

The Center for Student Advising

COLUMBIA COLLEGE | COLUMBIA ENGINEERING

Taking a Medical Leave of Absence: FAQs

How long can I be on medical leave?

Medical Leaves are nearly always for one year. Exceptions can be granted in the case of physical injuries; students must petition the Committee on Academic Standing to return after a single semester on leave. The maximum amount of time students can be on leave is two years.

Why do students take a medical leave?

To recover from medical health problems that may be affecting their academic and personal life.

I am on academic probation. Can I still take a medical leave?

Yes. If you leave on academic probation, you'll return on academic probation. If you leave in good academic standing, you'll return in good standing.

Are my parents notified that I have taken a leave?

If you are a dependent student, then your parents are notified. We encourage you to discuss the option of taking a leave with your parents early on in your decision-making process so they are not surprised.

Does the MLOA appear on my transcript?

No.

If I leave during a semester, is there a refund?

In most cases, yes. The prorated schedule of tuition refunds can be found here: <http://registrar.columbia.edu/content/refund-rate-withdrawals>. There is also the possibility of a refund for housing and dining: <http://housingervices.columbia.edu/content/proration-schedule>

If I leave during a semester, what happens to my classes?

If you take a leave before the CC Pass/D/Fail and SEAS drop date (the 10th week of the term), your current schedule of classes is erased from your record. If you leave after the 10th week of the term, you will likely receive the grade of W (withdrawal) for all of your classes.

When do I have to move out of housing?

Once you've made the final decision to take a leave, you normally have 48 hours to move out of your room.

Can I take classes for credit while on medical leave?

No, you cannot take classes for transfer credit.



Can I access my Columbia e-mail while on leave?

Yes, you can access your Columbia email. We encourage it, in fact, as email is the primary way that we will communicate with you about readmission deadlines and other important information.

Am I still covered by Columbia's health insurance while on leave?

Students should contact the Health Insurance Office by calling 212-854-3286 or by emailing hs-enrollment@columbia.edu to determine the type of coverage they will qualify for while on leave.

Can I access Lionshare and other CCE resources while on leave?

Yes.

Can I visit a friend and stay overnight in the residence halls as a guest while on leave?

No. Students on leave are expected to separate from the campus community.

Do I have to reapply for admission?

You will need to contact your advising dean and submit a statement of intent to return, as well as a note from your health professional detailing your treatment and recommending your readmission, by the posted deadline. In order to return for the fall term, all documentation must be submitted by June 1st. If you wish to return in the spring term, all documentation must be submitted by October 1st.

Can I apply for housing before being readmitted?

No. You must wait until you're officially readmitted before adding your name to the housing lottery.

If I have been on leave during the spring, can I return and take classes during the summer term?

No. You must return for either the fall or spring terms.

When I return, will I still get financial aid?

Students on financial aid are eligible for 8 semesters of aid from Columbia. You do not lose your eligibility for aid as a result of taking a leave and will go through the same process to apply for aid upon your return. However, if you take a medical leave after the 10th week of the term, you will forfeit one term of financial aid. Please consult the financial aid office for more info.

When I return, will I still get housing?

Yes, if you are returning from a medical leave are guaranteed housing.

Can I walk with my class at graduation?

You can still walk with your original class if you are within one semester of graduating. Talk to your advising dean about this.

