LEAVES AND WITHDRAWAL

VOLUNTARY Withdrawal from the College

A voluntary withdrawal is a request to separate from the College. An undergraduate student must apply for a voluntary withdrawal by contacting the designated member of the Griff Center for Student Success (OM 013) for assistance with the withdrawal process. A student who completes the voluntary withdrawal process during the add/drop period, will have all courses removed from their record for that semester and their tuition refunded. A student who completes the process after the add/drop period ends, will receive a “W” for all courses in which they are enrolled. All applicable dates/deadlines may be found in the Academic Calendar on the Canisius College website. 

In addition to completing the appropriate paperwork, each undergraduate student seeking to voluntarily withdraw from the College must also complete an exit survey (found on the MyCanisius student portal upon completion of withdrawal application). The official date of the withdrawal is the date on which the student completes the exit survey. A student seeking to withdraw is also required to meet with a Financial Aid representative in order to understand the financial ramifications of withdrawing from the college. The paperwork for voluntary withdrawal without academic penalty must be submitted no later than the published deadline for the last day to withdraw from courses. A student who stops attending classes at any time during a semester without following the proper withdrawal procedures will receive a failing grade for those classes.

Graduate students wishing to withdrawal from the college must speak to their Associate Dean or Program Director.

Medical Leave of Absence

A medical leave of absence is necessary when a medical condition significantly interferes with a student's ability to function at the College. This policy is intended to assist students with a leave of one to two semesters. It is not intended to allow a long period of absence during a single semester. A student taking a leave of absence for medical reasons will not be eligible to complete courses within the semester for which the medical leave of absence is approved. A student granted a medical leave will be expected to return to the College once the leave has ended. The procedure for returning to the College is outlined below. Failure to return from a medical leave of absence after two semesters will result in a formal academic withdrawal from Canisius College. In addition, a student who takes courses at another institution while on a medical leave, must re-apply for admission to the College.

An undergraduate student may apply to take a medical leave of absence by contacting the designated member of the Griff Center for Student Success (OM 013) for assistance with the leave process. A student who completes the medical leave process during the add/drop period, will have all courses removed from their record for that semester and their tuition refunded. A student who completes the medical leave process after the add/drop period ends, will receive a “W” for all courses in which they are enrolled. All applicable dates/deadlines and refund percentages may be found in the Academic Calendar on the Canisius College website. 

Voluntary Leave of Absence

A personal leave of absence is a temporary pause in enrollment. A student may request a personal leave of absence for a maximum of two consecutive semesters. If the leave is granted, the student will be expected to return to Canisius College once the leave has ended. Failure to return from a leave of absence will result in total withdrawal from the College and the student must re-apply for admission. In addition, a student who takes courses at another institution while on a leave, must re-apply for admission to the College.

An undergraduate student may apply to take a personal leave of absence by contacting the designated member of the Griff Center for Student Success (OM 013) for assistance with the leave process. A student who completes the leave process during the add/drop period, will have all courses removed from their record for that semester and their tuition refunded. A student who completes the leave process after the add/drop period ends, will receive a “W” for all courses in which they are enrolled. All applicable dates/deadlines and refund percentages may be found in the Academic Calendar on the Canisius College website. 

In addition to completing the leave application, each undergraduate student seeking a personal leave must complete an exit survey (found on the MyCanisius student portal upon completion of leave application) and must also meet with a Financial Aid representative in order to understand
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the financial ramifications of taking a leave from the College. The official date of the personal leave is the date on which the student initiated the leave process or verification of when the student ceased attending classes. The paperwork for a personal leave of absence without academic penalty must be submitted no later than the published deadline for the last day to withdraw from courses.

Once the personal leave application and exit survey have been processed, a hold will be placed on the student’s account to ensure proper advisement upon return. A student who stops attending classes at any time during a semester without following the proper leave procedures will receive a failing grade for those classes. All paperwork and exit surveys must be submitted in a timely manner. Failure to do so may seriously impact current and future Federal Aid. Graduate students wishing to take a personal leave from the college must speak to their Associate Dean or Program Director.

Involuntary Leave of Absence

When a student’s behavior is disruptive to the college community or when a student’s behavior presents a danger to themselves or others, the senior associate dean of students or their designee may place the student on an involuntary leave of absence in accordance with the College’s Students of Concerns Policy. A student’s return from an involuntary leave is dependent upon the resolution of the circumstances leading to that leave and must be coordinated with the senior associate dean of students or their designee.