

Wellness Center Class Absence Policy

Policy/Procedure

The Wellness Center does not provide excuses for missing class for routine appointments, as these kinds of absences are taken care of by faculty attendance policies regarding class absences. Students requesting class absence notices are told to speak with their professors directly and informed of the Class Absence Policy. When a clinician recommends that a student refrain from going to class (e.g., mono, going home for specialty healthcare, experiencing a mental health crisis), the staff will request that the student sign a release permitting the Wellness Center to inform the appropriate College Dean, whom they will copy on an email notification back to the student regarding their recommendation that the student not attend class. The student should still reach out to their College Dean and professors directly when they are able to do so.

Related Information

The purpose of this policy is to eliminate unnecessary visits from students who make appointments for the sole purpose of obtaining class absence notes for their professors. Some illnesses may legitimately prevent a student from attending classes, but are not serious enough to require evaluation and treatment from professionals at the Wellness Center. When professors require a note from the Wellness Center for a class absence, it creates a situation that forces the student to make an appointment whether or not they need one. When this happens, appointment times are taken up by students for the sole purpose of obtaining a class absence note, leaving fewer available appointments for students with more immediate needs who should be seen sooner rather than later. When students experience delays in their treatment, their recovery time may be prolonged, which could cause them to miss more classes than otherwise necessary.

Exception: If the student's class absence is for an extremely sensitive issue (e.g., termination of a pregnancy) that they do not want shared with their College Dean, the Dean will not be cc'ed on the email to the student recommending that they not attend class. In these cases, the student is informed that we normally include the Dean on this email, but due to the sensitive nature of their reason for needing to miss class, we will make an exception.

History/Revision Information

Responsible Division/Office: Student Life/Wellness Center

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