

## **Policy for Student Leaves of Absence**

Students may petition for a leave of absence for reasons such as:

- (a) professional or academic opportunities, like travel or study abroad, employment related to educational goals and majors fields of study, or participation in field study or research projects;
- (b) medical reasons, including pregnancy, major surgery, or other health-related problems; or
- (c) financial reasons, such as the necessity to work for a specified period in order to resume study with adequate resources.

Evaluation of petitions for leaves of absence takes into account the student's stated plans and the extent to which a leave would contribute to educational objectives. Students are expected to plan their time of return and their activities during the leave. They also must state why it is critical to remain in continuous student standing. In the case of a medical or financial leave, they must state how they plan to remain current with or advance in their academic field.

Undergraduate students may request a leave of absence for no fewer than three and no more than eight quarters. Graduate students are granted a maximum of four quarters, subject to renewal. Continuing students' allowed absence of two quarters is included in these maxima.

Students must file a petition with the Office of Enrollment Services after action by their major department/division chair (graduate and postbaccalaureate students must obtain the school graduate dean's approval, also) no later than three weeks before the end of the quarter preceding the proposed leave. Approval entitles students to continuing student status for registration purposes, provided they return no later than the quarter specified in their approved petition.

Continuing students returning from a leave of absence are entitled to priority registration privileges (i.e., they may register with all other continuing students) and are not required to apply for readmission.

Undergraduate students retain current catalog requirements for graduation; classified postbaccalaureate and graduate students retain classified standing. Unclassified postbaccalaureate and conditionally classified graduate students who have an approved program on file in their school graduate studies office are subject to the conditions of those programs. All others are subject to the catalog requirements in effect when they return.

Initial policy approved by the President, November 15, 1973.

Amended policy approved by the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate, March 13, 1974.

Amended policy approved by the President, April 5, 1974.

### ***Special note for international (visa) students:***

Approval of a leave of absence request by the University does not affect the Immigration and Naturalization Service law which states that visa students may remain in the United State only while they are carrying a full program of studies. Therefore, visa students should request a leave of absence only if they plan to leave the United States for an extended period of time.