



Student Health Assessment and Leave Policy

****In order to support students and staff and ensure their safety during the period of significant disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, any meetings required under this policy should proceed using an agreed communication medium, such as videoconference or teleconference. Face to face meetings should be avoided due to the risk of coronavirus transmission****

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
4. The University informs students

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.

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 established [Student Grievance Resolution Process](#)
 - 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

Authorised Officers are as defined under the Student Misconduct Rules, and are the following:

- Executive Deans
- Heads of Schools
- Dean of Graduate Studies
- Dean, Indigenous Research and Education
- Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Operations)
- Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Strategy)
- Pro Vice-Chancellor (International)
- Pro Vice-Chancellor (Student Learning)
- Director, Professional & Continuing Education
- Executive Director, Division of Academic and Student Engagement
- University Librarian
- Director, Infrastructure

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 on the Student Grievance Resolution Process.

RMO File No.	2018/7992
Policy Custodian	Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice President (Academic)
Responsible policy officer	Executive Director, Division of Academic and Student Engagement
Endorsed by Academic Board	5 September 2018
Approved by	Vice-Chancellor and President 5 September 2018
Related Documents and Policies	Student Health Assessment and Leave Procedures Child-Safe Environment Policy Modified Arrangements for Coursework Assessment Policy Privacy Policy and Privacy Management Plan Reasonable Adjustments to Teaching and Assessment for Students with a Disability Policy Student Misconduct Policy Student Critical Incidents Policy Student Misconduct Rules Student Grievance Resolution Process University Records Policy Academic Progress by Coursework Policy Early Intervention Group
Related Legislation	<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>
Superseded Policies	
Effective from	5 September 2018
Review Date	4 September 2021
Contact for queries about the policy	Manager, Student Affairs, Division of Academic and Student Engagement