



RUTGERS POLICY

Section: 60.9.2

Section Title: Legacy UMDNJ policies associated with Human Resources

Policy Name: Voluntary Furloughs

Formerly Book: 00-01-30-65:00

Approval Authority: Senior Vice President for Administration

Responsible Executive: Senior Vice President for Administration

Responsible Office: University Human Resources

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Errors or changes? Contact: policies@hr.rutgers.edu

1. **Policy Statement**
The policy covers Rutgers University employees who are employed within legacy UMDNJ positions.
2. **Reason for the Policy**
To provide guidelines to assist legacy UMDNJ departments/units.
3. **Who Should Read This Policy**
All Rutgers employees who are employed in legacy UMDNJ positions.
4. **Related Documents**
N/A
5. **Contacts**
University Human Resources: 848-932-3020
6. **The Policy**

60.9.2 VOLUNTARY FURLOUGHS

DEFINITIONS

- A. **Voluntary Furlough** - A voluntary furlough is a scheduled period of time away from work or duty at the University not exceeding thirty (30) consecutive days.
- B. **Intermittent Furlough** - A voluntary intermittent furlough is: (a) a reduced number of work hours in a day (for non-exempt employees only); (b) a reduced number of work days in a week, or (c) random days off during the work week. All of these options shall not exceed a total of thirty (30) days.

- C. **Extended Furlough** - A voluntary extended furlough is scheduled time away from work or duty of at least one full pay period and up to thirty (30) consecutive days.

REFERENCE

Leave of Absence – Personal and Academic, Policy 60.9.30 (<http://policies.rutgers.edu>)

VI. POLICY

A. Use of Voluntary Furloughs

Voluntary furloughs may be granted when the President of the University in collaboration with Cabinet Officers has determined that economic conditions warrant the reduction of State funded salary expenditures, and may be used to reduce such expenditures. However, the granting of such furloughs shall not be limited solely to such circumstances.

B. Granting Requests

1. Requests for voluntary furloughs may be granted provided such approval does not generate overtime; necessitate the hiring of a temporary replacement; or result in a loss of anticipated revenues.
2. A department head shall have the right to disapprove any requests for a voluntary furlough when operationally necessary. A disapproval or partial disapproval of a request for voluntary furlough shall not be subject to any grievance procedure.

C. Benefits Coverage

1. Employees approved for furloughs shall continue to accrue seniority during the furlough and their basic health benefits shall continue.
2. Employees shall be responsible to make any required health plan contributions and dental coverage premiums if there are insufficient bi-weekly earnings to cover these payment(s).
3. Pension deductions and contributory life premiums will continue provided the bi-weekly earnings are sufficient to cover these deductions. For purposes of pension calculations, an extended furlough covering a minimum of one full pay period up to three months is considered a leave of absence without pay. Pension members may apply to purchase the pension service credit for a maximum of three months at any time once they return to active payroll by contacting the Division of Pension and Benefits.
4. Other payroll deductions such as parking, credit union, savings bonds, etc. will continue provided the earnings during the pay period are sufficient to cover such deductions.
5. Employees shall retain their anniversary date for merit increases and shall be eligible to seek promotions while on furlough.
6. Employees shall continue to accrue vacation and sick leave for intermittent or consecutive furlough days of thirty (30) days or less. After thirty (30) days, the regulations for unpaid leave of absence will apply (Human Resources Policy Manual, Leave of Absence – Personal and Academic, Policy 60.9.30. (<http://policies.rutgers.edu>))

D. Layoffs

If a layoff should occur while an employee is on a voluntary furlough, the employee's status shall be determined as if the employee was in active status. For example, if the employee was in active status, and the employee would have been subject to layoff notice, he/she shall receive a layoff notice and his/her status shall be determined by following the University's layoff policy and procedure.

E. Other Employment While on Furlough

Employees may work for an employer other than Rutgers University while on a voluntary furlough provided that such employment does not violate pertinent policies, guidelines and state laws.

VII. PROCEDURE

Performed By:

Action Taken:

Employee

1. Employee wishing to apply for a voluntary furlough shall complete a Request for Unpaid Voluntary Furlough form (EXHIBIT), and submit the request to the appropriate Department Head for approval.

Department Head

2. Approves or denies request. If approved, the form is to be submitted to the appropriate Dean, Chancellor or Vice President.

Chancellor/Dean/Vice President

3. Approves or denies request. If approved, the form is to be submitted to University Human Resources.

Human Resources

4. Approves or denies request and returns the Request for Unpaid Voluntary Furlough form to the Department Head.

Department Head

5. Notifies the employee as to the final approval or denial of his/her request for an unpaid voluntary furlough.

Employee or Supervisor

6. Enters SD (salary delete) on timesheet for each day scheduled to be on voluntary furlough.

VIII. EXHIBIT

Request for Unpaid Voluntary Furlough Form

EXHIBIT

REQUEST FOR UNPAID VOLUNTARY FURLOUGH

Table with 5 columns: Employee Name, Title, University ID #, School/Unit, Date

Type of Unpaid Voluntary Furloughs (check one):

INTERMITTENT:

I hereby request a reduction of my work hours per day from: # Current Hours Per Day to # Hours Per Day for the period: Date to Date

(The above option is for non-exempt employees only)

I hereby request a reduction in the number of work days in a week from # Current Days Per Week to # Days Per Week for the period: Date to Date

I hereby apply for an unpaid intermittent voluntary furlough for the following random dates:

List Dates

EXTENDED: (No earnings in at least one pay period, up to thirty (30) days for any one furlough)

I hereby apply for an extended voluntary furlough for consecutive days (minimum of one full pay period) up to thirty (30) days beginning Date returning to Date

In applying for this voluntary furlough, I understand the following:

- 1. During this voluntary furlough, I may work for an employer other than the University, provided such employment does not violate pertinent University policies...
2. If a layoff should occur while I am on a voluntary furlough, my status shall be determined as if I were in active status.

EXHIBIT (continued)

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3. During this furlough, I shall retain my anniversary date for merit increases, if applicable, and shall be eligible to seek promotions while on furlough.
4. I will continue to accrue sick and vacation leave for intermittent or consecutive furlough days of thirty (30) days or less. After 30 days, the regulations for unpaid leave of absence will apply.
5. I will continue to accrue seniority during the furlough and my basic health benefits shall continue.
6. I will be responsible to make any required health plan contributions and where applicable, pay my share of the dental coverage premium.
7. Pension deductions and contributory life insurance premiums will continue, provided my bi-weekly earnings are sufficient to cover these deductions. Extended furloughs covering a minimum of one full pay period up to three months is considered a leave of absence without pay. I may apply to purchase the pension service credit for a maximum of three months at any time once I return to work.
8. Other payroll deductions such as parking, credit union, savings bond, etc. shall continue provided earnings during the pay period are sufficient to cover such deductions.
9. This furlough will not be approved until all required signatures have been obtained.
10. Failure to return to work upon the completion of this furlough without securing permission to continue on leave from the University shall subject me to disciplinary action up to and including possible termination of employment.

Employee's Signature

Date

Approved
Rejected

Department Head/Chairperson

Date

Approved
Rejected

Dean/Vice President

Date

Approved
Rejected

University Human Resources

Date