

**SB 0121: Temporary Attendance Policy**  
**Approved by Undergraduate Council: 7/9/2020**

*Clarifies COVID-19 related allowances to Truman's Attendance Policy for Fall 2020*

Whereas:

- The level of uncertainty that currently exists around the spread of COVID-19 in our university and wider Northeast Missouri communities is likely to continue or increase, and
- The guidance from the CDC directed at institutions of higher education encourages universities to “examine and revise policies for excused absences and virtual learning” and recommends that such policies “should be flexible, not be punitive..., should allow sick...students to stay home and away from others” and “should also account for...students who need to stay home with their children if there are school or childcare closures, or to care for sick family members.”<sup>1</sup>

Be It Therefore Resolved That Faculty Senate:

- Approves a temporary revision of our existing attendance policy<sup>2</sup> to be in effect during the fall semester of 2020 for in-person and synchronous online class meetings
- The current “1. Sanctioned Absence Policy” is temporarily replaced as follows:
  - No student having a sanctioned absence shall be penalized for such absence on account solely of being absent. Nothing in this policy is intended to excuse a student from the responsibility to make up missed work within a reasonable length of time.<sup>3</sup>
  - No faculty member will require documentation in support of a health-related absence.
  - Nevertheless, students are strongly encouraged to attend required in-person or synchronous online class meetings when they can (i.e., they show no signs of illness and have no other sanctioned reason to be absent).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/colleges-universities/considerations.html>

<sup>2</sup> [http://catalog.truman.edu/content.php?catoid=14&navoid=691#Attendance\\_Policy](http://catalog.truman.edu/content.php?catoid=14&navoid=691#Attendance_Policy)

<sup>3</sup> Missed classwork may be made up through make-up sessions or alternative assignments depending on the length of absence and the resources available to the student and faculty member.

## SB 0121: Temporary Attendance Policy, cont

- In general, no part of a student's final semester grade should be calculated based on attendance. Courses for which interactions are necessary to achieve the learning outcomes of the course (such as courses with a significant laboratory or performance component) may require attendance at some of those course elements<sup>4</sup> not to exceed 50%. In extreme COVID-related circumstances where a student cannot meet even this expectation, the faculty member is advised to issue a grade of incomplete and require the student to fulfill the unmet requirement in a future semester.
- The course's policy must be in the syllabus and communicated with students by the first day of class.
- Courses with field or clinical placements may defer to the attendance policy of the cooperating agencies.
- This policy may be extended (in the current or amended form) to the spring 2021 semester with the approval of Faculty Senate no later than its December, 2020 meeting.

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<sup>4</sup> E.g., labs as opposed to lectures, ensemble performances as opposed to practices, etc.