



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES  
MONA CAMPUS, JAMAICA, WEST INDIES

FACULTY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

## Regulations

**Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MB BS)**  
and  
**Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMedSci)**

Effective Academic Year 2023/2024

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## Revised MB BS Regulations

Effective Academic Year 2023/2024

Note that these regulations are subject to change.

# **MB BS REGULATIONS**

## **1. Entry Requirements**

- 1.1 Applicants must normally have attained a minimum age of 18 years old by December 31 of the year of entry.
- 1.2 Applicants must submit their applications to the Senior Assistant Registrar, Student Affairs, The University of the West Indies on the relevant Campus by the end of the second week of January each year. For procedures concerning applications and for further information candidates should write to the Senior Assistant Registrar, Student Affairs.
- 1.3 Students who are required to withdraw from the Faculty for failing to complete the MB BS Degree Programme within the stipulated time or because of poor performance may be considered for readmission to the Programme after at least one year has elapsed since their withdrawal.

## **2. Qualifications for Admission**

- 2.1 Applicants who wish to begin the degree programme must fulfil the general University regulations concerning matriculation and, in addition, the specific requirements of the Faculty set out below.
- 2.2 The academic requirements for admission to the MB BS Degree Programme are based on the applicant's proficiency and attainment in any of the following, hereinafter referred to as "approved examinations":
  - Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examinations (CAPE)/General Certificate of Education Advanced ("A") Level Examinations or their equivalent.
  - UWI Preliminary or Introductory Level Courses in the appropriate subjects in the Faculty of Science and Technology or the Faculty of Food and Agriculture (St. Augustine) (see Regulation 2.3 and 2.4 below).
  - Programmes/Courses which are considered equivalent at institutions recognised by the University of the West Indies (see Regulation 2.9 below).
- 2.3 The applicant must have obtained three (3) passes in the approved examinations including Biology/Zoology and Chemistry. The third subject can be Physics, Mathematics or any other approved subject including one from the humanities or social sciences provided that passes have also been obtained in Physics and Mathematics at the CSEC(CXC) or GCE O Level or any other equivalent qualifying examinations.

- 2.4 Students currently studying at UWI in the Faculty of Science and Technology or the Faculty of Food and Agriculture (St Augustine) seeking to be transferred to the MB BS Degree Programme shall be considered only from the Preliminary and/or Introductory level courses. All such students must complete and submit a Transfer Form by the end of the second week of January in the calendar year of proposed entry. The minimum grade point average (GPA) is 3.5 and there should be a minimum grade of B in Chemistry, Biology and one other subject. If the other subject is not Physics, students must have attained Physics at the CSEC (CXC) or GCE O Level or any other approved equivalent qualifying level.
- 2.5 Applicants who are accepted into the three-year Bachelor of Basic Medical Sciences (BBMedSci) Degree programme shall not be permitted to transfer to the MB BS Degree Programme at any time during their course but may apply to enter the MB BS Degree Programme in any subsequent year after obtaining the Degree. In such cases, exemptions (see Regulation 5.4 and 5.5 below) may be granted.
- 2.6 Applicants holding UWI first degrees in the natural sciences with a minimum qualification of lower second class honours (GPA 2.5) may be considered for entry.
- 2.7 Applicants holding professional degrees in allied Health disciplines may also be considered for entry provided that they have attained a minimum grade of B+ or GPA of 3.3 in the appropriate science subjects during their degree programme or Grade 3 passes in Biology/Zoology and Chemistry at Unit 2 CAPE /A Level or equivalent.
- 2.8 Applicants holding degrees other than degrees in the natural sciences may also be considered provided that they have attained a minimum grade of B+ or GPA of 3.3 in the appropriate science subjects during their university programme or Grade 3 passes in Biology/Zoology and Chemistry at Unit 2 CAPE/A Level or equivalent.
- 2.9 Applicants with first degrees from institutions other than the UWI shall also be considered provided that:
- The programme of study has been accredited by a relevant body or agency and is considered acceptable by the UWI.
  - Credits have been obtained in Biology/Zoology and Chemistry.
  - A minimum GPA of 3.0 or its equivalent has been obtained.
- 2.10 All applicants are required to submit a short 250 - 300 word autobiographical summary outlining the reasons for their career choice.
- 2.11 An applicant's proof of involvement in extracurricular activities will be taken into account. Accordingly,

- Each activity should be listed on the application form and must be accompanied by original letters of certification from principals, supervisors or employers for each activity. Both the duration of involvement and the level of responsibility of the applicant in each activity shall be taken into consideration and certifying documents must state these clearly.
  - In considering these activities, the University places emphasis on an applicant's voluntary participation in community/social projects although consideration shall also be given to other extracurricular activities, experiences and abilities (such as music, sports, drama, and debating or proficiency in a foreign language).
- (a) An applicant may also be required to attend an interview to assess soft skills such as ethics, empathy and professionalism.

