

Related Policy: 02-70-030
Procedure: Voluntary Leave of Absence, Excused Absence & Withdrawal
Effective Date: April 13, 2021

1. **Generally.** OHSU may grant permission for a Leave of Absence (LOA) and Excused Absences from the university. Students may also Withdraw from Term Enrollment or Permanently Withdraw from the University. This policy covers voluntary interruptions of study to reflect educational goals or extenuating circumstances. Acceptable reasons for requesting an LOA may include but are not limited to:
 - medical leave for a physical or psychological condition;
 - birth or adoption of a child;
 - family obligations;
 - research;
 - additional graduate degree;
 - financial hardship;
 - time to study for board exams;
 - Excused Military Absence; or
 - Excused Absence for Firefighting Activities.

Students ordered to federal or state active duty service or firefighting activities will be granted an Excused Absence or an LOA upon request, dependent on the terms and duration of the order and/or related medical treatment. A student permitted to take an LOA while on academic and/or disciplinary status will return on the same status.

2. **Definitions.** For definitions pursuant to this procedure see Policy 02-70-030.
3. **Leave of Absence (LOA), Excused Absence or Withdrawal Request Documentation.** Students requesting a LOA, Excused Absence or Withdrawal should complete the Withdrawal, Excused Absence or Leave of Absence form available on the [Registrar's website](#). The student may fax or bring the completed form to the appropriate school or program administrator for approval. A LOA or Excused Absence is not effective until the student has submitted all forms and/or documentation specific to the type of LOA/Excused Absence requested, and the leave/absence is approved by the school or college. Two LOA/Excused Absence situations require additional documentation.
 - A. **Medical Condition.** If the LOA request is due to a physical or psychological condition, the health professional treating the student will, with the student's written consent, confirm in writing that a LOA is warranted due to the student's health condition. The treating health care provider will sign and date the LOA Health Care Provider Attestation form within 20 business days of the request for a medical LOA to be considered valid, unless an extension is granted. This attestation form is available on OHSU's Student Health and Wellness Center (SHW) website. The form will be submitted to SHW, who will notify the Registrar's Office and the student's academic program that a completed form

has been received. Students on the Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) who are approved for a medical LOA may have the ability to maintain coverage per the requirements outlined in section 8 of this procedure.

- B. **Military Service.** For students called to active duty as a Member of the Military, a copy of the dated notice should accompany the LOA/Excused Absence request. Per the [OHSU fee book](#), any student with orders to report for active military duty may withdraw at any time during the term.
4. **University Services.** To the extent allowed by applicable law, access to University services during a LOA/Excused Absence will be determined on a case by case basis, dependent upon the purpose and length of the LOA/Excused Military Absence. Upon approval of the LOA/Excused Absence by the school or college, students with exceptional circumstances may submit a written request to the Office of the Provost for access to specific university services. The Office of the Provost will notify the student, academic program and school of the university services decision.
5. **Maximum LOA Limit.** A student can request a LOA/Excused Absence for a maximum of one year (four consecutive quarters). Extensions beyond a year require a student to complete a new LOA/Excused Military Absence request, and approval is not guaranteed.
6. **Continuous Registration Exception.** When granted a LOA/Excused Absence, a student is permitted an exception from the continuous registration requirement of the University. Students should carefully consider the timing of the LOA/Excused Absence, so their exit and reentry into the program are appropriate to the curriculum. The period of the LOA is counted toward the time allowed for completion of degree requirements, unless a waiver of those requirements is granted by the individual's school/college or program.
7. **Financial Aid.** Students granted a LOA/Excused Absence will be treated as withdrawn for purposes of the federal Return of Title IV Funds processing, enrollment reporting and tuition refund processing. Students withdrawing or on a LOA may no longer be eligible for the grants, fellowships, scholarships and/or loans awarded to them. In such cases, students eligible for financial aid should consult the Financial Aid Office prior to withdrawal or requesting a LOA to determine the implications of the withdrawal or LOA/Excused Absence. Students eligible for the OHSU Tuition Promise should contact the Registrar's Office to determine the implications of a LOA/Excused Absence on the student's continued eligibility for the OHSU Tuition Promise.
8. **Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP) During a Medical LOA/Excused Absence for Medical Treatment.** Students enrolled in the SHIP who go on an approved medical LOA/Excused Absence will have the following coverage:
 - A. Leave declared after the 100% refund deadline: Coverage in the SHIP will continue through the end of the term period. Those on an approved medical LOA/Excused Absence will have the option to purchase a subsequent term of

student health coverage which is available to them once during their academic career.

- B. Leave declared prior to the 100% refund deadline: A student who takes a leave prior to this deadline will be ineligible for the current term's coverage and will be refunded any monies. A student on approved medical LOA/Excused Absence will have the option to purchase this term as their one term of student health coverage per academic career. Previous enrollment in the prior term is required in order to qualify for a term of coverage for medical leave.

- 9. **Returning from Medical LOA/Excused Absence for Medical Treatment.** A student intending to return from a medical leave will have their treating health care provider sign and date the LOA Health Care Provider Attestation Form indicating that the student's health permits the successful completion of studies consistent with Technical Standards, a minimum of 20 business days before the start of the term they intend to enroll, unless an exception is granted by the school or college. Providers at the student health center may not complete the LOA Health Care Provider Attestation Form for return from medical leave of absence. The completed attestation to return shall be submitted to SHW who will notify the University Registrar and associate dean or program director of the completed LOA attestations and reinstatement forms. Students will not be allowed to register for classes until this return attestation form is received by SHW.
- 10. **Returning from All Other Leave.** A student requesting to return from a LOA/Excused Absence will submit a letter of intent to return to the associate dean or program director no less than 20 business days before the start of the term they intend to enroll. Students returning from a LOA/Excused Absence should review the school-level policies on the reentry procedure.

Related Policies and Procedures: [Policy 02-20-005, Student Records](#); [Policy 02-70-010, Technical Standards](#); [Policy 02-70-020, University Grading](#); [Policy 02-70-030, Voluntary Leave of Absence, Excused Absence and Withdrawal](#); School policies related to LOA and Reinstatement; Tuition and Fees, Section II E. [Tuition Refund](#) (Registrar Forms)

Related Regulations: ORS 352.296 Credit for room, board, tuition and fees for student ordered to active duty; standards

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Procedure Revision History: September 19, 2016; August 16, 2019; April 13, 2021.

Responsible Office: Office of the Registrar, 503-494-7800; academicpolicy@ohsu.edu