

DMS: 07 – GUARANTEED PROFESSIONAL ADMISSIONS PATHWAY POLICY

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Guaranteed Professional Admissions (GPA) pathway policy is to streamline the transition of Lincoln Memorial University – School of Medical Sciences (LMU-SMS) Physician Assistant (PA) students in LMU Master of Medical Science programs into the LMU-SMS Doctor of Medical Science (DMS) program.

II. POLICY STATEMENT

Eligible students who participate in the GPA pathway and fulfill all published DMS admission requirements will receive conditional acceptance into the DMS program.

Benefits of student participation in the GPA pathway include:

- membership in the DMS Pathways Club
- mentorship by DMS program faculty
- professional development opportunities
- opportunity to collaborate with DMS program faculty while enrolled in PA school to build upon master's-level scholarly work in preparation for the doctoral project

III. DEFINITIONS

GPA Pathway: An admissions pathway for eligible LMU-SMS PA students to gain guaranteed entry into the DMS program.

DMS Pathways Club: A professional organization within LMU that connects LMU-SMS PA students with DMS faculty to provide academic and professional mentorship, as well as professional development opportunities.

Commitment Letter: A formal acknowledgment of a student's intent to pursue the DMS program as part of the GPA pathway.

IV. AUDIENCE

This policy applies to current LMU-SMS PA students interested in pursuing the DMS degree, LMU-SMS PA program faculty involved in academic advising and mentorship, and DMS faculty and administrators overseeing the program.

V. COMPLIANCE

Eligibility requirements for the GPA pathway are as follows:

- Apply within the first calendar year of the LMU-SMS PA program.
- Sign a commitment letter acknowledging intent to pursue the DMS program as part of the GPA pathway.
- Complete all DMS admission's requirements prior to enrollment.
- Maintain the required academic and professional standards, as outlined in the DMS program's student handbook.

To maintain eligibility for guaranteed admission into the DMS program, students must meet the expectations of the GPA pathway. Those who do not may be withdrawn.

VI. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Doctor of Medical Science Program Director is the Responsible University Officer for revising and updating this policy.

VII. PROCEDURES

a. Application & Conditional Acceptance:

- Apply to the GPA pathway within the first calendar year of PA school.
- Accepted students sign a commitment letter and are paired with a DMS faculty mentor.
- LMU-SMS PA students must apply to the DMS program and complete all admission requirements.

b. Participation in DMS Pathways Club & Mentorship:

- GPA pathway students are strongly encouraged to attend at least one DMS Pathways Club meeting per semester.
- If students elect to work on their DMS scholarly project as part of the GPA pathway, DMS faculty mentors will engage with students, beginning in their clinical year, for mentoring on the project.

VIII. CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information regarding this policy, please contact the Doctor of Medical Science Program Director.

IX. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Effective Date: May 8th, 2025

Revised: July 1st, 2025