### 3. Registration

- 3.1 Registration for courses takes place during the first week of the first semester of each academic year.

*Please note that the registration of a student is not complete until the appropriate tuition and other fees have been paid in respect of that student or arrangements acceptable to the Campus Principal have been made with respect to the payment of such fees.*

### 4. Programme of Study

*Further details about the programme may be obtained from the Faculty office and can be found in the student handbook and through the Faculty's curriculum website:*

*The Bahamas and Mona*

[https://www.mona.uwi.edu/fms/sites/default/files/fms/uploads/revised\\_2019\\_mb\\_bs\\_student\\_handbook.pdf](https://www.mona.uwi.edu/fms/sites/default/files/fms/uploads/revised_2019_mb_bs_student_handbook.pdf)

*Cave Hill*

<https://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/fms/resources/handbooks/fms-faculty-handbook-2023-2024.aspx>

*St Augustine*

<https://sta.uwi.edu/fms/medicine/index.asp>

- 4.1 The programme for the MB BS Degree lasts for five years and consists of two Stages/Phases:
- MB BS Stage/Phase I; and
  - MB BS Stage/Phase II

- 4.2 Both Stages/Phases consist of courses or clerkships in which are included lectures, conferences, seminars, tutorials, self-study, the use of learning aids (including information technology), and practicals and demonstrations including clinical bedside teaching.
- 4.3 The student's progress in each course or clerkship is assessed on the basis of his or her performance in a combination of course-work and written, practical, clinical and oral examinations.
- 4.4 MB BS Stage/Phase II comprises the final two years and is made up of a series of rotating clinical clerkships followed by a final examination. The MB BS degree is awarded at the level of a Pass, Honours, or Honours with Distinction on satisfactory completion of the programme.

## 5. Exemptions

- 5.1 An applicant who has completed a course and passed an examination from another recognised university in a subject which forms a part or the whole of an analogous subject in the MB BS Degree programme may apply to the Academic Board, through the Dean, for exemption **and credit**. The Academic Board shall make a decision on the matter after considering the recommendation of the Faculty Board which shall take into account the syllabus, the nature and duration of the course, the person's grading in examinations in the course, the time which has elapsed since the course was completed and, in particular, whether it is analogous in whole or in part to that offered in this University.
- 5.2 The Faculty Board shall make one of the following recommendations to the Academic Board, indicating the reasons for the recommendation:
  - (a) that the application be rejected; or
  - (b) that the applicant be exempted from a part or the whole of the subject, but be required to take a part of or the full examination; or
  - (c) that the applicant be exempted both from the course and the examination and credited with the course.
- 5.3 Exemption and credit shall not normally be granted to applicants who for whatever reason have been asked to withdraw and are re-admitted to the Faculty after a lapse of more than two years.
- 5.4 Applicants entering the programme with a Bachelor of Basic Medical Sciences (BBMedSci) Degree from the UWI (see Regulation 2.5 above) may be granted exemption and credit of a maximum of the first two years of the programme depending upon the time which has elapsed between the completion of that Degree and the date of application to enter the MB BS Degree programme.

5.5 Applications for exemption and credit shall not normally be considered in respect of persons who obtained the BBMedSci Degree more than two years prior to the date of application to enter the MBBS programme.

**6. Examinations – General Aspects**

6.1 Subject to Regulation 11.2, registration for a course constitutes registration for the examination in that course. Registration for courses in both Stages/Phases takes place during the first week of the first semester of each academic year.

6.2 The candidate must attempt at the same sitting, *all required Parts, Sections or Components of the Examinations for which he or she has been registered.*

6.3 A candidate must attend all the written, practical, clinical and oral sections of the Examinations for which he or she has registered, and that are applicable in his or her case.

6.4 A candidate who fails to attend any written, practical, clinical or oral section of any Examination for which he or she has registered and that is applicable in his or her case shall be recorded as having failed the Examination. (Regulations governing absence due to illness can be found in the general University regulations governing examinations).

