Cornell University Health Excuse Policy

Cornell University expects that students are honest with their professors regarding their ability to complete work, and professors are expected to work with students on these issues.

Academic advising staff and associate deans are available to provide assistance to students or faculty members who have concerns about attendance issues.

Cornell Health does not provide excuses for routine illnesses, injuries, and mental health problems that may lead to missed classes, labs, studios, exams, or deadlines. This longstanding policy resembles those of most other major universities and is consistent with the recommendations of the American College Health Association.

Assistance with serious, ongoing illness or injury

When a student is hospitalized or has a serious, ongoing illness or injury, and with the student’s consent, Cornell Health will contact Cornell’s Crisis Manager to coordinate communication with the student’s college.

If the student and his/her medical or mental health clinician believe that providing information about a significant, ongoing health problem (not a short-term illness) could facilitate appropriate academic accommodations, Cornell Health will, at the student's request and with the student’s permission, communicate with the college’s academic advising office and/or Student Disability Services.