

## Thomas E. Cook Counseling Center at Virginia Tech

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### Requests for Academic Relief: Policies and Guidelines

- Requests for academic relief will be reviewed by the Academic Relief Committee at the Thomas E. Cook Counseling Center.
- In order to qualify for a recommendation, the student must have documentation showing that he or she has a significant psychiatric or psychological problem which has substantially interfered with the student meeting his/her academic responsibilities.
- Extended illness with evidence of psychiatric or psychological treatment on campus or off, periods of hospitalization for psychiatric treatment, or evidence of psychiatric illness with related treatment by a qualified health professional may justify a recommendation for academic relief.
- It is understood that students may be involved in many situations that are stressful or distracting that interfere with studying and other academic responsibilities. Stressful events such as a death in the family, ending a significant relationship or anxiety about family problems or other major life decisions may affect the student's academic efficiency or may have led the student to seek counseling. However, this does not assure that the student will qualify for a recommendation for academic relief. If the student does not qualify, the committee will notify him/her.
- **The deadline for applications for academic relief is one week before the last day of classes. Under most circumstances recommendations for retroactive course drops or resignations are not considered.** The committee will consider circumstances where the student was hospitalized or otherwise disabled at the time when this decision would have been made and missed the application deadline during the previous semester. The student can apply for retroactive academic relief within 30 days of the beginning of the subsequent semester or 30 days after the student returns to the university. Former students who do not plan to return to Virginia Tech can also apply for retroactive relief.
- The committee reviews records at the Cook Counseling Center. If applicable, other documentation from off campus professionals (Physician or Mental Health Professional's Assessment and Recommendation Regarding Patient's Need for Academic Relief) should be provided to the Chair of the Academic Relief Committee for consideration prior to the committee meeting. Applicants may be interviewed by the committee to clarify information in their request or to consider other alternatives.
- Before a request for academic relief can be considered, students are required to have the "Academic Dean Advisement Form for Academic Relief" form signed by the academic deans for their college to determine the impact this academic relief may have on academic plans.
- If the committee decides that the student qualifies for academic relief, a recommendation letter will be written to the student's academic dean. The committee may offer suggestions as to what action the dean might take such as dropping a course, being allowed to take incompletes, delaying exams or in some cases withdrawing from school, while the final authority and decision for academic relief remains with the dean. A copy of the letter will be mailed to the University Registrar and to the student.
- **Receiving Academic Relief withdrawal or course drops from the University for medical reasons may require a hold on readmission, preventing your re-enrollment, until you provide the "Provider Form for Reenrollment", (<http://ucc.vt.edu>) supporting your return to the University.** A licensed mental health provider must complete the form in full. This form can be found on our website under the "About" tab in the "Forms" section. Information for International students can be found at the Cranwell International Center (<http://www.international.vt.edu/>).
- **Receiving academic relief may have consequences on other aspects of your life (i.e. Residential Life, Financial Aid, and Health Insurance).** Please contact the appropriate department to discuss these implications. The following link will provide helpful information: <http://www.bursar.vt.edu/>. Student and parent information can be accessed. After selecting one of these tabs, you will see on the right side of the page, several links. Listed in that column are links to the following: Financial Aid; Hokie Passport; Parking Services; Registrar's Office; and Student Programs.
- Further information about academic relief as well as all necessary forms can be found at: [www.ucc.vt.edu](http://www.ucc.vt.edu).