

Undergraduate Policy on Withdrawals

(Approved May 21, 2009)

Withdrawal (W): The symbol “W” indicates that the student was permitted to drop the course after the twentieth day of instruction with the approval of the instructor and appropriate campus officials. It carries no connotation of quality of student performance and is not used in the calculation of grade point average.

Withdrawals During the First 20 Days of Instruction: Students wishing to completely withdraw from the University prior to or during the first 20 days of instruction may do so on SOLAR by accessing System Registration. University Cash Services will automatically process (and mail) checks based on withdrawal information. New and returning students who completely withdraw from the University prior to the 20th day of instruction are not considered continuing students and must reapply to attend any subsequent semester. Those students who are continuing from the previous semester will automatically be placed on a Leave of Absence if they meet the criteria. (See Leave of Absence under Categories of Enrollment for further information.)

Withdrawals After the 20th day of Instruction: Students who must withdraw after the twentieth day of instruction and prior to the last three weeks of instruction for reasons clearly beyond their control, and who can justify serious and compelling circumstances, may withdraw without academic penalty by securing the approval of the instructor and the appropriate campus officials, as designated in the current Schedule of Classes. If approved, the Grade of “W” will be assigned for withdrawals after the twentieth day of instruction. Students completely withdrawing after the 20th day of instruction will be considered continuing students for the next semester. Under no circumstances does nonattendance nor the stopping of payment of a check constitute a withdrawal from the University.

Withdrawals During the Last Three Weeks of the Semester: Withdrawals are not permitted during the final three weeks of instruction or thereafter except in cases such as accident or serious illness where the cause of the withdrawal is clearly beyond the student’s control and the assignment of an incomplete is not practical. Ordinarily it is expected that withdrawals during this period will be complete withdrawals from the University except in circumstances where sufficient work has been completed in one or more of the courses to permit an evaluation of coursework and an assignment of a grade. Students may obtain forms and procedural information at the Office of Admissions and Records.

Medical Withdrawal: Students seeking complete medical withdrawals may complete the necessary forms at the Student Health Center. Upon receipt of verifying information from a student’s personal physician, the Director of the Health Center will evaluate the case. A medical withdrawal usually constitutes complete withdrawal from the University for the academic period in question.

In cases where medical evidence and the specific physical demands and environment of the classes overwhelmingly support withdrawal from only a portion of a student’s program of study, partial withdrawals will be permitted prior to the final three weeks of the instruction, except in cases of accident or serious illness. A request for a partial medical withdrawal for undergraduate students and a partial medical withdrawal Health Provider Report must be completed and submitted to the office of Undergraduate Studies. These forms are available at

www.csun.edu/forms. Partial medical withdrawals will be granted solely for established medical purposes prior to a student taking final exams.

Withdrawals due to illness in the family will be granted only if the attending physician stipulates that the student is the primary caregiver for the family member. Withdrawals due to illness in the family should be requested on late change in academic schedule for undergraduate students at www.csun.edu/anr/forms and submitted according to directions on the form.

Additional Withdrawal Rules

1. Undergraduate students may withdraw from no more than 18 semester units of CSU Northridge courses. This 18 semester unit limit does not apply to the first 20 days of each semester when withdrawals from courses are permitted without restriction or penalty.
2. Medical withdrawals, whether partial or complete, do not count toward the maximum 18.
3. The maximum of 18 semester units applies only to units completed at CSU Northridge. The limits apply to all courses taken at CSUN, whether a student is matriculated or enrolled through self-support such as Extended Learning.
4. This policy applies only to baccalaureate units, i.e., those that count toward the degree.
5. All other CSU Northridge current policies related to withdrawals remain the same, except as stated in items 1-4, above.