<http://uwi.edu/ooa/sites/ooa/files/composer/Assessment%20Regulations%202020-2021.pdf>

6.5 A candidate who fails any required examination on his or her first attempt shall be required to sit the examination at the next available opportunity or at a time to be decided by the Academic Board of the relevant campus, on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners and the Faculty Board.

6.6 A candidate who is required to re-sit an examination must attempt all the required sections or components of the Examination at the same sitting.

6.7 A candidate who fails the final Stage/Phase II Examination on his or her third attempt shall be required by Academic Board, on the relevant campuses to withdraw from the MB BS Degree programme. Only where the candidate's performance is deemed unsatisfactory due to adverse examination conditions, can the Academic Board, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board, support a further attempt and, if warranted, grant an extension of time in which the Examination is to be completed. In considering whether to recommend an extension of time, the Faculty Board shall take account of the requirement that the time between the completion of the programme and the examination must not exceed nineteen months.

6.8 A candidate may be awarded a pass, honours or honours with distinction based on the programme GPA that he or she has attained provided that honours or honours with distinction will be awarded only in the case of his or her first successful attempt in all subjects and there is no failure on his undergraduate record.



- 6.9 Subject to ratification by the Board for Undergraduate Studies, the candidate shall be notified of the results of examinations as soon as possible,

## **7. Unsatisfactory Performance**

- 7.1 In the MB BS Degree Programme, a student's performance is considered unsatisfactory if he or she displays either poor academic performance or unprofessional behaviour.
- 7.2 A student's academic performance is considered unsatisfactory if he/she has failed any form of assessment, examination or on-going evaluation in any specified course, clerkship or learning unit which is a required component of the MB BS Degree Programme.
- 7.3 A student's behaviour is considered unprofessional if he/she displays inappropriate or unethical behaviour in his/her interpersonal contacts especially in relation to patients or their families, colleagues, or members of the University or hospital staff.
- 7.4 Where it is reported to the Dean that a student's behaviour is allegedly unprofessional, the Dean or his or her nominee shall meet with the student to allow the student an opportunity to be heard. A student, who fails to attend the interview without offering a satisfactory excuse, will be required to submit to the Campus Registrar, a written response to the allegations, for the Campus Registrar to make a determination on the seriousness of the student's behaviour.
- 7.5 Where, as a result of the meeting with the student, the Dean or the Dean's nominee determines that the student's behaviour is unprofessional but it is not considered serious contrary to Regulation 7.7, the student will be required to participate in remedial activities failing which the student may be barred by the Academic Board, on the recommendation of the Faculty Board, from continuing in the programme.
- 7.6 The Faculty Board shall consider a written report on the result of the remedial activities and shall make a recommendation to the Academic Board as to whether or not the student may proceed to the next phase of the programme at that time.
- 7.7 Where the unprofessional behaviour is determined to be serious, the Dean shall refer the matter to the Office of the Principal for the initiation of disciplinary procedures according to "The Code of Principles and Responsibilities for Students" accessible at:

<http://uwi.edu/ooa/sites/ooa/files/composer/UWICodeOfPrinciples%26Responsibilities2018%20%281%29.pdf>

- 7.8 The decision of the Academic Board or the Faculty Board, as the case may be, shall be conveyed to the student in writing and the student shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Board for

Undergraduate Studies and Senate as appropriate. A further appeal may be made to the University Visitor.

## **8 MB BS Stage/Phase I – Courses**

- 8.1 MB BS Stage/Phase I courses extend over the first three years and comprise a series of courses which integrate the basic medical sciences disciplines of Human Anatomy, Biochemistry, Physiology, Community Medicine/Public Health, Pathology, Microbiology and Pharmacology and include early exposure to patients and teaching of basic clinical skills.
- 8.2 In addition to the prescribed MB BS Stage/Phase I courses, the student is required to complete three courses totalling 9 credits from among the following University Foundation Courses.
  - *Academic Literacy*
  - *Law, Governance, Economy and Society*
  - *Professionalism, Ethics and Communication in Health Courses (St Augustine)*
  - *Caribbean Civilisation*
- 8.3 In order to proceed to MB BS Stage/Phase II, the student is required to complete all prescribed courses equivalent to 105 credits in addition to the three Foundation courses.

