

Committee on Educational Policy
Student Health Center Policy on Medical Excuses

Consistent with the practice at medical centers at many other colleges and universities, and with the support of the Committee on Educational Policy, the UCSC Student Health Center does not offer students medical excuses or documentation of visits.

As ways to ensure regular attendance and to address missed exams or late assignments:

- 1) Faculty may not require that a student provide documentation from the Student Health Center or other medical provider.
- 2) Faculty may stipulate a certain number of allowed absences (e.g. 2 or 3 per quarter), beyond which further absences will have a negative impact on the student's grade and may cause them to fail the course. Instructors should clearly indicate in their syllabus that these allowed absences are meant to cover contingencies such as illnesses, family emergencies, and the like.
- 3) Faculty may require that students contact them about all absences, preferably in advance of class.
- 4) Faculty may require students to complete make-up work for each class for which they were absent. Thus, the students may be asked to complete additional exercises (in a language or math class) or to write a 2 to 5 page paper on the subject matter covered in the class they missed.
- 5) In courses with a number of quizzes and exams, reading responses, lab reports, etc., the faculty member may allow students to miss one such assignment without penalty.

There are many other possibilities as well. The critical factors are that faculty clearly lay out their expectations, set parameters, and then encourage students to act responsibly within these defined limits.

In cases of missed exams or late papers and other assignments, faculty and/or their teaching assistants may need to speak with students to determine their reasons for missing an exam or due date.

Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy on May 10, 2007 and amended October 9, 2019