

Need a Doctor's Note?

Beginning Fall 2007, a note for verification of illness will no longer be required for missed classes, by vote of the Academic Senate (see Policy below). The Student Health Center will no longer routinely provide this documentation.

This policy is in congruence with campuses nation-wide, which recognize the adult relationship between college students and their instructors. The benefit for UCSC students is an expected decreased waiting time for those who truly need medical care.



Student Health Center
at SANTA CLARA

To avoid missing classes please schedule routine appointments for future dates. Or, ask the Triage Nurse to book a same-day appointment for later in the day or the next morning.

To make an appointment, call the Appointment Line
(831) 459-2500.



Student Health Services
Cowell Student Health Center
1156 High Street
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NEW POLICY REGARDING MEDICAL EXCUSES FOR CLASS ABSENCES EFFECTIVE FALL 2007

The Academic Senate and the Committee on Education Policy at UCSC have approved a new policy regarding absences from class. In the recent past, many instructors have had stringent attendance policies which had the unintended consequence of students flooding the Health Center for medical care, not because they needed care, but because they needed a note for an absence. As a result, the UCSC Student Health Center, along with many college health centers nation-wide will no longer routinely provide verification of illness forms to students requesting a medical excuse.

The decision to miss class due to illness is up to the student based on the seriousness of their condition. Instructors will provide you with contact information to let them know if you are too ill to attend class. Separating this process from a required note permits truly ill students to access care more quickly and encourages students who are able to care for themselves for a minor illness not to seek medical care unnecessarily.

In the rare circumstance where a serious illness or injury would cause you to have a prolonged absence (a week or longer), your clinician off campus or at the Health Center may provide this information to your professors. The first step is still to communicate with your instructors. If further verification is needed, you will need to sign a "release of medical information" for us to share your personal medical information with the academic staff. You may do this in-person at the Health Center Medical Records Department or download the Medical Release Form from the Student Health Center website on the Home Page under "Need a form?"

To complete the Authorization for Release of Health Information:

- Top left box: authorizes your doctor to release information to
- Top right box: your professor(s), academic advisor, etc. with phone or fax number, email or campus address.
- Patient name (you) ID number and phone number.
- Specify type of information and dates of treatment
- Reason for release
- Sign and date the bottom.
- You may fax, mail or drop off form to Medical Records Dept.

This process may take 7-10 days to complete. If there is some urgency, please discuss with your clinician or the Triage Nurse.