

Medical Leave of Absence and Withdrawal Policy

Wabash provides a range of support services to address the medical needs of students, including mental health issues. These services are described online at: <https://www.wabash.edu/studentlife/health>.

Actions taken under this Medical Leave of Absence and Withdrawal Policy are neither disciplinary nor contractual, but there may be overlap in situations where a student engages in behavior that also implicates Wabash's student conduct expectations.

Voluntary Leave or Withdrawal: There may be circumstances in which students experience health needs beyond what they can obtain while enrolled as a college student. In such circumstances, students may seek to take a voluntary leave or withdrawal. Any student wishing to take a voluntary leave or withdrawal should contact the Dean of Students in Center Hall 115 or by phone/email (studentdean@wabash.edu or (765) 361-6310).

Involuntary Leave or Withdrawal: In certain situations where a student does not want to take a leave or withdraw voluntarily, the Dean of Students' Office has the authority to place a student on a mandatory leave of absence or to mandate withdrawal. This may include situations where, based upon current medical knowledge and/or available medical evidence and not speculation, stereotypes, or generalizations,

- a student is unable or unwilling to carry out substantial self-care obligations or engage in appropriate academic life and related activities;
- a student poses a significant risk to the safety, health, and well-being of the campus community; and/or
- a student poses a significant risk to his own safety.

In such instances, Wabash will conduct an individualized assessment to determine if there are reasonable accommodations that would permit the student to continue at Wabash safely. Nothing in this policy limits Wabash's ability to take immediate temporary action while assessment of a situation occurs.

Wabash may require an individualized medical assessment as part of the leave or withdrawal process, or as a condition for returning to Wabash. Whether an individualized medical assessment is required and the terms of any assessment, including the professional conducting the assessment, may be established by Wabash based on the particular circumstances of the situation.

Procedure for Involuntary Leave or Withdrawal: As part of the individualized assessment, Wabash will provide notice to the student, information about the process, and an opportunity for the student to provide information that he wants Wabash to consider. Wabash will give careful consideration to information provided by the student, giving it the weight appropriate under the circumstances. Decisions regarding medical leaves or withdrawals may be appealed

in writing to the President of the College. Any appeal must be received by the President within five days of being notified of the final decision to place a student on leave or withdrawal.

Return to Campus/Readmission: A student who has taken a leave or withdrawn from Wabash for medical and/or health reasons—whether voluntary or involuntary—may request to return to Wabash as a student and/or reapply by contacting the Dean of Students. The conditions or requirements for reinstatement to Wabash will be based on an individualized assessment of each student, including consideration of current medical knowledge and/or the available evidence, to determine whether the student is able to return to campus.