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A syllabus statement regarding attendance must include accommodations for disabilities, religious holidays, participation in university events, death in the family, and other life circumstances that impact student attendance. There are special legal protections for students who are [pregnant](#) or on [active duty in the military](#). Additionally, awareness of health and safety issues has increased awareness that people should not attend an in-person class when experiencing symptoms of a transmissible illness.

In special circumstances, students may require support through an excused extended absence from in-person learning. Stockton's classroom technology permits students to join class remotely. Faculty may consider [additional options](#) to assist students learn during an extended absence. It is important to clearly communicate the extended absence plan so a student is certain what is expected and knows the level of support peers or faculty will provide during the extended absence.

Should I Create a Stringent or Flexible Attendance Policy?

There are a variety of views regarding the merits of creating stringent or flexible attendance policies.

The following views are expressed in favor of having a more stringent attendance policy:

- Attendance is required for students to learn the course material and obtain a passing grade.
- Attendance policies prepare students for careers and promote professionalism.
- Students must attend class to engage in learning activities and contribute their perspectives to class discussion or other group work.
- A student's absence negatively impacts other students' learning experiences by limiting peer learning opportunities and discussion opinions.
- Some students need a form of accountability (attendance grade) to attend class, or an accrediting body has rules related to attendance or seat time.

Views expressed supporting a more flexible attendance policy include:

- A student missing class will likely perform poorly on course assessments (lower grades). Grading penalties for absences further penalizes the student.
- Students need to be responsible for managing their time and showing up for class. It is their responsibility as an adult to manage attendance.
- Requiring an unmotivated student to attend class may impact other students negatively. The student may lower the quality and learning in class discussions and activities.

- If a student can learn course material without attending class, it is more efficient and less stressful for the student.

for attendance or participation is discussed below. In addition to class attendance, faculty may want to add information about late arrivals or leaving early in their course attendance policy.

Should I Request Documentation for a Student Absence?

Some faculty state in an attendance policy that documentation is required for an absence to be excused. **Faculty may not request or receive medical documentation directly.** All medical documentation should be handled through the Student Health Services / [Stockton Cares program](#) to comply with privacy legislation. Students may o Docuis m Dt(s)-1 5.0-2.9y)-6()11.2 (Dt(s)-1 5.0-2.9y)

three, each absence will lower your attendance grade by two points unless we have negotiated an agreement in advance for a specific issue such as a medical condition. You are responsible for making up missed work and reviewing materials

activities and content dissemination occurring in class, students will miss valuable learning opportunities if there is no attendance expectations. This approach is likely to result in lower final grades and student disengagement. If students can easily pass a course without attending class, it may be worth exploring a different course modality that aligns to self-directed learning.

This syllabus statement