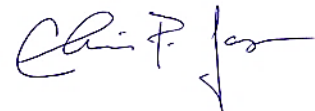


MEMO

DATE: January 08, 2024
TO: Academic Community
FROM: Chris Janzen, Senior Vice President,
Academic
SUBJECT: Student Absences (Doctor's Notes)



With the flu and cold season upon us, as well as the ongoing impact of COVID-19, it is inevitable that some students will miss classes due to illness. In order to avoid the unnecessary spreading of disease, the College continues the practice that faculty not ask in every instance of student illness for a doctor's note.

The purpose of this memo is to remind you that the College continues to support that faculty **do not request** a doctor's note when a student misses a class, lab or other learning activity.

College Academic Council has endorsed the following policy statement on student absences, and this is supported by Senior Academic Leadership Team:

Addressing student absence from class requires a commonsense approach that assumes honesty and allows faculty to exercise judgment while keeping student success foremost in mind.

- a. *The student is asked to contact the course professor **before** the class takes place to indicate that he/she is ill. If the student does not make the attempt, then they may be subject to whatever penalty is outlined in the course outline.*
- b. *For prolonged illness, or where more than one assessment is missed, the course professor can request that the student provide a doctor's note in order to help accommodate the situation.*

MEMO

Frivolous cases of abuse are to be avoided, yet not make the environment such that students, who are clearly not well, feel the need to still come to class for assessments for fear of negative consequences on their academic progress.

As always, faculty retain the responsibility and right to manage their classes in a way that ensures students demonstrate the learning outcomes of each respective course.

You will recall that the Centre for Organizational Learning, in conjunction with the College Academic Council, created a “tip sheet” with suggestions on how you can support students to ensure they stay connected with their peers and accomplish some or most of the course work and assessments while away from class (due to illness or other reasons).

The document, entitled “Promoting Academic Continuity for Students Temporarily Absent from Class”, can be found at:

http://www.algonquincollege.com/pd/files/2014/10/Academic_Continuity_Tips_for_Faculty_2014.pdf?file=2014/10/Academic_Continuity_Tips_for_Faculty_2014.pdf

I appreciate your flexibility and understanding, and I thank you for your continued commitment to our students’ success.