



**Katz**

Katz School  
of Science and Health

M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies

## **DECELERATION (A3.15c)**

Deceleration is a mechanism used by the program to support students through temporary, non-academic challenges by aligning them with the next cohort. It is designed to accommodate circumstances such as personal or family hardship that temporarily interfere with a student's ability to continue in sequence with their cohort.

Students may be considered for deceleration by the program in cases of documented personal hardship or extenuating circumstances that do not involve academic or professional misconduct. Students who are failing a course or are on academic or professionalism probation are not eligible for deceleration to avoid disciplinary consequences.

A student who is encountering difficulty should speak with their faculty advisor to discuss available options, which may include remediation or taking a leave of absence (LOA).

Deceleration is permitted only once during the program. Students are responsible for all additional tuition and fees incurred due to deceleration and should consult with the university financial aid office regarding the financial implications before accepting this option.

All students who decelerate will receive a reentry plan developed by the program. Reentry plans are determined on a case-by-case basis and may include, but are not limited to, a written comprehensive examination, a practical examination, and/or a learning contract. Students must meet regularly with their faculty advisor to monitor the progress of this plan.

Failure to meet the terms of the reentry plan or to return to the program at the specified time will result in immediate dismissal from the program. Students who return from deceleration and subsequently fail a course, fail to maintain academic progression, or fail to meet all technical standards will also be dismissed.

If a student decelerates during the didactic phase, they will reenter with the next incoming cohort at the beginning of the didactic phase and must successfully complete all didactic curriculum and program requirements before progressing to the clinical phase.

If a student decelerates during the clinical phase, they will reenter with the next cohort's clinical phase and must successfully complete all clinical curriculum and program requirements before graduation. Depending on the student's situation, the clinical phase



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reentry plan may require auditing of relevant didactic coursework or completion of a summative examination to ensure readiness.

If a decelerated student needs to raise their cumulative GPA above 3.000, it may be necessary to retake one or more courses for a grade. Other courses may be designated for audit. These determinations will be outlined in the student's reentry plan. In all cases—whether a course is retaken for credit or audited—the student must fully participate in all course activities, complete all assignments and examinations, and earn at least a 3.000 (B) in each course. A grade below 3.000 (B) in any course may result in dismissal from the program.

Upon deceleration, students must comply with any revisions in curriculum requirements and policies that apply to their new graduating class.