Psychological and Counseling Center Health Excuse Policy

The Vanderbilt Psychological and Counseling Center (PCC) does not provide excuses for short term mental health problems that may lead to missed classes, labs, studios, exams, or deadlines. This policy resembles those of most other major universities and is consistent with the recommendations of the American College Health Association. Vanderbilt University expects that students will communicate with their professors regarding their ability to complete work, and professors are expected to work with students on these issues. Academic advising staff and Academic Deans are available to provide assistance to students or faculty members who have concerns about attendance issues.

In instances of acute grief or loss students are encouraged to seek support from the PCC and to communicate their circumstances to their professors and the Academic Dean.

Assistance with serious, ongoing mental health concerns or prolonged absence due to acute grief or loss:

When a student is hospitalized or has serious, ongoing mental health concerns or experiences prolonged grief secondary to personal loss that adversely impacts the student’s academic performance, the student will inform the Academic Dean of the situation. The Dean may then request information from the PCC provider. With the student’s consent, the PCC provider will respond to Academic Dean of the College to communicate medical factors that may adversely impact academic performance. If the student and PCC clinician believe that providing information about a significant, ongoing mental health problem could facilitate appropriate academic accommodations, the PCC will, at the student's request and with the student’s permission through a signed Release of Information form, communicate with the Equal Opportunity, Affirmative Action, and Disability Services Office for request for and documentation of accommodations to address impact of their health care condition on their academic performance. [http://www.vanderbilt.edu/ead/ds_students.html](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/ead/ds_students.html). For disability requests, please refer to accommodation policy.

Print this policy

If professors or instructors request that you present a health or medical excuse from the PCC, please print a copy of this document to give to them.