses rather than the entire curriculum, to retake make up examinations, and other exceptions to the *Academic Student Promotions Policy*, two of which were granted due to compelling circumstances. The CCSP acted on many progress and promotions recommendations from all sites, acknowledged multiple leaves of absence, five withdrawals (three in good academic standing), as well as approved graduation and promotion lists. Forty-six students were designated to receive the distinction of Graduation with Honors, which represents 14% of the graduating class.

**Review of Student Promotions Policy**

Because of financial constraints, the CCSP had to forego its annual retreat. Members were asked to suggest policies or questions for review during regular monthly business meetings. One of the policies reviewed was Graduation with Honors. Each year the CCSP reviews the criteria students must meet or exceed to qualify for Graduation with Honors. Site promotions committees may petition that outstanding students who may miss one criterion also be considered. This year, the CCSP was asked to review the academic records of many such students whose exceptions were in some instances significantly below the standard. Members were asked to approach this expansively, granting the honor to well deserving students, who might not have tested at their true level due to headache, stress, or effects of an illness for one Step examination, while they had distinguished themselves over four or more years within the COM. It was determined that a single standard should be applied to all cases to ensure students were treated equitably. The registrar agreed to audit all student records to ensure that those who met the new criteria would be identified. The following exception rule was approved: **Students who are deficient in only one criterion, and whose USMLE score was within one standard error of measurement of that criterion, would also be granted Graduation with Honors.** This resulted in an additional twelve students being granted Graduation with Honors (total of 46 of 339). It was agreed that the topic would be revisited at the retreat in the fall.

The CCSP also approved an expanded list of the types of leaves of absence that students may take to be consistent with national conventions. The CCSP will continue to strive to provide fair and consistent review of student progress through the curriculum, conforming to academic promotion policies and procedures designed to ensure a high standard of academic achievement and professionalism by our graduates.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rick Miller, MD  
Chair, College Committee on Student Promotions