

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Thomas D. Williams  
Interim President

**FROM:** Kristen Harrell, Ph.D.  
Assistant Vice President  
Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs

**SUBJECT:** Student Rule 7.2 Absences

*Attached please find a memo for signature and the attached documents related to this memo.*

**DATE:** November 12, 2025

**URGENCY:** ☒ Urgent  
☐ Non-urgent

**DEADLINE:** Due to Kristen Harrell, Ph.D. by Wednesday, November 19, 2025.

**ORIGINATOR:** Kristen Harrell, Ph.D., Associate Vice President, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs

**PURPOSE:** Over 1000 student veterans are enrolled in Texas A&M University and most of these students receive primary medical care through Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) providers. Necessary, non-acute care appointments with VA medical providers are scheduled months in advance and cancellation of scheduled appointments results in an even longer delay receiving care. Student veterans face unique responsibilities, and healthcare needs due to their service, and access to medical care through the VA is critical to their well-being and academic success. Recognizing VA medical appointments as excused absences ensures student veterans are not penalized for attending required healthcare visits and requiring the student to provide appropriate documentation from the VA maintains accountability. In alignment with the institution's commitment to supporting military veterans pursuing their degree at Texas A&M University, this amendment supports both the health and academic progress of student veterans.


**SIGNATURE PAGE  
NUMBER(S):** Page 2


**PRIOR REVIEWERS:** Alan Sams, Ph.D., Provost and Executive Vice President

**PROOFREAD:** Elizabeth Lindan, Senior Administrative Coordinator I, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs  
Tim Powers, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President & Chief of Staff to the Provost, Office of the Provost & Executive Vice President

**MEMORANDUM**

DATE: November 12, 2025

TO: Thomas D. Williams   
Interim President, Texas A&M University

THROUGH Alan Sams, PhD   
Executive Vice President and Provost

FROM: Kristen Harrell, Ph.D.  
Chair, Rules and Regulations Committee

SUBJECT: Proposed Revisions to the Texas A&M Student Rule

Attached please find proposed revisions to the Texas A&M University Student Rules as approved by the Rules and Regulations Committee on October 31, 2025.

**Rule 7.2 Absences**

## Lindan, Elizabeth C

**From:** no-reply@tamu.edu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 30, 2025 4:37 PM  
**To:** Lindan, Elizabeth C; Harrell, Kristen  
**Subject:** Edit Notification  
**Attachments:** Absences-09\_30\_2025-10550.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

### This Message Is From an External Sender

This message came from outside your organization.

An edit to a rule has been proposed.

#### I would like to:

Propose an edit/change an existing rule

#### Rule number and section number:

7.2

#### Title of the rule:

Absences

Provide the proposed wording for the suggested changes to the rule. Be sure to identify the location of these changes (e.g., section number). Please attach a red-line copy of your proposal in a word document. All changes should be reflected including striking through deleted text and all new text should be in RED.

- [SR7-addition VA-medical-appointments.docx](#)

#### Justification for proposed change:

The proposed addition to Student Rule 7 is initiated by the Veteran Aggie Leaders for Outreach, Resources, and Research (VALOR2) team in the Veteran Resource & Support Center (VRSC). VALOR2 continually assesses the needs of Texas A&M veteran and military students influencing departmental programming enhancements and university policy changes that remove barriers to successful degree completion and first destination achievement upon graduation.

Over 1000 student veterans are enrolled in Texas A&M university undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs and most of these students receive primary medical care through Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) providers. Necessary, non-acute care appointments with VA medical providers are scheduled months in advance and cancellation of scheduled appointments results in an even longer delay receiving care. Student veterans face unique responsibilities, and healthcare needs due to their service, and access to medical care through the VA is critical to their well-being and academic success. Recognizing VA medical appointments as excused absences ensures student veterans are not penalized for attending required healthcare visits and requiring the student to provide appropriate documentation from the VA maintains accountability. In alignment with the institution's commitment to supporting military veterans pursuing their degree at Texas A&M University, this amendment supports both the health and academic progress of student veterans.

Sincerely,

Maximus Mazius '28 John D. Fleming '94  
USMC Veteran LtCol, USMC (retired)  
VALOR2 Team Leader VRSC Director



Are there additional materials that would assist the committee in understanding your proposal? If so, please include a link or upload the files below.

Most student veterans are considered new patients to Texas VA healthcare centers when they come to Texas A&M. Included is the VA appointment wait time at the Olin E. Teague Veteran's Center in Temple as of today. This is a common provider for student veterans attending classes at the College Station campus. Similar wait times exist at other VA centers around the state and nation where student veterans are attending classes in person or remotely. The wait times are for initial appointments. Rescheduling after a patient-initiated cancellation results in much longer wait times.

**File**

- [VA-Wait-times-example.pdf](#)

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Maximus Mazius

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**Department:**

VRSC

**Department Mail Stop:**

1251

**Date:**

09/30/2025

**Proposed Amendment to Rule 7.2.2**

**7.2.2.1.2** An absence for a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical appointment shall constitute an excused absence for student veterans, regardless of whether the appointment is for acute or non-acute medical services, provided that appropriate documentation of the appointment is submitted.