

WashU Guidance for Faculty on Responding to Extenuating Circumstances in the Classroom (August 2024)

What is the concern?	Who will contact Faculty?	What might student ask of Faculty?	What should I do?
Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, or any other Title IX issues	Licensed Counselor in RSVP Center, GETIXCO Director or Assistant Director	Might ask to withdraw/drop class, alter group project assignments, switch to a different section, rearrange seating charts, complete assignments remotely, receive alternate assignment, or move testing dates or assignment deadlines.	Refrain from contacting the student about this issue (unless you learn that is the student's preference) to ensure complete confidentiality about this student concern, and work with a licensed counselor from the RSVP Center and/or GETIXCO staff to offer supportive measures to address the student's needs to the best of your ability.
Acute Medical Issues - Mental and Physical Health	Student, Mental Health Counselor or Physician, Academic Dean	Might ask to withdraw/drop class, complete assignments remotely, or move testing dates or assignment deadlines.	If a student is in distress as a result of an acute mental or physical health issue without indicating an underlying disability, and approaches you with an academic request, we encourage you to consider what options may exist to support the student on a short-term basis without jeopardizing the integrity of the learning objectives or course. If you are concerned about the physical or mental well-being of a student, please consider filing a WashU Cares report . Habif Health and Wellness Center policy does not supply medical excuse notes for missing class, delaying a test or assignment deadline (except COVID/Flu isolation). If a student is hospitalized or suffering from a significant medical or mental health issue requiring a prolonged absence, Habif will work with the student and their dean's office to verify their support. <i>Since a medical excuse note cannot be obtained from Habif, it should not be required to grant an exception.</i>
COVID/Flu symptoms or exposure requiring isolation	Student	Absence from in-person class activities will be necessary	Encourage students to contact the Habif Health and Wellness Center (314 935-4959) if they haven't already. You may request the student forward the letter they received from Habif documenting their instructions to isolate for a period of time. During periods of high transmission, it may not be feasible for all students to receive documentation from Habif.
Student discloses a Disability, or a need for accommodations related to a disability [American Disabilities Act; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act]	Disabled Students seeking to utilize accommodations for which they are eligible through Disability Resources will provide their faculty an Accommodation Letter indicating their approved accommodations.	Student may require accommodations for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning (note-takers, reduced course loads), • Testing (extended time, use of a computer for essay exams, reduced distraction test location), or • Access (physically accessible classroom, accessible web, electronic and information technology). 	Responsibility for disability-related accommodations and access is shared by Disability Resources (DR) , faculty, and the student. Faculty are expected to provide or allow accommodations for which the student has been approved. While DR encourages students to disclose early in the term, students become eligible to utilize accommodations upon disclosure. Faculty with question or concerns about accommodations in the context of a specific course, have an obligation to communicate any concerns to Disability Resources in a timely manner (disabilityresources@wustl.edu). Disability Resources suggests including an additional statement welcoming students to share their WashU Accommodation Letter with you and arranging to discuss how accommodations will be implemented in your class.