POLICIES ON WITHDRAWAL FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL REASONS

Policy Statement

Students at The University of Southern Mississippi may either be required to take a mandatory leave of absence for psychological reasons or may voluntarily request this leave of absence. Students may also be removed from the residence halls for psychological reasons if their behavior seriously interrupts the living/learning environment of the other students in the residence halls.

Reason for Policy/Purpose

This policy is required for the effective communication of university policy regarding the withdrawal for psychological reasons.

Who Needs to Know This Policy

All members of The University of Southern Mississippi community.

Website Address for this Policy

www.usm.edu/institutional-policies/policy-stua-scs-004

Definitions

Policy/Procedures

MANDATORY LEAVE OF ABSENCE
The university may require a student to take a leave of absence at the request of the Dean of Students. The Dean of Students may impose this leave of absence if the student poses a threat to the lives or safety of himself or herself or other members of The University of Southern Mississippi community as evidenced by overt behavior or seriously interferes with the educational pursuits of other members of The University of Southern Mississippi community.

The Dean of Students may enlist licensed mental healthcare counselors/psychologists from the Student Counseling Services or licensed physicians from the Student Health Services to assist in making decisions about students taking a leave of absence for these reasons. A leave of absence may be for any amount of time the dean deems necessary.

The dean may also offer a student to be evaluated by licensed psychologists from the Counseling Center or licensed physicians from the Student Health Services as part of a plan to re-integrate the student into the university.

A student may appeal a mandatory leave by presenting his or her case to an appeals board composed of a licensed psychologist from the Department of Psychology, a faculty member from the Department of Criminal Justice and the Vice President for Student Affairs.

**VOLUNTARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

A student may also petition the dean of students to receive a leave of absence for psychological reasons. The leave of absence may or may not be granted, based on the circumstances of the request and an interview with either a licensed psychologist from the Counseling Center or a licensed physician from the Student Health Services. For this leave of absence to be granted, the request must come prior to the last three weeks of the semester.

**REMOVAL FROM RESIDENCE HALLS**

Students may also be removed from the residence halls for psychological reasons if their behavior seriously interrupts the living/learning environment. The case must go through Judicial. The Dean of Students or the Director of Residence Life may make the decision to not allow a student to continue living in a residence hall. They may require that a student be evaluated by a licensed mental healthcare counselors/psychologists from the Student Counseling Services or a licensed physician from the Student Health Services as part of a plan to allow the student back into the residence halls.

**Review**

The Director of Student Counseling Services is responsible for the review of this policy every four years (or whenever circumstances require immediate review).

**Forms/Instructions**

N/A
Appendices

N/A

Related Information

N/A

History

11/01/11: Formatted for Institutional Policies website.
02/21/13: Formatted for template. Minor editing throughout.
Amendments: Month, Day, Year – summary of changes
Authorization

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STUA-SCS-004

As the Responsible Officer, I have reviewed this policy and believe it represents the current policy.

[Signature]
Responsible Officer

3/26/14
Date