



Medical Leave of Absence and Medical Reentry Policies

A student with a mental health and/or physical health condition may apply for a voluntary Medical Leave of Absence from the University. The University may approve a Medical Leave of Absence if the student submits an application and adequate documentation (consistent with the requirements listed below) from the student's treating physician, licensed mental health provider, or other licensed healthcare provider specifying a mental health and/or physical health condition.

1. The student may submit an [Application for a Medical Leave of Absence](#) for mental health and/or physical health conditions that cause a degree of functional impairment that warrants a complete withdrawal from academic study for an academic term.
2. Along with the application, the student must submit adequate medical documentation from the student's treating physician, licensed mental health provider, or other licensed healthcare provider for the mental health and/or physical health condition indicated in the application. The student and the provider should have a shared understanding of the information being submitted to the University on the student's behalf. The documentation must include the following, as outlined in the [Treating Healthcare Provider Medical Leave of Absence Form](#):
 - a. The treating physician, licensed mental health provider, or other licensed healthcare provider's professional qualifications and licensure
 - b. Date the student first consulted the provider
 - c. Number and type (i.e. in person or virtual) of visits with the provider
 - d. Professional opinion regarding the approximate date on which the symptoms of the mental health or physical health condition first began
 - e. Diagnosis of the mental health and/or physical health condition
 - f. Assessment of student's willingness and/or ability to carry out substantial self-care obligations
 - g. Impact of the condition on the student's participation in academic activities (including attending classes and completing coursework)
 - h. Identification of the degree of functional impairments that warrants withdrawal from all courses for the term; and
 - i. Treatment recommendations and estimated length of treatment plan
3. Students experiencing mental health and/or physical health conditions should promptly seek care from their treating physician, licensed mental health provider, or other licensed healthcare provider and should request a Medical Leave of Absence before the end of the **sixth (6th) week** of the quarter or **ninth (9th) week** of the semester. *In exceptional circumstances, if the student submits adequate medical documentation of mental health and/or physical health emergency or a significant exacerbation of symptoms, students may submit an application for a Medical Leave of Absence by the last day of the term.*

Exchange of Information with Treating Physician, Licensed Mental Health Provider, or other Licensed Healthcare Provider

- Students must submit a completed Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) compliant consent form to their treating physician, licensed mental health provider or other licensed healthcare provider's office to authorize their healthcare provider to submit the required documentation to the University.
- The University may only release information the student submits pursuant to this policy to the student's treating physician, licensed mental health provider or other licensed healthcare provider as permitted by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).
- In connection with the Application for a Medical Leave of Absence, the student may also be required to submit a FERPA release permitting the University's Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence (CLIE) staff to exchange information with the student's treating physician, licensed mental health provider or other licensed healthcare provider to address the student's ability to perform as a student for the period covering the Medical Leave of Absence application process, the duration of the approved Medical Leave of Absence, and the Medical Reentry process.

Tuition Refund

The University will prorate any tuition and fee refunds for the portion of the term covered by the approved Medical Leave of Absence, provided that the student is responsible for the tuition and fees for the remaining portion of that term. The University will calculate the amount of the refund as set forth in the applicable charts below. For other interterms and summer term, the University will determine the amount of any refunds based on the term length and course start date. The University will determine the week of withdrawal for the purpose of issuing a refund based on criteria including the student's participation in academic activities and the information provided by the student's treating physician, licensed mental health provider, or other licensed healthcare provider pursuant to this policy. A student who submits an application for a Medical Leave of Absence cannot file a Tuition Refund Appeal with the Bursar's Office for the same term for which the student requests a Medical Leave of Absence or a retroactive withdrawal for medical reasons.

Week of Withdrawal	University Tuition and Fees Refund Chart for Quarter Students:		
Week 1	100%	Week 6	40%
Week 2	80%	Week 7	30%
Week 3	70%	Week 8	20%
Week 4	60%	Week 9	10%
Week 5	50%	Week 10	0%

Week of Withdrawal	University Tuition and Fees Refund Chart for Students Seeking Degrees from the Sturm College of Law:		
Weeks 1-2	100%	Week 8	30%
Week 3	80%	Week 9	20%
Week 4	70%	Weeks 10-12	15%
Week 5	60%	Weeks 13-14	10%
Week 6	50%	Week 15	0%
Week 7	40%		

Medical Leave of Absence Eligibility Requirements and Conditions

- Students may seek a Medical Leave of Absence only for their own personal mental health and/or physical health circumstances. Students seeking a leave of absence for other reasons may apply for a Personal Leave of Absence.
- Students participating in an international education program may not seek a Medical Leave of Absence for the term in which the student is participating in the international education program.

