

Disabilities Services Policies

Academic Absences Due to Disability

No faculty member is required to waive an essential or fundamental academic requirement of a course, regardless of the nature of the student's disability. Each department identifies and defines the essential or fundamental academic requirements for its courses as described in the Master Course Documents and approved by the Faculty. In most cases, class attendance and participation are paramount to a student's mastery of the knowledge and/or skills taught in a specific course. Students are expected to follow the attendance requirements established by the instructor in each class and as published in official Academic Policy. Instructors must follow the University Attendance Policy in establishing an acceptable attendance policy for the course.

Concordia recognizes, however, that there may be times when a qualified student with a disability cannot attend class because of disability-related reasons. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, exceptions to attendance requirements can be made on a case-by-case basis as a reasonable accommodation by the Director of the Student Success Center in consultation with the faculty. Reasonable accommodations for such absences may include, but are not limited to flexibility of class attendance, extension of time for assigned work, and flexibility in making up missed assignments and tests. Such accommodations, however, are not unlimited in scope and must be applied in consideration with what are considered the fundamental requirements of the course. It remains the sole responsibility of the student to notify any professors in advance of an anticipated absence, or as soon as reasonably practical for unforeseen absences experienced under this policy.

In cases where absences will affect the ability of the student to demonstrate skills or master outcomes required to successfully pass the course, the student will consult with the professor in regard to a withdrawal from the course. In the event of a withdrawal, the student must follow the University's withdrawal procedures, which are published in the Academic Catalog.