

Policy No. **SPH-02-30-001**

Policy Title: **OHSU-MATRICULATED GRADUATE STUDENT SUSPENSION AND DISMISSAL**

Effective Date: April 16, 2026

1. Generally

The School of Public Health (SPH) is committed to fostering a culture of academic integrity, respect, and wellbeing. This policy establishes a process for addressing concerns regarding student academic performance and behavioral conduct that may result in suspension or dismissal, in a manner that is transparent, student-centered, equity-informed, and aligned with institutional policies. As a joint institution, SPH students adhere to behavioral and academic standards established by both [OHSU](#) and [PSU](#).

2. Definitions

- a. **Business Days.** Every official working day of the week (Monday through Friday), excluding weekends and recognized OHSU and PSU holidays.
- b. **Dismissal.** Occurs when a student is permanently removed from the program due to academic deficiencies or proscribed conduct violations.
- c. **Interim Suspension.** An involuntary leave imposed due to imminent risk or serious disruption; may be implemented immediately.
- d. **Proscribed Conduct Violations.** Violations defined in OHSU Policy 02-30-010 and applicable professional standards; may result in sanctions up to dismissal.
- e. **Student.** An individual formally admitted and currently enrolled in an OHSU or joint degree program, including visiting medical students.
- f. **Student Support Person.** A non-participating advisor, mentor, peer, or legal counsel selected by the student.
- g. **Suspension.** An involuntary leave of absence due to academic or conduct deficiencies or proscribed conduct violations; due process applies.

3. Initiation of Proceedings

- A. When a student has failed to meet the academic and/or behavioral conduct expectations of the SPH, faculty, staff, students, or educational partners may submit a report to the Office of the Dean to document their concerns. Behavioral conduct concerns are directed to the Assistant Dean for Student and Alumni Affairs. Academic conduct and performance concerns are directed to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. When necessary, investigations to supplement an initial report are conducted by the Assistant Dean for Student and Alumni Affairs or directed to Title IX or OCIC as appropriate. Investigations will follow the [OHSU Investigation Manual](#).

- B. Behavioral conduct and academic conduct and performance issues are referred to the SPH Academic and Behavioral Conduct Review Board (ABCRB) at the discretion of the Assistant Dean for Student and Alumni Affairs and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Regardless of institutional matriculation, all students must adhere to behavioral, conduct, and academic standards established by [OHSU](#) and [PSU](#). The relevant Assistant/Associate Dean will present the ABCRB with relevant information regarding the situation prior to a hearing, such as the nature of the concern, details, information from an investigation, or the original report that was submitted. The ABCRB can make a request for more information from the relevant Assistant/Associate Dean prior to convening a hearing.
- C. The SPH ABCRB will conduct a hearing to review referrals and recommend a course of action to the Dean in accordance with OHSU policy [#02-30-050](#).

4. **Notification**

- A. The SPH will notify students in writing of the hearing, including the date, time and place, at least 10 business days prior to the proceedings. The notification letter will include an explanation of student rights and the basis for the suspension or dismissal recommendation.
- B. Unless placed on [Interim Suspension](#) the student may continue in the academic program pending the outcome of the hearing.
- C. Students have the right to bring an advisor or support person to the hearing. The name and professional qualifications of the advisor or support person must be submitted in writing to the ABCRB at least 48 hours before the hearing. If the advisor or support person is an attorney, the student must notify the Dean at least five (5) business days prior to the hearing.

5. **Hearing Conduct**

Hearings are impartial and seek to understand the full context of the student's situation. The role of the ABCRB is to listen to the student, ask relevant questions for clarification, and ensure a full understanding of the facts presented. Based on this information, the ABCRB will recommend an appropriate course of action.

- A. The hearing structure allows the student an opportunity to provide a statement, and to respond to questions from the ABCRB.
- B. The student may be accompanied by a support person who can offer brief statements or clarification at the discretion of the Chair. The student and support person may also confer during breaks.
- C. A university representative (e.g., legal counsel or equity officer) may be present as an advisor to the Board but does not vote.
- D. Audio/video recordings and documents related to each hearing involving students shall be kept in confidential files within the Office of the Dean. All committee sessions except for committee deliberations will be audio/video recorded.

6. **ABCRB Discussion**

- A. The ABCRB will continue discussion in a closed session after the student is excused. Within 10 business days of the hearing, the ABCRB will issue a written recommendation to the Dean, including:
- a. A summary of findings
 - b. Recommended actions
 - c. Any relevant student support recommendations.

7. **Decision of the Dean**

The Dean reviews ABCRB recommendations and issues a final decision in writing within 10 business days of receiving the ABCRB's recommendation. The letter is sent to the student via OHSU email and placed in the student's file.

8. **Right to Appeal**

- A. The student has the right to appeal the decision to the OHSU provost on the grounds outlined in Policy 02-30-050 within 10 business days of the date on the Dean's written decision. The student may not continue in the academic program pending the outcome of the appeal.
- B. The provost shall review the matter and notify the student in writing of a final decision within 30 calendar days. The decision of the provost is final.

Origination Date:

OHSU Approval Date: April 16, 2026

PSU Approval Date: April 13, 2026

Revision History: August 5, 2026

Related Policies and Procedures: OHSU Policies [02-30-010](#), [02-30-050](#), [02-30-055](#); [OHSU](#) and [PSU](#) Codes of Conduct; SPH Academic Standing [Policies and Procedures](#); Professional conduct [standards](#) of accreditors