

MISSED CLASS POLICY FOR STUDENT-ATHLETES

Adopted by the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of San Diego, March 11, 2008

RATIONALE

The University of San Diego sponsors intercollegiate athletic programs. Participants in these programs are bound to the same standard of academic excellence expected of all undergraduate students. To ensure this standard, the University recruits and enrolls student-athletes who have the intellectual abilities necessary to succeed in the classroom and obtain a baccalaureate degree.

Since the pursuit of both academic and athletic excellence is a time-intensive activity, it is inevitable that student-athletes will face conflicts between their class and athletic schedules. The purpose of this policy is to set forth principles and procedures aimed at reducing conflicts, negotiating those that remain unavoidable, and ensuring both the integrity of the academic process as well as the just treatment of student-athletes.

PRINCIPLES

1. In accord with NCAA and the USD's conference regulations, the athletics program will take every measure to minimize the number of classes student-athletes must miss due to athletic competition.
2. Athletic Supervisors and Coaches will take the academic calendar and schedule into account when scheduling athletic contests, practices and team meetings.
3. No practice session or team meeting may be scheduled during *mandatory* Orientation sessions
4. No student-athlete may absent him/herself from class to attend a practice session (NCAA Rule 17.1.6.6.1)
5. When an athletic competition takes place at USD (i.e, a 'home-game'), no student-athlete is authorized to be absent from any class prior to two hours before the scheduled start of the competition.
6. Student-athletes will not be penalized academically when they miss a class due to inter-collegiate athletic competition. However, certain academic activities which cannot be rescheduled or which comprise a core component of the course (e.g. field trips) demand the student-athletes' presence. These academic activities must be identified on the course syllabus as "mandatory for all students."
7. Authorized absences for official athletic competitions do not relieve student-athletes of their class responsibilities. They are responsible for any course material covered during a missed class.

8. Faculty should indicate on the course syllabus, available to students on the first day of class, the dates of all major exams, due dates for paper or project submissions, and dates of field trips and other mandatory class-related activities. Faculty retain the right to announce adjustments to a syllabus during the semester.

PROCEDURES

A. In the first week of class, preferably by the end of the first class, student-athletes must give each of their professors a copy of the 'travel letter' issued by the Athletic department which details the anticipated missed class dates for the student-athlete.

B. Student-athletes are responsible to review the syllabus, note potential conflicts, bring them to the attention of their professors and request reasonable accommodations in the event of missed quizzes, exams and assignments.

C. The faculty member will determine the accommodations which shall neither penalize the student-athlete nor unfairly advantage or disadvantage him/her relative to other students. In the case of missed quizzes or exams, a faculty member may choose to have the quiz or exam administered and proctored through the Athletics program.

D. The process of negotiating accommodations should be concluded within the first ten days of the semester.

E. Faculty should take into consideration the schedules of student-athletes when scheduling graded activities that are in addition to those already listed on the syllabus.

F. In the event that there is a conflict between missed class dates and core academic activities which cannot be avoided or resolved, the student-athlete shall immediately contact his/her academic advisor.

G. No faculty member is obligated to excuse a student-athlete in the case of excessive absences. If, in the judgment of a faculty member and after sincere efforts to reach agreement about course work and expectations, the number of missed classes projected would jeopardize the student-athlete's successful completion of the course, the faculty member may recommend that the student-athlete enroll in another course where fewer scheduling conflicts would occur.

H. If a student-athlete is advised to select another course, he/she may ask for assistance from the Dean's office in order to find a course that will incur fewer conflicts.