DOCTORAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE POLICY

To Whom the Policy Applies

Doctoral students who have achieved candidacy, and thus have a continuous enrollment requirement during long (fall and spring) semesters, may take an approved Leave of Absence during graduate study under certain conditions and for certain periods of time. A Leave of Absence must be approved by both the student’s graduate advisor and the dean of The Graduate College. A Leave of Absence cannot be approved retroactively for a previous semester and must be submitted no later than the 12th class day of the semester for which the leave is being requested.

Pre-candidacy doctoral students and master’s students are not required to complete Leave of Absence paperwork if stopping out; however, it is recommended that they do so as the process provides a vehicle for more easily resuming their studies. For more information please click here.

Purpose and Limitations

Students may need to discontinue their studies ("stop out") for a short period of time for reasons of personal or family exigency. Students who do not receive an approved Leave of Absence may be denied readmission to their program when attempting to reenter the program. Students who do not receive an approved Leave of Absence but are still readmitted may experience delays in registration and/or face additional fees. An approved Leave of Absence preserves the student’s status in their degree program. Leases of Absence may not be granted for the student in order to avoid exceeding the state doctoral hour limit, to avoid paying tuition, to avoid the regulation on continuous enrollment of doctoral students, or to avoid the full-time requirement for international students.

Access to University Resources During a Leave of Absence

Because the Leave of Absence is intended to be taken for reasons of personal or other exigency as opposed to degree progress, there is no support — whether faculty or university resources (library, office space, etc.) — provided to the student during the Leave of Absence period; students must register if making use of university resources or faculty time. A Leave of Absence does not extend a student’s time-to-degree requirement. Discontinuing studies for a semester or more, with or without a Leave of Absence, may affect the student’s eligibility for other university areas beyond The Graduate College’s domain (such as financial aid, health insurance, etc.), and the student is responsible for consulting with those offices about the impact of not maintaining enrollment in the degree program.

Length Limitations of a Leave of Absence

A Leave of Absence can be granted for no more than three long semesters (fall and spring) total. The exact length of the Leave must be made explicit in the Leave of Absence request. Rationale for the Leave must be documented by the applicant.