



University of
South Australia

Required Medical Leave Policy

POLICY NO: AB-57

DATE: 27 March 2020

CURRENT AMENDMENT: 27 March 2020 – Academic Board

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER: Director: Student and Academic Services

RELATED DOCUMENTATION:

[Required Medical Leave Procedures](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Students with Disability Policy](#)

[Code of Conduct for Students](#)

[Student Complaints Resolution Policy](#)

[Academic Regulations for Higher Degrees by Research](#)

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to provide a compassionate and appropriate mechanism for managing cases where a student has a serious health condition which is causing behaviour that poses a significant risk to themselves and/or others.
- 1.2 This policy allows the University to place a student who has a serious health condition on a period of required medical leave, with the option to return to study subject to specified conditions being met. This process will be invoked in cases where the student is unwilling or unable to request a voluntary leave of absence.

2. Scope

- 2.1 This policy applies to all UniSA students enrolled:
 - in an undergraduate or postgraduate coursework program, enabling or bridging program, higher degree by research program, or non-award and audit courses
 - at an onshore or offshore campus
 - internally, externally or online

3. Exclusions

There are no exclusions.

4. Responsibilities

Responsibilities relating to required medical leave are set out in the Required Medical Leave Procedures.

5. Definitions

Serious health condition

For the purpose of these procedures a serious health condition is defined as an illness, injury, impairment, physical or mental health condition which results in behaviour that poses a significant risk to the student themselves, and/or to others whilst the student is engaged in University related activities.

6. Policy

- 6.1 The University is committed to providing a student experience that is supportive to all students. This includes a responsibility to ensure that the learning environment is safe, inclusive and respectful.
- 6.2 UniSA recognises that students are responsible for their own health and wellbeing and for ensuring that they comply with the University's [Code of Conduct for Students](#). The University encourages students to seek assistance by accessing its support services to help them manage any ongoing or intermittent health conditions.
- 6.3 The University supports students to manage health conditions by
 - providing counselling and disability support services
 - making reasonable adjustments to academic study and assessment
 - providing the option to take leave from study or to reduce study load
- 6.4 The University is committed to assisting students to manage the impact of serious health conditions on their university study where possible and will provide opportunities for active participation in decisions concerning fitness to study.
- 6.5 Required medical leave will be regarded as a measure of last resort to be implemented for students with serious health conditions only when other relevant supportive strategies have not succeeded in mitigating risk.
- 6.6 This policy does not preclude or replace disciplinary action in response to criminal activity or violations of UniSA statutes, codes, policies, procedures, or rules.
- 6.7 This policy and its associated procedures will be applied in a manner consistent with the principles of transparency and procedural fairness.
- 6.8 Matters relating to students who are under 18 years of age will be managed in accordance with relevant legislation, including the [Children and Young People \(Safety\) Act 2017](#).
- 6.9 Matters relating to international students will be managed in accordance with relevant legislation, including the [Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000](#).
- 6.10 Management of all student cases will comply with the University's [Privacy Policy](#).

AMENDMENTS:
