

Final Rule Approved 6/4/2026

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Reviewed by Rules & Regulations Committee: 5/29/2026

PROPOSED BY: Name: Wayne Versaw Date: 5/12/2026

Rule 7.5.1 - Attendance

JUSTIFICATION: The word "unreasonable" is undefined in the current rule. which has led to confusion among students, faculty. and Disability Services staff. The current rule also lacks a rationale for why the rule exists and does not explicitly state that the outcome of enforcing this rule is a grade of F.

The limitations of the current phrasing of the rule were discussed in an AOC Deans meeting. and this prompted formation of a committee to develop a revision. That committee included representatives of AOC Deans, the Center for Teaching Excellence. Office of Student Success. and Disability Services. A key aspect of the committee's deliberations was to preserve flexibility. That is, if a robust system for completing makeup work exists or there are no participation-based instructional activities, there would be no need to enforce this rule. By contrast, enforcement of the rule for courses that require participation-based instructional activities would preserve academic integrity. The proposed revision was presented to and approved by the AOC Deans.

The committee also recommended that if an instructor intends to enforce rule 7.5.1, then this should be stated in the syllabus. An example of this type of statement is given below.

Participation-based instructional activities (insert relevant types) are core components of this course and support key learning outcomes. Suitable alternatives are not available for these activities when absences occur. Therefore, in accordance with Student Rule 7.5.1, absences totaling 20% or more of class sessions are considered excessive and will result in a grade of F for the course.

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[RED LINE DOCUMENTATION]
Proposed revision of rule 7.5.1

7.5 Extended Absences

7.5.1 If the student is absent for **any reason**, excused ~~reasons~~ or **unexcused**, for an unreasonable amount of time during the semester, **whether consecutive or cumulative, and those absences substantially prevent the student from completing required course activities that depend on in-person or synchronous attendance (e.g., laboratories, discussion sections, clinicals, studios, or other participation-based instructional activities) the student may receive a grade of F for the course. Total absences that exceed 20% of scheduled class meetings or required instructional activities are considered unreasonable.** †The academic Dean or designee of the student's college may consider giving the student a grade of W during the semester enrolled or a NG (no grade) following posting of final grades **per rule 10.3**.