

Medical/Mental Health Withdrawal

If you have experienced a severe medical and/or mental health problem that caused you to miss several classes and/or take a failing grade, you may qualify to receive a medical/mental health withdrawal. However, your health problems must meet certain criteria and be documented to be evaluated. Medical withdrawal (all courses removed) will be approved only for severe illnesses or injuries of an acute emergency nature that incapacitates the student.

Mental health withdrawals will be approved for severe psychological conditions requiring hospitalization or intensive outpatient care for an extended period.

Mental health withdrawals will be considered for a traumatic event (e.g. death of a close friend or family member, acts of violence, etc.) that clearly impedes the student's ability to perform in the usual manner. Documentation of counseling sessions, whether at the University Counseling Center or another facility, must be submitted.

Specific conditions for which medical withdrawals will be considered with examples provided of previously approved condition(s) for those criteria:

- Severe accident with prolonged recovery (i.e. closed head injury, required hospitalization and rehabilitation).
- Severe illness with prolonged recovery (i.e. mononucleosis with possible enlarged spleen).
- Severe illness requiring ongoing close medical monitoring (i.e. severe diarrhea, which required IV's, and treatment with antibiotics).
- Severe complications resulting from a chronic medical condition (i.e. HIV with complications including upper respiratory infection).
- Documented multiple severe medical conditions resulting in extended missed course work (i.e. mononucleosis with hepatitis and severe tonsillitis).
- New diagnosis of life-threatening cancer (i.e. salivary gland tumor).
- Surgery with prolonged recovery (i.e. spinal surgery).
- Premature labor or other complications of pregnancy requiring extended mandatory bed rest (i.e. complications with high blood pressure - strict bed rest).
- Infectious disease requiring specific isolation (as per Centers for Disease Control Guidelines).
- Documented medical or mental health complications from sexual or other violent assault (i.e. severe depression or anxiety).
- Severe depression or anxiety.

Specific medical documentation pertinent to the health problem (including office visit notes to show exam findings, diagnosis, plan of treatment, recommendations, lab or x-ray reports (not the x-rays themselves), and/or admission/discharge summary, etc.) **MUST** be included.

Students should apply for and complete a medical/mental health withdrawal of the illness or

injury within three (3) months of the end of the semester in question. Hospital or treatment bills will not be accepted as documentation. Incomplete documentation will not be processed. Please keep copies of your records, as our office cannot release or provide copies of your records.

Students with chronic disabling conditions should register with the Student Accessibility Services Office at (713) 313-4210.

Any evidence of fraudulence or misrepresentation in this process/application will result in automatic recommendation for denial and the information will be turned over to the Office of Student Conduct for appropriate action.

University Health Services and the University Counseling Center do not automatically support medical justification for withdrawal for ongoing chronic illnesses regardless of clinical documentation. University Health Services and the University Counseling Center strongly recommend that the student and their clinician jointly evaluate realistic abilities to determine an appropriate course load so as to avoid withdrawal actions.