



The University of Vermont

Policy V. 3.4.14.2

Responsible Official: Vice
President for Student and Campus
Life

Effective Date: December 5, 2011

Medical Withdrawal

Policy Statement

The University of Vermont is strongly committed to supporting students in achieving success in their intellectual and extracurricular endeavors. When illness or significant personal hardship intrudes upon a student's ability to successfully meet the requirements of his or her course of study, it is the University's policy to assist the student in withdrawing from the University for the purpose of focusing on those matters requiring attention. Prior to rematriculation, it is the University's intent to provide students with information about resources which may be of use to them as they resume their studies and to provide support where possible in order to optimize the likelihood of a successful return to University life.

It is the University's goal that all students are able to participate fully in the academic community. In unusual circumstances, however, when a student's illness causes him or her to pose a threat to others or creates a significant disruption to the activities of the University community, the student may be required to withdraw from the University.

Reason for the Policy

It is the goal of the University to foster an environment in which each student is able to fully pursue his or her academic goals. When illness prevents a student from achieving these goals, it is the intent of the University to provide a mechanism whereby the student may withdraw from his or her studies and return to them when able. In unusual circumstances, illness may cause a student to pose a threat to others or significantly disrupt the life of the community. In such circumstances, the University may find it necessary to involuntarily withdraw a student from the University.

Strategic Direction

This policy supports the following goal in the University's Strategic Plan:

- **Student Experience:** Provide a distinctive university experience that prepares students for success as accountable leaders in the 21st century.

Applicability of the Policy

This policy applies to all undergraduate and graduate students at the University of Vermont and is in force for the entirety of each academic calendar, including summer. Procedures established by the College of Medicine will be followed to determine the need for a leave of absence and/or impact of medical issues for students enrolled in the College of Medicine.

Procedures

Medical Withdrawal

1. Students who seek to withdraw from the University because of illness must submit a written request to the Dean's office of their School or College. As necessary, the Dean or his/her designee will confer with appropriate campus medical or psychological professionals in order to make a determination regarding the student's request. In unusual or complicated situations, the Dean or Dean's designee may convene a committee composed of representatives from the Center for Health and Wellbeing and may include designees from the Dean of Students office and the office of Student Financial Services as appropriate.
2. Students who are granted a withdrawal because of illness will receive a 'W' for all courses attempted during that term.
3. Students granted a medical withdrawal will have a hold placed upon their registration by the Dean's office of their School or College pending successful petition for re-enrollment to the University.
4. Graduate and undergraduate students granted a medical withdrawal should address the impact of withdrawal on the continuation of scholarship, research, graduate assistantship or other forms of educational support with the appropriate program administrator in their academic department, the Dean of the School or College and, for graduate students, the Dean of the Graduate College. Any adjustment to the student's tuition will be made in accordance with standing University policy.
(<http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/billadjust.pdf>)

Students who wish to appeal the outcome of their request for medical withdrawal may do so by submitting their appeal in writing to the Director of the Center for Health and Wellbeing.

It is the University's intention to support students in a successful return to the University community when illness has necessitated withdrawal. To this end:

1. Students will be informed by their Dean's office that the University expects the leave to be of sufficient duration to allow the student to address the issues involved in necessitating a medical leave. It is common for students who withdraw because of serious illness to take a minimum of one full semester away from the University in order to enhance the likelihood of success upon return.

2. Students wishing to return to their studies following medical leave must complete the following steps:
 - a. Notify the Dean's office of their School or College of their desire to return to the University.
 - b. Submit documentation from their treating clinician to the Medical Leave Committee (in care of the Center for Health and Wellbeing) attesting to the student's ability to resume studies with a reasonable likelihood of success. This information must be specific in its description of the student's illness and the treatment rendered. It must outline, as appropriate, a plan of treatment to be followed upon return. All documentation will be held in strict confidence by the University; it will be maintained in the student's medical record and will not become part of the student's academic record. Upon request, the student will authorize the Medical Leave Committee to secure any additional information necessary to assess the student's readiness for readmission.
 - c. Submit documentation by the following dates: July 1 for the fall semester, December 1 for the spring semester, and April 1 for the summer term.
3. The Medical Leave Committee will consult with appropriate resources in considering the student's request.
4. When the Medical Leave Committee has concerns about the likelihood of the student's success, the Committee's designee will communicate this to the student and, with the student's permission, to the treating clinician.
5. Students are expected to meet with a designated member of the Medical Leave Committee within two weeks of the first day of classes for the purpose of assessing their experience thus far and reviewing support resources available to them.

Involuntary Withdrawal

1. The University may involuntarily withdraw a student from classes or require conditions for continued attendance when, as a result of an medical or psychological condition, one of the following transpires:
 - a. The student threatens the safety of others.
 - b. The student causes or threatens to cause significant property damage.
 - c. The student significantly disrupts the activities of the University community.
 - d. The student demonstrates evidence of significant impairment and is unable to make an independent determination that a voluntary leave is needed.
2. When a student exhibits any of the behaviors described above, he or she may be brought to the attention of the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office designee, in consultation with appropriate medical, psychological, or academic resources, may

involuntarily withdraw a student from his or her classes or place conditions on the student's continued enrollment.

3. Under certain circumstances involving the safety of the University community, the Dean of Students Office may mandate that the student undergo a psychological or medical assessment to assist in evaluating the student's ability to participate successfully in University life.
4. The results of the Dean of Students Office designee's inquiry will be shared in written form with the student and the student's School or College.
5. If a student is involuntarily withdrawn from classes, the Dean of Students Office designee, in consultation with appropriate campus resources, will make a determination regarding the length of separation from the University and describe the conditions under which the student may seek to return. A hold will be placed on the student's registration by the Dean of Students Office until the student has been granted readmission.
6. A student may appeal the results of the University's decision to involuntarily withdraw him or her from classes to the Associate Vice President for Campus Life and the Director of the Center for Health and Wellbeing. These individuals will review all available information and render a final determination. This result will be shared with the student and the student's School or College.
7. Students involuntarily withdrawn from classes will receive a "W" for all courses attempted during that semester.
8. Students seeking readmission to the University following involuntary withdrawal must follow the same procedure outlined for students returning following voluntary withdrawal.
9. All records concerning involuntary withdrawal will be kept separately from the student's academic record in accordance with the University's policy on the confidentiality of student records.

Concerns Regarding Discrimination

Any student who believes they have been discriminated against under this policy because of their medical condition should discuss their concerns with the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity and may file a complaint with that office.

Policy Elaboration

None

Definitions

None

Procedures

See Applicability of Policy

Forms

None

Contacts

Questions related to the daily operational interpretation should be directed to:

Assistant Vice President for Student and Campus Life
(802) 656-3380

-Or-

Director, Center for Health and Wellbeing
(802) 656-0844

Concerns about discrimination should be directed to:

Executive Director, Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity
428 Waterman Building
(802) 656-0229

The University official responsible for interpretation and administration of this policy is the Vice President for Student and Campus Life

Related Documents/Policies

Refund and Bill Adjustment
<http://www.uvm.edu/~uvmppg/ppg/student/billadjust.pdf>

Effective Date

V.3.4.14.2 Approved by the President on December 5, 2011

V.3.4.14.1 Approved by the President on May 4, 2009