



THE UNIVERSITY  
of ADELAIDE

# Student Health Assessment and Leave Policy

## OVERVIEW

## SCOPE AND APPLICATION

## POLICY PRINCIPLES

1. The University supports students to manage health conditions they experience
2. The University protects the confidentiality of information about students
3. The University observes the rights of students
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## DEFINITIONS

## OVERVIEW

The University is a research and learning community where students of diverse backgrounds and circumstances are supported to participate in the pursuit of knowledge.

Students have the primary responsibility for maintaining their own health and wellbeing. In addition, the University has a framework of policies and services to assist students to manage ongoing or intermittent health conditions which could impact on their studies. Students should be encouraged to seek the advice and support of these services. Where a serious health condition adversely impacts on capacity to study or behaviour and risks harm to self or others, or otherwise disrupts the activities of the University, a health assessment and/or a leave of absence from study and a managed return to study may be initiated by the University under this policy.

## SCOPE AND APPLICATION

The Student Health Assessment and Leave Policy applies to all active students who are enrolled in an undergraduate or postgraduate coursework program, a higher degree by research program, or in any type of enabling course, non-award unit or pathway or community access program, regardless of where they may study or reside (in Australia or overseas).

The Policy may be applied where there is a concern that a student has a serious health condition which may adversely impact on their study or behaviour, or on the academic, business or social activities of the University. For the purposes of this Policy, a *serious health condition* includes mental health and medical conditions.

This Policy will be applied in accordance with the [Student Health Assessment and Leave Procedures](#). Nothing contained in this Policy is intended to alter or limit the full extent of the University's right to suspend or exclude a student at its absolute discretion, subject always to the relevant University statutes, rules and policies, the requirements of regulatory authorities and the laws of Australia.

Implementation of this Policy will be carried out in accordance with the University's [Code of Conduct](#) and the [Academic Board Statement on Undue Influence](#). Any attempts to improperly exert pressure or influence actions or decisions made pursuant to this Policy must be reported in accordance with the [Fraud and Corruption Control Policy](#).

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## POLICY PRINCIPLES

- 1. The University supports students to manage health conditions they experience by**
  - a) Providing counselling and disability support services
  - b) Making reasonable adjustments to the learning environment and assessment procedures
  - c) Allowing special circumstance fee remissions to lessen the financial impact on students where possible
  - d) Facilitating leave from study, including retrospective amendment to enrolment status.
- 2. The University protects the confidentiality of information about students by**
  - a) Maintaining academic records that contain only necessary personal information for academic purposes
  - b) Ensuring that all personal information is kept in accordance with the [Australian Privacy Principles](#) and other standards related to health records, where appropriate
  - c) Seeking the student's consent to share information where it may serve the interests of the student.
- 3. The University observes the rights of students by**
  - a) Treating all with respect, impartiality, courtesy and sensitivity
  - b) Ensuring transparency in all processes and clearly communicating expectations and outcomes
  - c) Meeting obligations for procedural fairness, including providing opportunities for a range of views to be taken into consideration, and ensuring access to the University's [Student Complaint Resolution Policy](#).
  - d) Recognising statutory obligations and the guidelines and standards established to guide the work of health professionals
- 4. The University informs students by**
  - a) Providing details in writing of how decisions or actions may impact on their University related enrolments or activities
  - b) Giving adequate opportunity to respond to reports, assessments and any outcomes of decision-making processes
  - c) Seeking the student's consent should the facilitation of a health assessment be required.

## DEFINITIONS

**Responsible Officers** are as defined under the [Student Misconduct Policy](#):

**Health Assessment** is a formal written assessment made by a Registered Medical Practitioner for the purpose of this policy and intended to provide the Early Intervention Group with a professional assessment of any risks to the welfare and safety of any person.

**Leave of Absence** means a period of approved leave from the University taken by a student under the policy.

**Serious health condition** includes a health condition, including mental health conditions or disability that adversely impacts on a student's capacity to successfully progress in a program or course of study or results in repeated behaviour that adversely impacts on other students or staff.

**Student Grievance Advisors** are staff who provide advice to students about the [Student Complaint Resolution Policy](#).

<b>RMO File No.</b>	2018/7992
<b>Policy Custodian</b>	Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice President (Academic)
<b>Responsible policy officer</b>	Director, Student Life, Division of Academic and Student Engagement
<b>Endorsed by Academic Board</b>	5 September 2018
<b>Approved by</b>	Vice-Chancellor and President 5 September 2018
<b>Related Documents and Policies</b>	<a href="#"><u>Student Health Assessment and Leave Procedures</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Safe Environments for Children and Vulnerable People Policy</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Modified Arrangements for Coursework Assessment (MACA) Policy</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Privacy Policy and Privacy Management Plan</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Reasonable Adjustments to Learning, Teaching and Assessment for Students Requiring Disability Support Policy</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Student Misconduct Policy</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Student Critical Incidents Response Policy and Procedure</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Student Complaint Resolution Policy</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Information Management Policy</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Academic Progress by Coursework Students Policy</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Early Intervention Group</u></a>
<b>Related Legislation</b>	<i>Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth)</i> <i>Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000 (Cth)</i> <i>Equal Opportunity Act 1984 (SA)</i> <i>Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)</i> <i>Mental Health Act 2009 (SA)</i>
<b>Superseded Policies</b>	
<b>Effective from</b>	5 September 2018
<b>Review Date</b>	31 March 2026 Policy reviewed and re-affirmed, with minor amendments, by Policy Custodian on 1 August 2024 Reaffirmed by DVCA on 30 January 2025 refer D2025/145689
<b>Contact for queries about the policy</b>	Manager, Student Affairs, Division of Academic and Student Engagement