

5.2.5.2 Excused Absences

[US: 11/11/85; 2/9/87; 4/12/2004]

A student shall not be penalized for an excused absence.

5.2.5.2.1 Acceptable excuses

The following are defined as excused absences:

1. Significant illness of the student or serious illness of a member of the student's household (permanent or campus) or immediate family. This includes excusing a student from required in-person interactions if the student has been directed to quarantine by the University, a medical professional, public health professional, or government official. The Instructor of Record shall have the right to request appropriate verification.* [US: 9/13/2021]

- * The term "significant illness" includes mental as well as physical illness. The standard of verification for "significant illness" that an instructor requires shall be equally stringent for physical and mental illness. For example, if a note from University Health Services that the illness of the student is "significant" is considered to be acceptable verification, then a note from the Counseling and Testing Center or the VIP Center that the illness of the student is "significant" shall likewise be considered to be acceptable verification. [SREC 9/9/20]
2. The death of a member of the student's household (permanent or campus) or immediate family. The Instructor of Record shall have the right to request appropriate verification. For the purpose of this rule, immediate family is defined as spouse or child or parent (guardian) or sibling (all of the previous include steps, halves and in-laws of the same relationship); and grandchild or grandparent.
 3. Trips for members of student organizations sponsored by an educational unit, trips for University classes, and trips for participation in intercollegiate athletic events, including club sports registered with the university as well as varsity sports. When feasible, the student must notify the Instructor of Record **prior to** the occurrence of such absences, but in no case shall such notification occur more than one week after the absence. Instructors of Record may request formal notification from appropriate university personnel to document the student's participation in such trips.
 4. Major Religious Holidays. Students are responsible for notifying the Instructor of Record **in writing** of anticipated absences due to their observance of such holidays. Faculty shall give students the opportunity to make up work (typically, exams or assignments) when students notify them that religious observances prevent the students from doing their work at its scheduled time. Faculty should indicate in their syllabus how much advance notice they require from a student requesting an accommodation. Faculty shall use their judgment as to whether the observance in question is important enough to warrant an accommodation, although the presumption should be in favor of a student's request. The Offices of Institutional Diversity, the Dean of Students, and the Ombud are available for consultation. [US: 2/14/11]

5. Interviews for full-time job opportunities after graduation and interviews for graduate or professional school. The student must notify the Instructor of Record prior to the occurrence of such absences. Instructors of Record have the right to request appropriate verification. [US:3/20/2017]
 - * “Appropriate verification” may include evidence that the student had little or no control over the date and time of the interview and that the student is not able to reschedule the interview to a nonconflicting time reasonably close to the originally scheduled time. [SREC: 4/1/2017]
 - * Programs with learning activities mandated by accreditation or licensure agencies may establish, as a matter of policy, educational consequences for students who have so many excused absences that they cannot complete the mandated learning activities. Pursuant to SR [Error! Reference source not found.6-1-1](#), the published program policies and individual course syllabi must describe these consequences, which may include the student being moved to a different graduation cohort. [SREC: 2/5/2020]
6. Any other circumstances which the Instructor of Record finds reasonable cause for absence. [US: 4/23/90]