## **9 MB BS Stage/Phase I - Assessment & Examinations**

- 9.1 The courses and clerkships that make up the MB BS Stage/Phase I Programme are assigned a credit value and are assessed by a combination of course work, written, practical and clinical examinations.
- 9.2 With the exceptions noted in Regulation 5 (Exemptions) students are required to complete and pass all prescribed MB BS Stage/Phase I courses of study before proceeding to MB BS Stage II.
- 9.3 On the basis of performance in the MB BS Stage/Phase I courses, students shall be assigned a GPA. The grades from Foundation courses and courses designated as pass/fail shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA.
- 9.4 Students shall normally be required to maintain a GPA of 2.0 or above.
- 9.5 Students whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.0 for two consecutive semesters may be required to withdraw from the programme by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the Faculty Board.
- 9.6 Students who have not obtained the required number of credits by passing all the prescribed courses or whose GPA is less than 2.0 shall not be permitted to proceed to Stage/Phase II.
- 9.7 Students may only be permitted to proceed to year 2 or year 3, as the case may be, if the credit value of the courses failed in the previous year does not exceed a total of nine (9) credits.

- 9.8 Students who fail any course shall be assigned an FWR (0.0 quality points) which shall be recorded on their transcript.
- 9.9 Students assigned an FWR grade for any course shall be required to re-sit the examination for that course at the next available opportunity.
- 9.10 Students who are required to repeat a course that they have failed shall normally be allowed a maximum of two further attempts at that failed course.
- 9.11 Students who do not pass a course after a total of three attempts shall normally be required to withdraw from the programme by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the Faculty Board.
- 9.12 Students who repeat and pass a course subsequent to any failed attempt shall be assigned a maximum of a C grade for the successful result.
- 9.13 The students' transcript shall reflect all FWR grades assigned for failed courses.
- 9.14 The GPA of students who subsequently pass failed courses within the stipulated time, will however be recalculated using the passing grade of C.
- 9.15 Students must pass all MB BS Stage/Phase I courses within eighteen months after the minimum time for completion of the MB BS Stage I Programme (see Regulation 4.4). Students who fail to complete Stage I within this time may be asked to withdraw from the programme by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the Faculty Board except in a case where the Academic Board, under Regulation 6.7, has approved an extension of this period.
- 9.16 Students who are required to withdraw from the MB BS Stage/Phase I programme may apply to be considered for re-entry after one (1) year has elapsed since their withdrawal.

***Award of the BMedSci Degree***

- 9.17 The award of the BMedSci Degree is not automatic. Students must apply in writing to the University for the award.
- 9.18 The Degree will be awarded subject to the student satisfying the following conditions:
- (a) being in good financial standing; and
  - (b) successful completion of the first three years (Phase 1) of the MB BS programme; and/or
  - (c) where the student having proceeded to Stage II/Phase II of the MBBS programme, subsequently withdraws or is required to withdraw, at any time prior to completion of the MBBS programme, for any reason including poor academic performance, failure to progress, or on medical or financial grounds.

9.2 The Degree will not be awarded in cases where the student is required to withdraw for disciplinary reasons including failure to comply with the defined codes of professional conduct for medical students.

#### 10. **MB BS Stage/Phase II**

- 10.1 Students are required to complete satisfactorily all prescribed MB BS Stage/Phase I courses of study and pass all course examinations before entry to Stage II unless exemptions apply. See Regulation 5 above.
- 10.2 MB BS Stage/Phase II spans at least 24 months and includes clerkships in the following subjects: Anaesthesia; Child Health; Community Health; Emergency Medicine; Internal Medicine (including Dermatology and Venereology); Microbiology; Obstetrics and Gynaecology; Pathology; Psychiatry; Radiology; and Surgery (including Ophthalmology, Emergency Medicine, Orthopaedics and Otorhinolaryngology). There are up to two short elective periods.
- 10.3 Student performance in each of the prescribed courses or clerkships shall be assessed by a combination of continuous assessment and by end-of-course/clerkship written, clinical/practical and oral examinations.
- 10.4 Students shall be assigned a GPA on the basis of performance in the MB BS Stage/Phase II clerkships, courses and examinations. The grades from University Foundation courses and from pass/fail courses including electives shall not be included in the calculation of the GPA.
- 10.5 Students shall normally be required to maintain a GPA of not less than 2.0.
- 10.6 Students whose GPA falls below 2.0 at the end of Year 4 may be required to withdraw from the programme.
- 10.7 Students who have not obtained the required number of credits by passing all the prescribed courses /clerkships or whose GPA is less than 2.0 shall not be permitted to proceed to the final MB BS examination.
- 10.8 Students in year 4 may only be permitted to proceed to year 5 if the credit value of the courses failed in year 4 does not exceed a total of seven (7) credits.
- 10.9 Students who fail any core course/clerkship shall be assigned an FWR (0.0 quality points) which shall be recorded on their transcript.
- 10.10 Students assigned an FWR grade for any course/clerkship shall be required to repeat the assessment for that course/clerkship at the next available opportunity.
- 10.11 Students who are required to repeat a course/clerkship that they have failed shall normally be allowed a maximum of two further attempts.

