



1. Regulations and Mark Scheme

UCL's [Academic Manual Chapter 4](#) is the regulatory framework for the assessment of taught programmes. Regulations specific to the MBBS are set out at Sections 6.12.4 and 9.6.4.

Section 6.12.4 (Progression and Award) states:

1. The six-year programme consists of the following components:
 - a) An integrated programme of study in Years 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 incorporating clinical and professional practice modules and clinical placements, and
 - b) An Integrated Bachelor of Sciences with Honours Degree (iBSc) in Year 3.
2. The iBSc year (Year 3) is governed by the standard UCL regulations in [Section 9.6: Honours Degree Progression and Award Requirements](#).
3. The assessments in Years 1,2,4,5 and 6 comprise an Applied Knowledge Test and a Clinical and Professional Skills Assessment. The pass mark for each is determined by criterion-referenced standard setting. A student's score must equal or exceed the standard set pass mark to achieve a pass and, where the Clinical and Practical Skills Assessment comprises an objective structured practical or clinical assessment, a student must achieve a mark above or equal to the station pass mark in a minimum of 55% of stations.
4. Awards of Distinction and Merit based on marks achieved in the Applied Knowledge Test and Clinical and Professional Skills Assessment are made to the highest performing students in each cohort. Distinctions for Years 1 and 2 (Medical Sciences), Years 4 and 5 (Clinical Science) and Year 6 (Clinical Practice) are awarded to the top decile; Merits in Years 1,2,4 and 5 to the top quintile; and Merits in Year 6 to the second decile. Distinctions and Merits are awarded only to students who have passed both components at the first sitting, have fulfilled all in-course requirements, and have no upheld Concerns over Professional Behaviour(s). Distinctions are part of the degree award and are shown on degree certificates.
5. Students making their first entry must complete the Applied Knowledge Test and the Clinical and Professional Skills Assessment in one sitting and at the times designated by the Medical School or, where extenuating circumstances apply, defer entry to both components to the next possible occasion. Pass results in individual components are carried forward to in-year resit sittings. In Years 4, 5 and 6, because of the clinical nature of these years, students who fail have the option of deferring their second attempt and repeating the year of study and retaking both components.
6. In order to progress from Year 1 to Year 2, Year 2 to Year 3, Year 4 to Year 5 and Year 5 to 6, students must:
 - a) Complete the full prescribed course of study and obtain sign-off for all required modules and placements, and
 - b) Submit a portfolio containing marks for all required coursework, student-selected components and procedures mandated in the General Medical Council's Outcomes for Graduates for this stage of training, and
 - c) Have satisfied the examiners in all preceding parts.
7. In order to progress from Year 3 to Year 4, a student must have been awarded the iBSc degree.
8. As the MBBS is recognised as a Primary Medical Qualification, in order for a degree award to be made, a student must:
 - a) Complete the full prescribed course of study in Year 6 and obtain sign-off for all required modules and placements, and
 - b) Submit a portfolio containing marks for all required coursework, student-selected components and procedures mandated in the General Medical Council's Outcomes for Graduates, and
 - c) Have satisfied the examiners in all preceding parts, and
 - d) Have completed all required assessments for the degree award within 9 years of commencing the programme or, for UK graduate entrants with exemption from the iBSc requirement, within 8 years of commencing the programme.

9. A student may not be awarded the degrees of MBBS where fitness to practise concerns have been raised or are under consideration. All fitness to practise concerns must have been considered under the UCL Faculty of Medical Sciences' Fitness to Practise Procedure and a determination reached before a candidate can graduate with a Primary Medical Qualification.

Section 9.6.4 (Consequences of Failure) states:

A student who fails to meet the Progression and Award Requirements is subject to the standard UCL [Consequences of Failure](#) regulations detailed above, with the following exceptions:

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| a) | Pass results in individual components of the MBBS assessment are carried forward to in-year resit sittings. In years 4, 5 and 6, because of the clinical nature of these years, students who fail one or more components have the option of deferring their second attempt and repeating the full programme of study including all in-course requirements for the year, with tuition and fees, and retaking both components. |
| b) | Students must qualify within 9 years of commencing the programme or, for UK graduate entrants with exemption from the iBSc requirement, within 8 years of commencing the programme. |

2. Calculation of Marks and Pass Marks

- The marks for the AKT and CPSA are expressed as a percentage.
- The pass mark for the AKT is determined by standard setting using a modified Angoff method.
- The pass mark for CPSA examined as written assessments is determined by standard setting using a modified Angoff method.
- The pass mark for CPSA examined as practical assessments is determined by standard setting using a borderline regression method. Candidates must additionally pass 55% of stations.

