

Leave of Absence Breakout Session

10 - 11 p.m., June 25

Discussion moderators: Joyce Stern, academic advising, Megan Baldree, student assistance, Jason Maher, registrar, Bradd Lindberg, financial aid, Tim Arner, Dean's office

S&B Reporter: Abraham Teuber

Requesting A Leave

- Because we will have four terms instead of two semesters, students can take a leave of absence for any of the four terms
- If you won't be enrolled full or part time, will need to request a leave of absence for that term
- Will need to apply for leave at the Academic Advising GrinnellShare page
 - ◆ Will need to respond to reasoning in form and have a short interview with Academic Advising staff
 - ◆ Decision about leave will come in a few days (a definite yes, application is more of a formality)
 - ◆ If taking multiple consecutive leaves, that can be expressed in a single application
 - ◆ Application:
<https://grinco.sharepoint.com/sites/academics/AcademicAdvising/SitePages/Leaves%20of%20Absence.aspx>
 - ◆ College strongly suggests students fill out application by July 15, makes planning easier, but not a requirement
 - Leaves that come in after that WILL be granted, up until add/drop deadline
 - ◆ Any complete application will be accepted, the application is about ensuring the student thinks through their reasoning, but no one will be denied a leave if they follow this process
- "Leaves of absence without a purpose are dreadful" -Joyce Stern
 - ◆ Students considering leave encouraged to consult with mentors, faculty advisers, CLS staff, family and friends
 - ◆ Recommended: opportunities that are necessary (working for financial support), advance career goals (remote internship)



- If you want to enroll, but face difficulties that will make remote learning difficult (financial difficulties, tech issues, international border crossing constraints, health concerns, etc.) many people are there to provide assistance (Student Affairs, International Student Affairs, SHAW, ITS)
- SHAW is expanding telehealth services

Financial Aid

- Financial aid is very personal and specific, hard to make any generalizations about how leaves of absence will affect financial aid
 - ◆ Encourages students to meet individually with the financial aid office to determine what taking a leave might mean financially
- If leave is approved before academic year starts, you won't be charged anything by the college
- If you decide to take a leave after the start of the term...
 - ◆ ...in first three weeks (including the add/drop period), you'll be prorated for the rest of the term
 - ◆ ...after three weeks have passed, you won't be refunded any charges
- Must be enrolled at Grinnell to receive CARES Act funding, students with financial difficulties must apply for this funding before taking a leave
- Eight semesters of financial aid are guaranteed, if it takes more than that students may apply for a ninth semester of aid (likely to be approved)
- Updated aid packages will be revised by July 3rd, bills due July 31st
- Merit scholarships are guaranteed for 8 semesters, if students take a leave that is just put on hold and their semester on leave does not count towards those 8 semesters

Status of Students on Leave

- Students on leave are not considered students at the College for the duration of their leave
 - ◆ Email accounts remain active during leave of absence
 - ◆ No access to campus facilities when on leave, campus work not available
 - ◆ Students on leave not allowed CLS funding, can maintain Handshake account and meet with CLS advisers still
 - ◆ Students who take a leave may not study abroad immediately upon re-enrolling, have to be enrolled the term prior to Off Campus Study
- Taking a leave of absence in the fall WILL NOT affect whether or not a student is invited back to campus for the spring, however this conversation is ongoing



- ◆ (This contradicts the statement in the original plan, “Until we are able to invite all of our students back to campus, continuous full-time enrollment will be among the factors we will evaluate when extending invitations to live on-campus in 2020-21”, but registrar Jason Maher said that based on his participation in Curriculum Committee meetings it does not seem that this seems to be a factor, the College still has a goal of making sure each students can be on campus for at least one term)
- When returning to campus after leave, just need to email Joyce Stern (sternjm@grinnell.edu)
 - ◆ If going on leave F1 but returning F2, email by Sept 1
 - ◆ If returning for S1, email by Oct 15
 - ◆ If returning for S2, email by Feb 1

Transferring Credits

- 100 credits need to be completed through Grinnell
- 24 credits can be transferred from elsewhere, such as AP credit, courses taken elsewhere
- Must get approval of all courses taken elsewhere before registering, email registrar@grinnell.edu to determine if the courses are eligible to transfer
- Must fill out transfer credit form which requires advisor’s signature, must get department chair’s signature if you want course to count towards major requirements
([https://grinco.sharepoint.com/sites/Registrar/Shared%20Documents/Transfer%20Course%20Approval%20Form%20\(revised%2010-17\).pdf](https://grinco.sharepoint.com/sites/Registrar/Shared%20Documents/Transfer%20Course%20Approval%20Form%20(revised%2010-17).pdf))
- Generally, courses from accredited 2-year and 4-year institutions are accepted, some limits, consult student handbook section on transfer policy
- May not be enrolled at Grinnell while also taking courses somewhere else
- Credits from Off Campus Study don’t count towards the 24-credit transfer limit, are considered to be taken while being enrolled at Grinnell