

MD Degree Time Limitations

Owner Department: Office of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs

Owner: Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs

Affected Department(s) or Parties: All Students at Carle Illinois College of Medicine

Effective Date: June 3, 2020

Next Review Date: June 3, 2023

Policy Number: APS-33

The standard Doctor of Medicine (MD) program at Carle Illinois College of Medicine (Carle Illinois) takes four years to complete. For MD only students, the maximum time frame to earn the MD is six years after matriculation. For students who pursue multiyear degrees through an approved leave of absence, the maximum time to the MD degree is 10 years after matriculation.

The Carle Illinois curriculum is comprised of three Phases, which are summarized below:

1. Phase 1 – Includes preclinical coursework, Introduction to Clinical Practice, and the Family Medicine clerkship. Completing USMLE Step 1 is required for advancing from Phase 1 to Phase 2 of the curriculum. See the [Promotions and Graduation Policy for full details](#);
2. Phase 2 – The major clerkship year, and includes the IDEA (Innovation, Design, Engineering Application) course;
3. Phase 3 – Includes the Capstone, Data Science Project, and elective courses and USMLE must be completed (with passing scores) during this phase.

In order to ensure timely progress toward their degree, maintain satisfactory academic progress, and remain in good standing, students must:

- Complete Phase 1 within three years of matriculation to Carle Illinois including leaves of absence;
- Complete Phase 2 and Phase 3 by the end of the sixth academic year following matriculation, including leaves of absence, and no more than 10 years if pursuing a multiyear degree through an approved leave of absence.

Students may be granted leaves of absence from the Carle Illinois MD program in order to pursue an additional degree (e.g., MS, MPH, & PhD), immersion in research, or innovation opportunities, and must meet the criteria for entering Phase 2 and must pass USMLE Step 1 before departing the medical school curriculum. The period of time during which students are on leaves of absence to pursue additional degrees is excluded from the six-year cumulative maximum time frame but they cannot exceed the ten-year maximum time to earn the MD degree.

Students who need time off for extenuating medical/personal issues are advised to take a leave of absence from the College (see [Leave of Absence Policy](#)). These leaves-of-absence are included in the six-year maximum time to degree.

Health Innovation Research Immersion: Students who plan to obtain the MD degree only from Carle Illinois need approval from Academic and Student Affairs. The year-long experience typically includes scholarly pursuits such as research and one-year master's degrees. This year-long experience counts towards the six-year maximum timeframe.

For extenuating circumstances, students may submit a petition for an additional time to graduation beyond six years to the Student Promotions and Progress Committee. Students should work with Student Affairs to submit the petition in a timely fashion. The petition must be submitted in writing to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and it must explain the extenuating circumstances (i.e., health, hardship, and family circumstances) and the rationale for needing more than six years to graduate with the MD degree.

Governing Body: Curriculum Oversight Committee

History:

Created: May 25, 2020

Approved By/Date: Curriculum Oversight Committee, June 3, 2020