

**SUNY DOWNSTATE**  
**COLLEGE OF MEDICINE**

**Policy on Healthcare-Related Absence**

**I. POLICY**

Students are expected to seek necessary healthcare to maintain their physical and mental wellbeing. Examples of necessary health care include preventive health services, visits for acute illness, ongoing care for chronic illnesses, physical therapy, and counseling and psychological services. Consistent with their rights under University policies and the law, students have a right to privacy when seeking care.

For planned absences related to healthcare, students must submit a request in advance, using the Reported Absence Form using the absence process described in the Student Handbook. The student should select an appointment time that minimizes time lost from required activities whenever possible. If an appointment time outside of the required activities is not available, then the student will be excused to receive these services.

For an absence related to an illness or injury, the student must report the absence, using the Reported Absence Form, no later than the day the absence occurs (when possible).

For students in a clinical experience, the student must notify the clerkship director, site director and/or preceptor in advance, to coordinate time away from the clerkship. Students need not disclose the specific type of healthcare that is being sought.

Students are required to make-up any work missed or clinical time due to their absence. A deadline for making up the activity may be set at the time of the absence.

A student's decision to seek healthcare during a clerkship should have no impact on his or her performance evaluation.

**II. PURPOSE**

The school must provide sufficient opportunity for medical students to attend to health care related needs, as a part of maintaining good health and well-being.

**III. SCOPE**

This policy applies to:

- Medical students