3. Completion of full prescribed course of study

To demonstrate satisfactory completion of the course of study, students must fulfil all portfolio and coursework requirements set out on the Year Moodle sites, including all procedures mandated by the GMC in Outcomes for Graduates designated by the Medical School for completion in the particular year of study, and have completed and been graded in each module. UCL's [Academic Insufficiency Procedure](#) applies where a student fails to fulfil these requirements and includes Learning Agreements, Barring from Assessments, Suspension of Studies and Termination of Studies. If a student fails to fulfil the requirements for one module, a learning agreement will normally be put in place; if a student fails to comply with a learning agreement or fails to fulfil the requirements for a second module, a student will normally be barred from entering examinations.

4. Distinctions, Merits, Prizes and University of London Gold Medal

Distinctions:

These are awarded by the University to recognise academic excellence in MBBS degree awards which are otherwise unclassified. Distinctions are certified on UCL degree certificates. The Medical School does not issue a separate certificate as Distinctions are part of the university's degree award. Distinctions are not prizes and do not carry any monetary value.

Distinctions are awarded in Year 2, Year 5 and Year 6 of the programme:

- only to candidates who have passed all contributing examinations at the first sitting
- only to candidates with no upheld Concerns over Professional Behaviour(s) (CoPBs), missing coursework or missing portfolio items, other than in exceptional circumstances after consideration by Medical School's Initial Fitness to Practise Panel
- determined with appropriate mitigation for candidates within 1% of the top decile who have been affected by examination incidents
- recorded on medical student academic transcripts
- recorded on UCL degree certificates and transcripts

Year 2 - Distinction in Medical Sciences

- awarded on the basis of overall performance in the Year 1 and Year 2 assessments
- awarded to approximately the top decile of the cohort

Year 5 - Distinction in Clinical Sciences

- awarded on the basis of overall performance in the Year 4 and Year 5 assessments
- awarded to approximately the top decile of the cohort entering Year 6

Year 6 - Distinction in Clinical Practice

- awarded to approximately the top decile of the cohort
- awarded on the basis of overall performance in the Year 6 assessments

Certificates of Merit

These are awarded by the Medical School in each year of the programme to recognise academic performance. The Medical School issues a certificate which may be included in portfolios. Certificates of Merit are not prizes and do not carry any monetary value.

Merits are awarded:

- in years 1,2,4,5,6 based on overall performance in the summative assessments
- in years 1,2,4,5 to candidates whose marks place them in the first and second deciles
- in year 6 to candidates whose marks place them in the second decile
- only to candidates who have passed all components of the examination at the first sitting
- only to candidates with no upheld Concerns over Professional Behaviour(s) (CoPBs), missing coursework or missing portfolio items, other than in exceptional circumstances after consideration by Medical School's Initial Fitness to Practise Panel
- determined with appropriate mitigation for candidates within 1% of the top quintile who have been affected by examination incidents
- recorded on the medical student academic transcript

Medical School Prizes

These are awarded by the Medical School in accordance with individual regulations for each award which can be found [here](#). Candidates with CoPBs are not considered in the award of prizes.

University of London Gold Medal

Each London Medical School may nominate candidates in the ratio 1:75. Nominations are determined based on overall performance in the Year 6 assessments. To be eligible, candidates must have achieved a Distinction in Clinical Practice.

The University of London Gold Medal examination takes the form of a viva conducted by a board of 6 examiners acting in pairs. Each candidate spends 10 minutes at each of 3 tables and is interviewed for 5 minutes by each Examiner, so the overall examination of each candidate lasts for 30 minutes. The subjects represented are: Pathological Sciences, Medicine, Surgery, Use of Medicines and Therapeutics, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Paediatrics. The criteria to be examined are: knowledge; clinical context and therapeutic relevance and evidence-base; social and community context and relevance; recent advances; judgement and reasoning.

- The Gold Medal winner is awarded a prize of £500.
- The runner-up is awarded the Betuel Prize and £200.
- All nominated candidates who attend the vivas are issued a certificate stating "Proxime Accessit" to the Gold Medal and this is shown on UCL medical student academic transcripts.

5. Consideration of Professional Behaviours

Concerns over Professional Behaviour(s) ([CoPB](#)) are submitted if any aspect of a candidate's professional behaviour during the course or assessments gives cause for concern about professional behaviour or fitness to practise.

