



## RUTGERS POLICY

**Section:** 10.2.12

**Section Title:** Student Academic Regulations & Procedures

**Policy Name:** Involuntary Medical Withdrawal

**Formerly Book:** n/a

**Approval Authority:** Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Responsible Executive:** Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

**Responsible Office:** Vice President for Student Affairs

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**Errors or changes?** Contact: Vice President for Student Affairs, [ovpsaru@rci.rutgers.edu](mailto:ovpsaru@rci.rutgers.edu)

### 1. **Policy Statement**

The procedures described below establish a process for the involuntary withdrawal of students who, for reasons pertaining to mental or physical health, pose a direct threat to self or others, or substantially impede the educational process or lawful activities of other members of the Rutgers community.

### 2. **Reason for Policy**

A student will be subject to involuntary medical withdrawal if the student

- a. poses a significant risk to the health or safety of self or others; or
- b. substantially impedes the lawful activities of other members of the campus community, or the educational processes or proper activities or functions of the university or its personnel

### 3. **Who Should Read This Policy**

Deans  
Directors  
Department Heads  
Faculty  
Student Affairs Administrators  
Mental Health Professionals  
Medical Professionals

4. **Related Documents**

n/a

5. **Contacts**

New Brunswick: Senior Dean of Students, 732-932-2300  
Newark: Vice Provost Student and Community Affairs, 973-353-5541  
Camden: Associate Provost Student Life, 856-225-6050

6. **Policy**

**10.2.12 PROCEDURES FOR INVOLUNTARY WITHDRAWAL<sup>1</sup>**

I. Purpose

The procedures described below establish a process for the involuntary withdrawal of students who, for reasons pertaining to mental or physical health, pose a direct threat to self or others, or substantially impede the educational process or lawful activities of other members of the Rutgers community.

II. Criteria for Involuntary Withdrawal and Relationship to Other Policies and Procedures

A student will be subject to involuntary medical withdrawal if the student

- a. poses a significant risk to the health or safety of self or others; or
- b. substantially impedes the lawful activities of other members of the campus community, or the educational processes or proper activities or functions of the university or its personnel.

A student should not be subject to involuntary withdrawal under these procedures when judicial, academic or other responses are available and the student's circumstances can best be addressed through those responses. When possible and appropriate, efforts should be made to persuade a student to withdraw voluntarily under appropriate procedures before initiating the involuntary withdrawal process.

III. Interim Involuntary Withdrawal

If safety is an immediate concern, the university may take interim action to protect the well-being of the student and/or other members of the community. By interim involuntary withdrawal, the university may remove a student from any or all university premises when, in the professional judgment of the Senior Student Affairs Administrator<sup>2</sup> or designee and considering all reasonably available information, a threat of imminent harm significant risk to self or others exists. Interim involuntary withdrawal is a preliminary action taken to protect the health and safety of the student withdrawn, or of others, and is not a penalty.

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<sup>1</sup> These procedures draw extensively from similar procedures created by the following institutions: University of Michigan, Indiana State University, University of Connecticut and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

<sup>2</sup> The Senior Student Affairs Administrator at Rutgers New Brunswick is the Vice President for Student Affairs; at Rutgers Newark, the Vice Provost for Student and Community Affairs; and at Rutgers Camden, the Associate Provost for Student Life.

A student withdrawn on an interim basis shall be given an opportunity to appear personally before the Senior Student Affairs Administrator or designee within 48 hours from the effective date of the interim withdrawal, in order to discuss the reliability of the information concerning the student's behavior. Following this meeting, the Senior Student Affairs Administrator or designee may either continue or cancel the interim involuntary withdrawal.

If the interim medical involuntary withdrawal is cancelled, the procedures described in this policy regarding involuntary withdrawal may still proceed. If the interim involuntary withdrawal remains in effect, the next stages of this procedure will be followed. The interim withdrawal will remain in effect until a final decision is made under this process.

#### IV. Behavioral Health Advisory Team

The university will establish the Behavioral Health Advisory Team to assist in evaluating whether students meet the criteria for involuntary withdrawal.

