

Leave of Absence and Withdrawal Policy

Overview

The purpose of a leave of absence is to allow for a pre-approved, temporary interruption of a student's academic progress due to significant reasons that are out of a student's control. Reasons for a leave of absence may include, but are not limited to, medical problems, family crisis, etc.

General Provisions

A student who applies for a leave of absence from OSU-COM is responsible for all academic work scheduled up to the official date of the voluntary leave of absence determined by the Senior Associate Dean. In extraordinary circumstances, the Senior Associate Dean may excuse the student from academic responsibilities prior to the official date of the voluntary leave of absence.

Time spent in leave(s) of absence for up to 18 months is not counted toward the normal limit of six years that a student has to complete the D.O. program. Any student whose leave(s) of absence, for any reason, cumulatively exceeds 18 months will be withdrawn from OSU-COM and must apply for readmission through the traditional admission process pursuant to OSU-COM's policy on withdrawal.

For enrollment and financial aid purposes, all leaves of absence will be processed as withdrawals beginning with the official date of the leave of absence. Students who take a leave of absence may lose their tuition and fees for the term based on the refund dates and percentages listed in the College Catalog. The use of the term withdrawal in this section does not constitute a withdrawal from OSU-COM under OSU-COM's policy on withdrawal unless the leave of absence cumulatively exceeds 18 months.

Any disciplinary proceeding(s) pending against a student at the time the student's leave of absence is approved will continue as soon as the approved leave of absence ends. A student on leave of absence will not be considered an enrolled student and will not be permitted to participate in any educational activities or clinical assignments.

Voluntary Leave Requests

To initiate a leave of absence from OSU-COM, a student must submit a fully executed Student Request for a Leave of Absence or Withdrawal (available on the OSU-COM website and in Student Affairs) to the Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management that includes the reason(s) in sufficient detail for the requested leave of absence. Students who have completed the preclinical years must submit a Rotation Report from Clinical Education with their request. Students who are requesting a leave of absence and need access to OSU services during their leave will also need to submit a copy of their Social Security card. For a leave of absence for medical reasons, the request must also be accompanied by a letter from a physician or treating mental health provider, describing the nature of the illness for which the leave is requested and the estimated length of time needed for recovery.

The Senior Associate Dean will decide in his or her discretion and based upon satisfactory justification whether to approve a leave of absence request. Before seeking approval from the Senior Associate Dean, the Request must also be signed by the Manager of Clinical Education (when the student has completed preclinical curriculum), the Manager of Financial Aid, The Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, the Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, and the student. The Senior Associate Dean will approve the request by signing the form, which must include starting and ending dates for the leave. After obtaining approval from the Senior Associate Dean, the student will submit the form to the Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management for final verification and to process the request.

Return from Leave of Absence

Before a student may return to educational activities following a leave of absence, the student must submit a fully executed Return from Leave of Absence Form to the Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management prior to the ending date of the applicable leave of absence. Students requesting to return from a leave of absence for medical reasons must submit a letter from a physician or treating mental health provider stating that the student has recovered from the illness leading to the leave of absence and meets OSU-COM's Technical Standards (with or without accommodation) with the written request.

The Senior Associate Dean will decide in his or her discretion and based upon satisfactory justification whether to approve the request. Before seeking approval from the Senior Associate Dean, the request must also be signed by the Manager of Clinical Education (when the student has completed preclinical curriculum), the Manager of Financial Aid, the Director of Student Success, the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, the Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, and the student. After obtaining approval from the Senior Associate Dean, the student will submit the form to the Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management for final verification and to process the request.

If the Senior Associate Dean approves the request, he or she will determine the student's placement within the curriculum. A leave of absence during Year 1 or 2 generally requires that the student repeat the academic year in which he or she was enrolled at the time of the leave. A leave of absence during Year 3 or 4 generally requires that the student resume the rotation schedule where he or she initiated the leave of absence.

Students who take a leave of absence after having completed their pre-clinical curriculum must maintain their knowledge and clinical skills while they are on the leave. Before returning to the program to resume rotations, the student must have taken and passed his or her COMLEX Level 1 examination and verified with the Office of Clinical Education that he or she has met the following requirements:

- Participated in Transition Week;
- Holds active Advanced Cardiac Life Support and Basic Life Support certification;
- Is current on required immunizations and examinations as confirmed by the Student Health Nurse;
- Is resuming rotations at the same point that he or she began the Leave of Absence; and
- Has completed the following within the prior twelve months:
 - Approved background check;
 - Approved drug screen;
 - Mask-fitting;
 - Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act training; and
 - Electronic health record system training.

Requests for Additional Leave

If a student is unable to return to educational activities by the ending date of an approved leave of absence, the student must submit a new written request to the Senior Associate Dean for the additional leave of absence prior to the ending date of the applicable leave of absence. The request must follow each of the requirements applicable to leave requests set forth in this policy, including the submission of a new letter from a physician or treating mental health provider, if applicable, as the request for an additional leave is considered a new request.

Failure to Contact the Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management

Any student who fails to contact the Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management prior to the ending date of the approved leave of absence may be subject to disciplinary action, including dismissal.

Withdrawal Policy

Overview

Students may decide that they no longer wish to continue their medical education at OSU-COM. Should a student determine that he or she wants to withdraw from OSU-COM, the student must adhere to the following policies and procedures.

General Provisions

To initiate a withdrawal from OSU-COM, a student must submit a fully executed Student Request for a Leave of Absence or Withdrawal (available on the OSU-COM website and in Student Affairs) to the Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management that includes the reason(s) in sufficient detail for the requested withdrawal. The student must submit the request in advance, unless extraordinary circumstances prevent the student from doing so.

The Senior Associate Dean will decide in his or her discretion and based upon satisfactory justification whether to approve a withdrawal request. Before seeking approval from the Senior Associate Dean, the Request must also be signed by the Manager of Clinical Education (when the student has completed preclinical curriculum), the Manager of Financial Aid, the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, the Senior Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, and the student. To complete the form, the student must settle all outstanding financial obligations and complete financial aid exit counseling, if applicable. The Senior Associate Dean will approve the request by signing the form, which must include starting date for the withdrawal. After obtaining approval from the Senior Associate Dean, the student will submit the form to the Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management for final verification and to process the request. The Assistant Dean for Enrollment Management will obtain the student's badge and terminate access to college resources.

At the time a withdrawal is granted, the Registrar will make an entry on the official permanent record indicating the academic standing of the student. "Withdrawal (WP), in good standing," will be recorded if the student is not on academic probation and has received no course grades or averaged examination grades less than 70% during the semester in which the withdrawal is requested. "Withdrawal (WU), not in good academic standing," will be recorded if the student is on academic probation or has received course grades or averaged examination grades less than 70% during the semester in which the withdrawal is requested.

Any student who does not complete this process for voluntary withdrawal will not be entitled to an official withdrawal and consequently will not be considered for readmission at a later date. Readmission following withdrawal is not assured. Following withdrawal, a student must submit an application for readmission through the traditional admission process.