

## Unmatched Medical Learner Policy

<b>Office of Accountability:</b>	Associate Dean, MD Program, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry (FoMD)
<b>Office of Administrative Responsibility:</b>	MD Program, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
<b>Approver:</b>	MD Program & Curriculum Committee
<b>Scope:</b>	Compliance with this policy extends to all students who participated in and are not matched after the second iteration of CaRMS and wish to pursue a one year, non-renewable extension of clerkship in the FoMD

### Overview

Unmatched medical learners, following the second iteration of **CaRMS**, is an emerging issue nationally and locally due to reduced postgraduate residency positions availability across Canada for Canadian Medical Graduates (CMGs). National (**AFMC, CFMS**) and local (**MSA, OAW, MD Program**) stakeholders have made recommendations around support and options available to unmatched CMGs. This policy addresses the avenues of support available to unmatched medical graduates after participation in the second iteration of CaRMS who are undergraduate learners in the FoMD.

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide transparency to our medical students around career support and options for a one-year, non-renewable, extension of clerkship if they are unsuccessful in the CaRMS match

### POLICY

The MD Program and the Office of Advocacy & Wellbeing (OAW) will provide ongoing support to unmatched undergraduate medical learners. This support will be in the form of ongoing career counseling and potential options for a one-year extension of clerkship to clinical electives and scholarly opportunities subject to approval by the MD Program in an effort to ensure the year provides robust opportunities to match in the next first iteration of CaRMS in the subsequent year. Students are expected to adhere to a learning contract that is mutually agreed upon by the student and the MD Program and are subject to all policies and procedures that pertain to undergraduate learners in the MD Program. Evaluation (summative) comments will be added to the students MSPR.



Failure to adhere to or breach of the learning contract will be viewed as an egregious lapse in professionalism and the MD program will follow program policies and procedures for adjustment to the student's MSPR to reflect the lapse.

## **PROCEDURE**

The following steps will be used to apply the policy as described above.

1. Unmatched medical learners following participation in the second iteration of CaRMS, will be provided with ongoing career counseling support through the MD program and OAW as informed by the needs of the learner.
2. Unmatched medical learners will meet with a delegate of the MD Program or OAW, who will serve as a career advisor to determine next steps following an unsuccessful match.
3. Students will be offered a one year, non-renewable extension of clerkship with the following expectations:
  - a. The learner will have the option to pursue an MD/MBA or MD/STIR with the provision of no more than 12 weeks of elective experience in total for either option.
  - b. The MD program, in conjunction with the learner will devise a learning contract explicitly assigning the elective weeks to no less than two specialties with no more than 4 weeks of electives being completed in the field the learner applied to in the first iteration of the match in the previous year.
  - c. The MD program, after consulting with the assigned career advisor, will have the authority to approve the learning contract based on the expectation of success in the next iteration of the residency match.
4. Students pursuing the MD/MBA or MD/STIR options will be subject to the policies and procedures that govern those programs in addition to those of the MD program and will be expected to regularly meet and provide updates to the assigned career advisor and the MD program.
5. Evaluation (summative) comments will be added to the learner's MSPR. Failure to adhere or breach of the learning contract will be viewed as an egregious lapse in professionalism and the MD program will follow program policies and procedures for adjustment to the student's MSPR to reflect the lapse.

## **DEFINITIONS**

Any definitions listed in the following table apply to this document only with no implied or intended institution-wide use.
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<b>CaRMS</b> Canadian Resident Matching Service	The CaRMS organization provides a fair and transparent application and matching service for entry into postgraduate medical training throughout Canada.
<b>AFMC</b> Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada	The AFMC represents Canada's 17 faculties of medicine
<b>CFMS</b> Canadian Federation of Medical Students	CFMS represents over 8,000 medical students from 14 Canadian medical student societies in Canada. They represent medical students to the public, to the federal government, and to national and international medical organizations.
<b>MSA</b> Medical Students' Association	The MSA is the elected governing body, which oversees the interests of all medical students at the University of Alberta. Our organization's mandate is to serve as a liaison between medical students and the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, as well as groups external to the University of Alberta and the surrounding community.
<b>OAW</b> Office of Advocacy & Wellbeing	The Office of Advocacy & WellBEING (OAW) in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Alberta looks after issues pertaining to the health and well-being of learners and faculty. The office also advocates on their behalf.
<b>MD Program</b> Medical Doctor Program	The MD Program in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Alberta oversees the four-year program leading to the degree of Doctor of Medicine (MD).
<b>MD/STIR</b> MD with Special Training in Research	The MD with Special Training in Research (MD/STIR) is a program that contributes to research training of future physicians. UME students who successfully complete the MD/STIR program receive an academic honour that is noted on their University of Alberta transcripts.
<b>MSPR</b> Medical Student Progress Report	Medical Student Performance Record (or the Dean's letter) is a letter of standing from the dean of the medical school. Typically this document reports on activities during medical school and/or comments on performance in clinical rotations and/or gives a recommendation for further medical training and/or reports



## **RELATED LINKS**

AFMC - <https://afmc.ca/>

CaRMS - <https://www.carms.ca/en/>

CFMS - <https://www.cfms.org/>

OAW - <https://www.ualberta.ca/medicine/programs/support-wellness>

MSA - <http://www.msa.ualberta.ca/en.aspx>

## **APPROVAL HISTORY**

<b>APPROVER</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>DATE</b>
MD Curriculum & Program Committee	Approved	15 February 2018
Dr. Tracey Hillier, Associate Dean	Revised: Updated Office of Advocacy and Wellbeing	12 June 2020
MD Curriculum & Program Committee (MDCPC)	Approved	19 May 2022