

TO: University Curriculum Committee

**FROM: Jeanne Christiansen
Vice Provost for Academic Affairs**

RE: Proposed Change to Regulations M-3-b [Effective: Summer 2009]

DATE: October 15, 2008

I am seeking a change to the field trip section of the catalog. At this time, field trips that are not in the catalog require the signature of the departmental administrator, dean, and provost. The dean has oversight of curricular and co-curricular learning opportunities for degree and certificate programs, fiscal resources, personnel, risk, and so forth. For these reasons, I suggest that the dean be the final signature for these field trips.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

M – Attendance, Repeated Absences, Field Trips, and Official Student Travel

M-1. Attendance. Students are responsible for class attendance; in all cases of absence, students are accountable for the work missed. In the case of officially approved absence and on the request of the student, the instructor is obligated to provide an opportunity for the student to make up for missed work. In general, an absence is considered "official" when the student is: (a) participating in an approved field trip or other official UI activity (e.g., athletics, debate, music, or theatre arts); (b) confined under doctor's orders; (c) called to active military duty during emergency situations; or (d) granted a leave of absence from UI for reasonable cause by his or her academic dean.

M-2. Repeated Absences. In courses where a substantial amount of the content can be mastered only or primarily through class participation, regular and punctual attendance is essential and may, therefore, be reflected in grading. Instructors will make clear at the beginning of each course the extent to which grades are dependent on attendance. Instructors may report to the registrar students who are repeatedly absent from classes (a form is available from departmental and college officials). Absences may be considered excessive when their number equals or exceeds the number of credits in a particular course.

M-3. Field Trips and Official Student Travel. "Field trip" is defined as any required, course-related student travel that exceeds 25 air miles from the campus or conflicts with other classes that the students involved are taking. (A trip taken within 25 air miles during the class scheduled for the particular class or at a time that does not conflict with other classes the students involved are taking is a "local trip," not a "field trip.")

M-3-a. Missed Class Work. Students participating in field trips, as defined above, or other official UI activities are responsible for conferring in advance with the instructors of any classes that will be missed in order to be eligible for making up missed class work. (See M-1.)

M-3-b. Approval of Course-Related Field Trips. Administrative approval for course-related field trips will be obtained by the person in charge of the trip as follows:

- (1) Each field trip as identified in the catalog course description requires prior approval by the department in accordance with divisional procedures (application for approval should be made at least one week before the expected departure).
- (2) Each field trip NOT identified in the catalog course description requires prior approval by the departmental administrator, ~~and~~ the dean of the college, ~~and the provost~~ (application for approval should be made at least two weeks before the expected departure).

M-3-c. Approval of Other Official Student Travel. Administrative approval for official student travel that is NOT course related is obtained from the vice president for student affairs (application for approval should be made at least two weeks before the expected departure).

M-3-d. Costs. When a college can cover all or part of the cost of a course-related field trip from allocated funds, the college should do so. If the college cannot cover the cost, or a portion thereof, the cost (or remaining portion) must be borne in proportionate share by the students in the course. Students missing required field trips identified in the catalog course description must pay their proportionate shares.

M-3-e. Field-Trip Completion Deadline. All field trips and other UI-approved student travel must be completed before 7:30 a.m. on the fifth day of classes before the start of final examinations.

M-3-f. Unofficial Student Travel. UI student accident insurance does not cover injuries sustained in the course of travel unless the travel has been officially authorized by the appropriate UI agent.

M-3-g. Vehicle Information. Information concerning privately owned vehicles (registration, insurance, driver's license, etc.) to be used for field trips or other official student travel must be filed in the Risk Management Office (Rm. 209, Admin. Bldg.). Administrators of departments and divisions are responsible for ensuring that the required information is filed before the initial use of each privately owned vehicle in a given academic year.

M-4. Accommodation of Religious Observances in the Administration of Examinations. When tests or examinations fall on days objectionable to a student because of religious beliefs, the student should contact the instructor as soon as possible. The instructor may require the student to submit a concise, written statement of the reasons for the request. If the request appears to be made in good faith, the instructor should make alternative arrangements for the administration of the examination or test. If the instructor believes the request not to be in good faith, or if the instructor and the student are unable to agree on arrangements, the student or the instructor should seek the assistance of the departmental administrator, dean, or provost, in that order.

M-5. Drop for Non-attendance. Students are responsible for notifying their instructors through the Registrar when extenuating circumstances not covered as an officially approved absence as defined in M-1 prevent their attendance during the first week of the semester. Instructors may drop students who have not attended class or laboratory meetings nor notified the instructor through the Registrar by the end of the sixth business day following the start of the class. Valid reasons for missing classes do not relieve the student of making up the work missed.