- The Medical Leave of Absence program is not intended to shield a student from unsatisfactory progress or any other academic irregularity unrelated to the student's mental health and/or physical health condition that causes a degree of functional impairment that warrants a complete withdrawal from academic study for an academic term as provided in this policy.
- Graduate students who receive an approved Medical Leave of Absence are eligible for relief for their time-to-degree requirements, provided that graduate students seeking a Juris Doctorate from the Sturm College of Law are subject to the time to degree requirements of the applicable accrediting body.
- If a student takes courses for credit at another institution while on a Medical Leave of Absence, the student must comply with the applicable policies for receiving transfer of credit toward a degree from the University. Undergraduate students should refer to the Office of the Registrar [Undergraduate Transfer Policy](#). Graduate students should refer to the transfer of credit procedures in the [Graduate Bulletin](#).
- A student may receive a Medical Leave of Absence (including any retroactive requests for a retroactive withdrawal for medical reasons) a total of **two (2) times** during enrollment in an educational program at the University. A student who has already received two (2) Medical Leaves of Absence during enrollment in an educational program and who has a mental or physical health emergency during a subsequent term may submit a request for an additional Medical Leave of Absence. The Associate Vice Chancellor of Campus Life & Inclusive Excellence or their designee, in consultation with the Director of the Disability Services Program and the Executive Director of the University's Health & Counseling Center or their respective designees, has the discretion to determine whether to grant an additional Medical Leave of Absence.
- If the University approves a Medical Leave of Absence, Campus Life & Inclusive Excellence staff will notify relevant offices/departments that the student is withdrawing for medical reasons. A student cannot withdraw a request for a Medical Leave of Absence after the University has approved the request.
- If the student is unable due to their mental health and/or physical health condition to complete an Application for a Medical Leave of Absence, at the discretion of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence or their designee, the University may accept an email from the student as notice that another individual will complete the application on behalf of the student, provided that the student has executed a FERPA release for such individual.
- If the student submits an Application for a Medical Leave of Absence after the last day of classes for the term and/or provides appropriate medical documentation after the last day of classes, the student must instead file a Petition for Exception to Academic Policy and provide the supporting documentation required for such petition. The student must request a retroactive drop of **all** courses for the requested term due to medical reasons in the petition. The student must provide adequate medical documentation according to the requirements set forth above.

Reentry from a Medical Leave of Absence

As a condition of voluntarily seeking one of the following:

- Medical Leave of Absence
- Retroactive Withdrawal for Medical Reasons
- Tuition Refund for Medical Reasons

the student must provide adequate medical documentation from the student's treating physician, licensed mental health provider, or other licensed healthcare provider that demonstrates the student is prepared to participate successfully academically and is willing and/or able to carry out substantial self-care obligations with a full-time course load.

To allow sufficient time for processing and registration, the student must complete the following steps for the reentry process at least **14 business days** before the start of the term:

1. Complete the [Reentry from Medical Leave of Absence form](#).
2. Submit medical documentation from the student's treating physician, licensed mental health provider, or other licensed healthcare provider addressing the following criteria, as specified in the [Treating Healthcare Provider Medical Reentry Form](#). The student and the provider should have a shared understanding of the information being submitted to the University on the student's behalf.
 - a. The treating physician, licensed mental health provider, or other licensed healthcare provider's professional qualification and licensure
 - b. Professional opinion regarding the student's ability to participate academically with a full-time course load and willingness and/or ability to carry out substantial self-care obligations at the University with or without continued treatment
 - c. A treatment summary with the following specificity:
 - Time span and type of treatment provided to the student while on the Medical Leave of Absence
 - Whether the treatment was concluded (with or without the healthcare provider's approval) or is on-going
 - Specific intensive treatment, if any, while on the Medical Leave of Absence
 - Demonstrated understanding of the diagnoses and functional impairment that resulted in a Medical Leave of Absence
 - Description of how the treating physician, licensed mental health provider, or other licensed healthcare provider completing the form addressed these specific issues in the treatment of the student during the Medical Leave of Absence
 - If treatment is ongoing, recommended treatment plan during student's return to full time study
 - Any continuing care needs or concerns for the student, and
 - Any safety concerns for the student or for others in the University community

A student requesting a retroactive withdrawal for medical reasons through the Academic Exceptions Process must submit the [Treating Healthcare Provider Retroactive Withdrawal and Reentry for Medical Reasons form](#). If a student is approved for a retroactive withdrawal for medical reasons and enrolled for a current or upcoming term, before the student is permitted to resume or continue academic study at the University, the student must submit the [Treating Healthcare Provider Retroactive Withdrawal and Reentry for Medical Reasons form](#) completed by the treating physician, licensed mental health provider, or other licensed healthcare provider. Any student who is not already currently enrolled or ready to resume classes and is granted a retroactive withdrawal for medical reasons will be placed on a Medical Leave of Absence and will be required to follow the Medical Leave of Absence Reentry process at least **14 business days** before the start of the term.

The Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus Life & Inclusive Excellence or their designee, in consultation with the Director of the Disability Services Program and the Executive Director of the University's Health & Counseling Center or their respective designees, has the discretion to determine whether the student has submitted adequate medical documentation to support the reentry application. The University may establish conditions for the student in the first term after reentry based on the information provided in connection with the Reentry from Medical Leave of Absence form. If the University approves the student's reentry with conditions, the student must also submit updated medical documentation consistent with the conditions or as otherwise provided in the approval of the reentry.

The student must comply with all other applicable procedures for returning to the University.

If a student seeks to extend their Medical Leave of Absence beyond one (1) year, the student should contact the staff in Student Outreach & Support at care@du.edu.

Appeals for Denial of Medical Leave of Absence or Reentry from a Medical Leave of Absence

A student may appeal a decision denying a Medical Leave of Absence and/or Reentry from a Medical Leave of Absence to the Vice Chancellor of Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence or their designee by completing and submitting the Appeal [form](#) within **five (5) business days** of the date the decision was sent to the student. The grounds for appeal are limited to the following:

- The existence of procedural errors so substantial that such errors greatly impacted the decision; and/or
- New medical documentation that was not reasonably available at the time of the initial decision.

Students who have concerns regarding a possible violation of the University's anti-discrimination policies in the application of this policy should contact the University's Office of Equal Opportunity.

The decision of the Vice Chancellor of Campus Life and Inclusive Excellence or their designee will be issued in writing within **five (5) business days** from the date on which the student submits the appeal, unless the University can show good cause for delay.