- 10.12 Students who do not pass a course/clerkship after a total of three attempts may be required to withdraw from the programme.
- 10.13 Students who repeat and pass a course/clerkship subsequent to any failed attempt shall be assigned a maximum grade of C for the successful result.
- 10.14 The academic record (transcript) of students shall retain all F grades assigned for courses/clerkships failed.
- 10.15 Where the failed course is passed within 18 months the student's GPA will be recalculated using the new passing grade of C.
- 10.16 A student whose performance in any course or clerkship is considered unsatisfactory (see Regulation 7 above) on the basis of continuous assessment or examination performance shall be required to repeat the course/clerkship and/or the examination. Repetition of any part of the course may necessitate a delay in completion of the overall programme.

## **11. The final MB BS Stage II Examination**

- 11.1 Registration for the final MB BS Stage II examinations follows the general University regulations and procedures for examinations.
- 11.2. In order to sit the examination, candidates must have satisfactorily completed MB BS Stage I and passed all required courses/clerkships in Stage II.
- 11.3. The final examination consists of both written and clinical/oral components in the medical and surgical disciplines covered in the MB BS Stage II courses/clerkships.
- 11.4 Success in the MB BS Degree programme requires that candidates achieve a pass in the written and the clinical component of the final examination. The award requires a pass in both the written and the clinical component of the Stage II/Phase II examination.
- 11.5 A remark of a clinical examination which includes real-time observation of candidates performing clinical-oriented tasks cannot be facilitated.
- 11.6 Candidates who fail any one component of the Stage II/Phase II the examination shall be required to re-sit the entire examination after 6 or 12 months on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners of the Faculty Board.
- 11.7 A candidate who fails the examination shall be required to follow a prescribed remedial course of study and to re-sit the examination at the time prescribed above at Reg. 11.6.
- 11.8 The Academic Board, on the recommendation of the Faculty, may require a candidate who has not successfully completed the MB BS Stage II examination within eighteen months after the minimum

time for completion of the MB BS Stage II, to withdraw. Notwithstanding, the foregoing provision shall not apply in a case where the Academic Board has allowed a candidate subsequent attempts at the examination under Regulation 6.7 and has extended the time for completion in accordance with that section. Further attempts shall only be allowed on the recommendation of the Board of Examiners of the Faculty Board (see also Regulation 6.7 above).

- 11.9 A candidate is eligible for the award of the MB BS Degree following satisfactory completion of the programme, including the required University Foundation Courses.

***Category of Degree***

- 11.10 The MB BS Degree shall be awarded at Pass, Honours, or Honours with Distinction level, depending upon the standard reached in the examination and in the continuous assessment. The category of Degree awarded to an individual candidate is based on the candidate's cumulative GPA for the 5-year programme and on satisfactory completion of the final MB BS Stage II (MB BS) Examination. (The GPA required by the Faculty for the award of each of the various categories of MB BS Degree is provided below.)
- 11.11 A candidate shall be awarded the MBBS degree at Honour or Honours with Distinction if he or she passes all prescribed courses/clerkships and all specified sections of the final MB BS Stage II Examination at the first attempt.

<b>Category of Degree</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Grade Point Average</b>
Honours Degree with Distinction	Demonstrates an outstanding and comprehensive grasp of the knowledge, skills and competencies required.	GPA of 3.7 and above
Honours Degree	Demonstrates an excellent grasp of the knowledge, skills and competencies required.	GPA of 3.3-3.6
Pass	Demonstrates a satisfactory grasp of the knowledge, skills and competencies required.	GPA of 2.0-3.2

*Award of the MB BS Degree*

11. 12 After the Board for Undergraduate Studies has approved the pass list for the final MB BS Stage II Examination, a certificate under the Seal of the University for the MB BS Degree shall be issued to each successful candidate.

April 2024