- **CoPBs raised during the course** are submitted to the Divisional Tutor to investigate and determine if they are to be upheld. Outcomes open to the Divisional Tutor are: a recommendation of no award of distinction or merit to the Sub Board of Examiners; other interventions such as a Learning Agreement; or referral to a Medical School Initial Fitness to Practise Panel under UCL's [Fitness to Practise Procedures](#). All CoPBs and recommended outcomes are reported to the Initial Fitness to Practise Panel to endorse the outcomes, and reported to the Sub Board of Examiners as the minimum penalty is that no award of distinction or merit is made.
- **CoPBs issued during assessments** are considered by Pre-Boards of Examiners to determine if they have been correctly issued and are to be upheld; and to make a recommendation for action to the Sub-Board of Examiners. Outcomes for CoPBs issued during assessments are: no award of distinction or merit (minimum penalty); a mandatory referral to the Divisional Tutor for further investigation; or direct referral to a Medical School Initial Fitness to Practise Panel under UCL's [Fitness to Practise Procedures](#). All CoPBs and recommended outcomes are reported to the Initial Fitness to Practise Panel to endorse the outcomes.

6. Conduct of Departmental Extenuating Circumstances (DEC) Panel and Pre-Boards of Examiners

The MBBS DEC panel meets prior to the meeting of the Sub Board of Examiners to receive acute extenuating circumstances submitted during the examination period in accordance with UCL regulations. Extenuating circumstances are considered without knowledge of the candidate's examination result. Decisions are reported to the Pre-Board of Examiners and to the Sub-Board of Examiners.

The Pre-Board meets prior to the meeting of the Sub-Board of Examiners to receive reports of examination incidents and other issues potentially affecting candidate progression or qualification, including CoPBs issued at the examinations and to recommend fitness to practise outcomes and actions. The Pre-Board is chaired by the Divisional Tutor or Deputy Divisional Tutor and membership includes the Faculty Tutor, Academic Year Lead and/or Deputy Academic Year Lead and a senior member of the MBBS Management Team and may include the Academic Lead for Assessments. Examination irregularities, material irregularities, CPSA incidents and CoPBs are considered without knowledge of the overall examination result for the candidates affected and recommendations are prepared for submission to the Sub-Board of Examinations. Material irregularities affecting the whole cohort are reported by the Faculty Tutor to UCL Academic Services for a decision prior to the Sub-Board. Mitigation for incidents at CPSA exams, either applied at the time or affecting individual or small groups of students falling short of a material irregularity, is determined by a recommendation from the Pre-Board to the Sub-Board of Examiners.

7. Conduct of Sub-Board of Examiners Meetings

A meeting of the Year Sub-Board of Examiners is held to receive the marks and determine the results and progression for all candidates. Candidates are presented to the board ranked by pass/fail and aggregate score for the overall assessment.

- Decisions from the Pre-Board relating to Extenuating Circumstances are reported to the Sub-Board without knowledge of candidate scores.
- Recommendations from the Pre-Board relating to examination incidents are considered by the Sub-Board without reference to candidate performance and appropriate mitigation is agreed, without knowledge of candidate scores.
- Candidates who have passed the examination are presented and pass results confirmed. Candidates affected by incidents are discussed individually and mitigation agreed where distinctions, merits or prizes are potentially affected.
- Candidates who have failed the examination are presented and fail results confirmed. Candidates affected by incidents are discussed individually and mitigation agreed.
- Pass/Fail for the AKT and CPSA are recorded on the mark sheet and entered into Portico as:
 - P Pass
 - F Fail
 - AB No attempt or minimal attempt
 - DA Deferred assessment
 - IR Result withheld for exam irregularity
 - WD Candidate withdrawn or taken interruption
 - X Result not yet available (eg where an exam irregularity is being investigated)
The result must be added to the mark sheet and entered into Portico when released
- Distinctions (Years 2,5,6), Merits and Prizes are recorded on the mark sheet and entered into Portico.
- Preliminary notification of results is released to candidates and personal tutors via the Medical School's Academic Student Record.
- Results are provisional until ratified by UCL and published in Portico.

ii) In Year 6, a further meeting of the Year Sub-Board is held to confirm degree awards for all candidates after a review of evidence of satisfactory completion of post finals requirements, any CoPBs issued and compliance with any fitness to practise conditions.

- Degree awards including Distinctions in all parts of the programme are recorded on the mark sheet and entered into Portico:
 - MA MBBS with Distinction in Medical Sciences
 - MB MBBS with Distinction in Clinical Science
 - MC MBBS with Distinction in Clinical Practice

- MAB MBBS with Distinction in Medical Sciences and Clinical Science
- MAC MBBS with Distinction in Medical Sciences and Clinical Practice
- MBC MBBS with Distinction in Clinical Science and Clinical Practice
- MABC MBBS with Distinction in Medical Sciences, Clinical Science and Clinical Practice
- MP MBBS Pass