



# UNIFORMED SERVICES UNIVERSITY OF THE HEALTH SCIENCES

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April 21, 2021

## **SUBJECT: USU Military Student Absence From Academic Duties Due to Temporary Disability, Illness or Injury**

### **Instruction 6025**

(OUR)

#### **ABSTRACT**

This Instruction assigns responsibilities and prescribes the procedures to be followed in the event of a Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) Military student's absence from academic duties due to temporary disability, illness or injury.

**A. Reissuance and Purpose.** This Instruction reissues USU Instruction 6025 (*Reference (a)*) and establishes guidelines in the handling of disabilities, illnesses or injuries of military students.

**B. References.** *See Enclosure 1.*

**C. Applicability.** This Instruction applies to all military students in the F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine (SOM), (including medical students and military students in graduate education programs) and the Daniel K. Inouye Graduate School of Nursing (GSN).

**D. Definition.** *See Enclosure 2.*

**E. Policy.**

1. The management of medical care of the students will be coordinated between the appropriate student Chain of Command and the military treatment facilities.

2. Coordination. Students with potentially disqualifying conditions from military service, will be brought to the attention of the appropriate Chain of Command who will consult and evaluate in conjunction with their respective Services.

3. Permanent Disability and Disqualification. Permanent disability and disqualification for worldwide duty will be in accordance with Service-specific standards and regulations.

4. Academic Impact/Grades.

a. The Commandant of the SOM and the Commandant of the GSN will affect release from academic duties in coordination with the academic leadership upon proper notification from the medical treatment facility indicating "sick in quarters" or "sick in hospital."

b. The decision as to when a student should be released from academic duties and when such duties should be resumed will rest with the medical treatment team.

c. Changes in course scheduling as a result of health care needs must be coordinated with the appropriate administrative faculty, staff within each USU school, and the Office of the University Registrar (OUR).

d. Temporarily disabled, ill or injured students, upon the advice of the medical treatment team, and in conjunction with the program administrator, and the USU Department chair/course/director, may be deferred for medical reasons from scheduled field training, clerkships, courses or clinical rotations. Field training shall be made up in coordination with the appropriate USU administrator at the earliest possible opportunity. Questions concerning students who have a temporary medical condition that might preclude their performance in field training should be referred to the student's medical provider in order to coordinate a possible profile or alternative experiences.

e. Pregnant students may have courses/clinical rotational clerkships rescheduled as may be necessary due to the degree of the occupational hazard of the rotation (i.e., radiology, operating room or anesthesia exposure) or other pregnancy related issues.

5. Uniforms. Appropriate uniforms will be worn in accordance with governing service uniform regulations.

6. Leave During Temporary Disability, Illness or Injury.

a. Absences from academic duty are authorized for temporary disability, illness or injury.

b. Temporarily disabled students may continue a limited academic program until it is no longer considered reasonable by their medical treatment team. Once this determination is made, the medical treatment team will notify the student's Chain of Command, who will notify the academic administration of the specified school/program. Students can be advised further by the school/program.

c. When admitted to the hospital in connection with a temporary disability, the student's status will be "sick-in-hospital," which may require a temporary release from academic duties.

d. The student may be granted convalescent leave following inpatient care until the medical condition permits return to academic duty. When convalescent leave is recommended by the medical treatment team, it must be approved and granted by the appropriate Service

company commander. Requests for the extension of convalescent leave will be submitted to the respective Service Surgeon General's Office, through the medical treatment team for approval. The period of convalescent leave may not allow for the completion of the academic curriculum; therefore, additional academic time may be necessary to complete all academic requirements.

**F. Responsibilities.**

1. Medical Examination and Diagnosis.

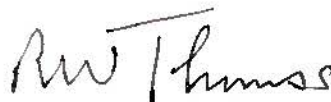
a. When feasible and appropriate, students shall present themselves to their assigned physician at a medical treatment facility for healthcare.

b. When the medical treatment team advises hospitalization or the student is placed in sick quarters, the student shall inform their chain of command.

2. The Commandant of the SOM and the Commandant of the GSN shall notify respective academic departments/programs and academic recorders.

**G. Procedures.** *See Enclosure 3.*

**H. Effective Date.** This Instruction is effective immediately.



Richard W. Thomas, MD, DDS, FACS  
President

20 APRIL 2021

Date:

Enclosures:

1. References
2. Definition
3. Procedures

**REFERENCES**

(a) USU Instruction 6025, "USU Student Absence from Academic Duties Due to Temporary Disability," dated July 25, 2013 (hereby canceled).

(b) USU Instruction 1105, "USU Grades and Grading Policies" dated August 12, 2020.

**DEFINITIONS**

1. TEMPORARY DISABILITY. Temporary disability is an illness, injury or condition of probable limited duration such as a fracture, surgery for a correctable condition or pregnancy.
2. ACADEMIC RECORDER. Office of the University Registrar (OUR) assigned to register students for courses, clerkships, clinical rotations, and/or any academic, clinical, and field exercise.
3. MEDICAL TREATMENT TEAMS. The medical treatment teams are the medical providers responsible for the Service Member's day to day care.