

Winthrop | College of Visual and Performing Arts

Class Attendance Policies

Students are expected to attend classes and should understand that they are responsible for the academic consequences of absence. The student is responsible for all requirements of the course regardless of absences. Students are expected to make every effort to attend class and departmental activities and events.

Unexcused absences may affect the final grade at the discretion of the instructor—three unexcused absences may result in course failure for classes that meet two or three times per week, and two unexcused absences may result in course failure for classes that meet once per week. Attending class without the materials necessary to execute the work, or not participating (sitting out), may count as an absence. Arriving more than 10 minutes late or leaving class early may result in being marked absent at the discretion of the instructor. Departments may establish different attendance requirements for courses within these limitations. The following policy will be in effect unless the instructor specifies otherwise: if a student's absences in a course total 25 percent or more of the class meetings for the course, the student will receive a grade of N if the student withdraws from the course before the withdrawal deadline; after that date, unless warranted by documented extenuating circumstances as described in the previous section, a grade of F or U shall be assigned.

Excused absences: Instructors are obligated to provide makeup opportunities only for students who are absent with adequate cause such as incapacitating illness, death of an immediate family member, observance of religious holidays, or authorized representation of the university. The student is responsible for providing documentation certifying the legitimacy of the absence to his or her instructor in advance of such absences. In health-related or family emergency cases where advance notice is not possible, documentation should be provided to the instructor no later than the date the student returns to class. Attendance at a counseling/medical appointment is not by itself a justifiable reason for class absence. If the instructor denies the adequacy of cause, then the student can appeal the denial to the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, who will judge the adequacy of cause, and if found to be adequate, will require the instructor to provide a make-up opportunity. Students who have an unforeseen emergency such as family death, inpatient hospitalization, or other unexpected event that will prevent them from attending several class meetings should consult with an academic advisor to discuss the withdrawal and medical withdrawal criteria and process.