

PURPOSE: To automatically excuse students with a substantiated illness that would constitute missing class the next day from study hours.

INTRODUCED BY: Grant Zhang

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

SECTION ONE (DEFINITIONS):

Study hours: A period from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Sunday through Thursday, where students must be studying either in their residence hall rooms or designated areas.

SECTION TWO (REASONING):

The student handbook is currently unclear about whether students with a substantiated illness that would constitute missing class are required to partake in study hours. Just as sick students are excused from classes, sick students should also be excused from study hours to ensure the students' health and recovery. Automatically excusing sick students from study hours would prevent misunderstandings from res-life staff who are unaware a student is missing study hours due to being sick. The change would also save time and effort through removing the need for students and res-life staff to confirm whether a sick student is excused from study hours with admin.

SECTION THREE (SPECIFIC CHANGE):

On page 40 of the handbook (PDF page 46) under the section "Excused Absence from Class for Health Reasons" the following would be changed to:

Excused Absence from Class for Health Reasons

STUDENTS WHO BECOME ILL WHILE ON CAMPUS:

- A. A student who is ill and expects to be granted an excused absence from first and second period classes must inform the residence hall on-duty staff of his/her illness by 8:00 a.m. and go to the Health Center at the earliest available appointment time, unless otherwise instructed by the office worker. In all cases of illness, students must inform the residence hall desk worker at once. If a student wakes up late for a class or meeting and then requests a Health Center appointment, the student will still receive consequences for the tardy/unexcused absence earned. It is imperative that the student should request an appointment through Residence Life prior to being marked Unverified.
 1. The student will be given a Health Center form by the residence hall desk worker to be returned to the residence hall indicating whether the student

should (a) attend class, (b) be excused from class, or (c) be referred to an alternate health care provider.

2. A student is not automatically excused from classes just by going to the Health Center by 8:15 a.m. There must also be substantiation from the nurse regarding the seriousness of the illness.
3. A minor illness (i.e., cramps, headaches, minor colds) is not considered a justifiable reason to miss class.

B. At any time during the remainder of the school day (excluding classes prior to 8:30 a.m.) an excused absence from class will be granted providing the student has gone to the Health Center within one hour of the beginning of the class and has a substantiated illness. ~~Students with a substantiated illness that would constitute missing class the next day will also be excused from study hours.~~ Before going to the Health Center, the student must inform the residence hall desk worker and get a Health Center Form.

C. Students who are excused for one or more classes due to illness shall not attend any school function, other than tutorials, and are expected to remain in the residence hall room except for meals (this includes Friday nights). In all cases, students excused from class attendance must receive permission to leave the residence hall. Students cannot attend tutorials or any other school function when confined to "bed rest" unless approval is obtained from the Hall Director on Duty. Any violation of the above shall result in the issuance of Saturday School, residence hall restriction, and/or weekend residence hall restriction with the absence being considered unexcused.