

# Responding To Students with an Illness or Injury

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Over the course of a typical academic year, many students find themselves coping with an injury or illness and in some situations students may be dealing with very serious problems. While the Health Center provides comprehensive health care for students, most serious problems will require students get health care at a hospital or from their health provider at home.

## ***Does the Health Center provide notes or documentation that a student was absent from class due to an illness or injury?***

The Health Center cannot disclose to a faculty or other staff member a student's Personal Health Information as explanation for class absences. The Health Center staff members have limited time and need to be directed toward providing direct patient care and cannot accommodate high volumes of request for notes. Please be considerate and request a note only if necessary. The Health Center reserves the discretion to provide a note requesting absence for medical reasons if individually indicated.

## ***How should a student coping with an illness or injury request special assistance from the university?***

Under the American's with Disabilities Act an individual with a temporary disability caused by an illness or injury may request accommodations. The student with a broken leg, for example, may be eligible for the same support services as a student living with a permanent mobility disability. These students should contact the UNCP Disability Services Office in the DF Lowry Building.

## ***Will I be notified if a student is seriously ill or injured and absent from class/work for an extended period of time?***

When the Student Affairs Office learns that a student has been seriously injured or is coping with a serious illness, student affairs staff will contact faculty and other university officials to share this information as needed. Unfortunately, the university does not always receive word of these situations in a timely fashion. If you hear from a student's classmates or others that a student might be out due to an illness/injury and you would like official confirmation, feel free to contact the Students Affairs Office. Student Affairs routinely contacts students' parents and family members to check updates on our students.

### **WHAT YOU CAN DO**

Contact the Student Affairs Office (521-6175) if you are concerned about a student's health or well being.

Contact the Health Center (521-6219) if you have questions about college health issues.

Refer students to the Health Center if they need help with a health issue.

Refer students to Disability Services (521-6695) if they need to request a formal accommodation for dealing with a short term disability.

Know the University's policies for attendance in class and for student employees.

### **AVOID**

Requesting that a student provide a detailed doctor's excuse to explain absences.

Inappropriately sharing your personal health information with a student.

Hesitating to call Student Affairs or the Health Center for help if you have a concern about a student's health/illness.