The Behavioral Health Advisory Team will often include representatives from the Dean of Students, Health Services / Counseling and Psychological Services, Housing and Residence Life, Public Safety, an academic dean from the student's school of enrollment and the Office of the Vice President and General Counsel. Other members may be added at the discretion of the Senior Student Affairs Administrator or designee. The members of the team to review a particular case will depend upon the specific circumstances; however, an appropriate health professional, an appropriate academic dean and a representative of the Dean of Students Office (who may be the Senior Student Affairs Administrator or designee) must participate in any review.

#### V. Involuntary Withdrawal Process

Any member of the university community who has reason to believe that a student may meet the criteria for involuntary withdrawal may contact the Senior Student Affairs Administrator or designee who will conduct an informal review.

The Senior Student Affairs Administrator or designee may recommend that a student be withdrawn for medical or behavioral reasons under the criteria set forth in Section II above. If the student does not agree to withdraw voluntarily, the Senior Student Affairs Administrator or designee will consult with the Behavioral Health Advisory Team which will complete review of the recommendation within five working days of receipt.

Prior to review of the recommendation for involuntary withdrawal by the Behavioral Health Advisory Team, the student will ordinarily be required to undergo a medical or psychological evaluation at university expense by a health professional designated by the university. The evaluation will be provided to the Behavioral Health Advisory Team and other administrators involved under these Guidelines and the student will sign any releases deemed necessary. A student who refuses to undergo an evaluation and provide any consents necessary for consideration of the evaluation may be subject to Interim Involuntary Withdrawal and/or disciplinary action.

During consideration by the Behavioral Health Advisory Team, a representative of the Team may contact the student's parents, if deemed appropriate.

If consultation with the Behavioral Health Advisory Team supports the decision to withdraw the student, the student may voluntarily withdraw or the Senior Student Affairs Administrator or designee will involuntarily withdraw the student. Conditions for readmission will be specified in writing by the Senior Student Affairs Administrator or designee.

VI. Appeal of Involuntary Withdrawal

A student who is involuntarily withdrawn under these procedures may make written request to the Vice President for Student Affairs for an informal proceeding to review the determination. To be timely, any such appeal must be RECEIVED by the Vice President for Student Affairs within three business days of the determination of the Senior Student Affairs Administrator or designee to involuntarily withdraw the student.

The Vice President for Student Affairs or designee shall conduct the informal proceeding within seven working days of receipt of the written appeal. The student will be provided with all the following:

- a. the opportunity to review any psychological or medical evaluations relied upon by the Senior Student Affairs Administrator or designee;
- b. a written statement providing a detailed explanation of the reasons for involuntary withdrawal and the information relied upon; and
- c. the opportunity to be assisted by appropriate counsel which may include a parent / guardian, a health professional of the student's choice, a faculty or staff member or legal counsel.

At the conclusion of the informal proceeding, the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee shall determine whether to (a) uphold the withdrawal; (b) reinstate the student; or (c) reinstate the student subject to specified conditions that may include without limitation participation in an ongoing treatment program, acceptance of and compliance with a behavioral contract, a housing relocation, reduced course load or any combination thereof. The Vice President for Student Affairs or designee may also modify the conditions of readmission. The decision of the Vice President for Student Affairs or designee shall be final.

VII. Readmission

A student who has been withdrawn under this procedure (voluntarily or involuntarily) who wishes to be considered for readmission shall contact the Senior Student Affairs Administrator or designee and provide appropriate documentation to comply with the conditions of readmission.

The Senior Student Affairs Administrator or designee will review the request for readmission as follows:

- a. Review and investigate compliance with the conditions of readmission
- b. Consult with the appropriate academic unit to determine whether the student is eligible for readmission based upon the student's academic record and the readmission policies and practices of the academic unit
- c. Consult with appropriate members of the Behavioral Health Advisory Team
- d. Meet with the student

The Senior Student Affairs Administrator or designee will recommend to the student's intended academic unit of enrollment whether, in the professional judgment of the Senior Student Affairs Administrator or designee, the student should be readmitted. The academic unit will make the final decision regarding readmission.