

LEAVES AND WITHDRAWALS

Students wishing to take a leave from their respective college are required to apply for a voluntary Leave of Absence (LOA) with an expected return date in a future semester. Students on a LOA may not enroll in any courses offered by the University during their leave. Students on a LOA are not eligible for services such as housing, dining, library and transportation services. For purposes of enrollment reporting, University LOAs are treated as withdrawals.

A college may place a student on leave of absence or withdraw a student who fails to meet the academic expectations of the college. A college may withdraw a student who fails to return at the end of a period of authorized leave. Students may withdraw from the University at their own discretion.

To request a leave of absence or withdraw from the university, students should submit a request (<https://withdrawal.cornell.edu/default/>).

Specific leave information can be found within the following policies:

- Policy 7.1: Voluntary Leave of Absence for Students (<https://www.dfa.cornell.edu/policy/policies/voluntary-leave-absence-students/>)
- Policy 7.2: Involuntary Student Leave (<https://www.dfa.cornell.edu/policy/policies/involuntary-student-leave/>)
- Policy 7.3: Processing and Reporting Changes in Student Enrollment Status Under Title IV (<https://www.dfa.cornell.edu/policy/policies/processing-and-reporting-changes-student-enrollment-status-under-title-iv/>)

Unofficial Withdrawals

When a student ceases to participate in a course, but has not provided official notification of withdrawal, the student shall be considered unofficially withdrawn. Additionally, due to regulatory requirements, the Office of Financial Aid and Student Employment may consider students to be unofficially withdrawn if students do not receive a passing grade for any of the courses they attempted in a term.

If students are unofficially withdrawn, any financial aid the student receives may be adjusted according to federal and state regulations and institutional policy.

Causes of unofficial withdrawals:

- Students enroll in but do not attend classes, which may result in failing grades of (U, UX or F) and outstanding tuition charges.
- Students drop all enrolled classes within a term and fail to notify their college.
- Students do not enroll for one or more terms and lose automatic registration eligibility.
- Students earn non-passing grades for all courses within a term.

Financial Aid Impacts

Students attending Cornell University who are receiving federal Title IV financial aid (e.g., Federal Direct Loans, Pell or Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants) are required to return the portion of unearned federal aid if they withdraw, go on leave of absence, do not register, or otherwise fail to complete the period of enrollment for which the Title IV aid was provided. For federal aid purposes, a student is considered to have withdrawn from Cornell when a student ceases to

be enrolled for any reason – required by the college, requested by the student, medical reasons, etc. Please note, Cornell University does not process Title IV Leaves of Absence.

For more information, refer to the Leaves and Withdrawals policy page (<https://finaid.cornell.edu/policies/leaves-and-withdrawals/>) on the Financial Aid website.

Returning from Leave of Absence

Students who are on an academic required leave of absence (RLOA) from their college or a university health leave of absence (HLOA) and who wish to return to their studies, are required to submit a request to do so no later than the following dates:

Return Term	Request Deadline (to participate in enrollment)	Final Request Deadline ¹
Fall Semester	March 15	July 15
Winter Session	October 1	December 1
Spring Semester	October 1	December 1
Summer Session	March 15	May 15

¹ Students requesting return by these dates would enroll in classes during the add period.

These deadlines are provided to inform the student's decision to return and to allow adequate time for processing and academic planning with college advisors. Please check your RLOA letter for information about your college/school's steps to start the return process. Students on an HLOA must follow these procedures (<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsds.cornell.edu%2Faccommodations-services%2Fhealth-leave-absence%2Freturning-health-leave-absence&data=05%7C02%7Ckt586%40cornell.edu%7C2d9f56eb44ef4d5c6e5008dd994c94eb%7C5d7e43661b9b45cf8e79b14b27df46e1%7C0%7C0%7C638835276363260512%7C7C2WFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUslYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIslAiOiJXa%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=A5yR%2Fq1K2CUHppqG46VcfFj24K9xrXKijHj6LHiyNc0%3D&reserved=0>) to initiate their return to Cornell.