



AUCC Student Health and Wellness Center

AUCC Student Health and Wellness Clinic Excuse Policy for Student Absences

The AUCC Student Health and Wellness Clinic (SHWC) does not provide students with medical excuse letters unless they are seen in our clinic. We work with students to provide appropriate documentation, which may include verification of an appointment at our clinic.

We recognize that faculty seek equitable means of determining when to excuse student absences, and we believe this policy reinforces the students' responsibility to communicate directly and proactively with faculty about conditions that interfere with their class attendance. We encourage students to refrain from spreading infections such as colds and flu throughout the campus community by making mature decisions when they are too sick to attend class. Our clinic is always happy to see students who are sick and need advice on how to manage their illness, and whether they should be attending class.

This policy helps the SHWC to direct its time and limited resources toward providing health care access for students who are sick, or require evaluation and treatment by a provider, rather than toward seeing students who simply need an "excuse letter" for verification of a short-term illness of less than three days, which may have already resolved.

Excuse letters may only be written from the time the student was seen and for any subsequent absences as deemed appropriate by the provider. In cases of students seeking excuses after a brief illness or injury that has been effectively and appropriately managed by self-care, our clinicians will not be able to retroactively write excuse letters for illnesses reported by students prior to the time of their appointment at the SHWC.

The AUCC SHWC excuse policy reflects our respect for students' privacy and our mission to help them become mature and independent stewards of their own health. It is also consistent with the policies of many peer institutions, as well as with the excuse recommendations of the American College Health Association.

Please feel free to contact our clinic if you have questions about this policy.