



## **Medical Excuse Policy**

### *Our Policy*

The Campus Health Center will only provide medical excuses if the student is seen by one of our healthcare providers during the illness, and if it is deemed medically necessary by the provider. If the CHC medical professional reaches the conclusion that the student needs to be excused from academic responsibility, specific documentation will be provided. CHC will not provide students with medical excuses for absences from class or missed deadlines due to short term illness or injury if it is not medically necessary. Additionally, documentation is not provided for a reported illness when the student is NOT seen in the clinic while ill.

This policy is consistent with recommendations from the American College Health Association, as well as the policies of other peer institutions. In the event of illness or injury that may disrupt academic responsibilities, the student is advised to contact their instructors as soon as possible to notify them of the situation.

### *Why we do this*

It is the intent of this policy to help the Campus Health Center direct its limited medical resources to fulfilling its mission of providing quality health care rather than attempting to legitimize a student's decision whether or not they are well enough to attend class. Many illnesses are mild and self-limited, and can be managed quite well by the individual on their own at home. A doctor's appointment made for the sole purpose of obtaining documentation to excuse an absence involves the inefficient use of time and resources on both the part of the student and the health center, and serves no medical function. An absence from class is an administrative matter, not a medical one, and the resolution of this matter is between faculty and students. It is the student's responsibility to communicate directly with the faculty regarding conditions that may interfere with attendance, and any decision about the impact of that absence rests with the instructors.

### *Exceptions*

In the event of serious or prolonged illness or injury requiring absence of more than 5 days, we frequently work with students to provide appropriate documentation. Respecting a student's right to privacy and following federal law, we cannot release any information directly to professors unless the student has signed a release of information on file.