

Absences from Class

RIT Message Center [msgctr@rit.edu]

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To: RIT Message Center

*This message is sent on behalf of Jeremy Haefner, Provost and
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs*

RIT's official policy on attendance in part reads:

"Absences, for whatever reason, do not relieve students of their responsibility for fulfilling normal requirements in any course. In particular it is the student's responsibility to make individual arrangements in advance of missing class due to personal obligations such as religious holidays, job interviews, athletic contest, etc., in order that he or she may meet his or her obligations without penalty for missing class." ([RIT Governance Policy D4.0, Section I.B](#))

I interpret this to mean that there are mutual responsibilities for students and faculty if a student needs to miss class work:

1. It is the student's responsibility to notify the faculty member in advance of the planned absence.
2. It is the faculty member's responsibility to ensure that it is possible for the student to fulfill all class assignments and expectations without penalty or bias.

The faculty member's responsibility can be accomplished in many ways, including alternative assignments, but it also includes the necessity of making sure that the student has reasonable access to any materials that may be covered in the missed class.

To the extent possible, please consult the [RIT Events calendar](#) when scheduling meetings or events in order to accommodate religious holidays, athletic or campus-wide events.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in enabling our students to succeed academically without conflict with their religious beliefs, their career opportunities, their participation in athletics, or other personal obligations.

Jeremy Haefner

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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