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Policy Title: Absence Policy for Student Athletes

PURPOSE

The university provides a consistent procedure for NCAA student athletes who are attending Western Oregon University and traveling for athletic competition.

AUDIENCE:

Students, faculty, and staff

DEFINITIONS:

- A. **Faculty/Staff:** Those individuals employed by the university in a faculty or staff position (excludes student employees) on a full- or part-time basis.
- B. **Travel Day:** A day or days in which a student athlete must travel to other institutions to compete on behalf of Western Oregon University.
- C. **NCAA Student Athlete:** Any student enrolled in classes and who is a member of an intercollegiate athletic team at Western Oregon University.

POLICY STATEMENT:

Western Oregon University recognizes that those who are members of intercollegiate athletic teams are required to travel for competition. The university recognizes the important, and often demanding, role student athletes play in our community and is committed to providing these students with equal opportunity to succeed during their time at the university.

NCAA student athletes may not be penalized for mandatory athletic travel. In the event of a scheduling conflict between athletic events and when class is held, students will, at the discretion of the faculty, be given the opportunity to earn equivalent credit, demonstrate evidence of meeting the learning outcomes for missed assignments, or, if no such option can be made available, have the assignment credits deducted from the total number of points possible in the course.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY:

A. Notification

It is the responsibility of the student to notify their instructor(s) of any absences due to athletic competition travel as soon as possible, preferably at the beginning of the term, in order to plan alternative arrangements.

FACULTY RESPONSIBILITY:

A. Alternative Arrangement Statement

Faculty should make alternative arrangements for student athletes who will be absent or away from technology necessary in order to complete assignments or exams.

B. Alternative Arrangement Parameters

Alternative arrangements for on-campus, online, or hybrid coursework may include, but are not limited to, alternative or extended time on assignments or exams and alternative date/time for presentation assignments.

NOTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

A. Athletic Department Notification

Formal notification will be delivered via an electronic travel letter by an institutional official from the Athletic Department listing the students who will be traveling, the duration of absence, and which courses will be impacted.

EXCLUSIONS AND LIMITATIONS:

A. Safety Concerns

The safety and security of students is one of Western's top priorities. Some courses require students to be present for class in which important safety information and procedures are explained. If a student is absent for such a class and a make-up class is not offered or available, the student is strongly encouraged to drop the course. An example would be certain lab science classes (Biology, Earth Science, or Chemistry) in which students would be engaging with sensitive or potentially dangerous materials or equipment. Faculty are not compelled to allow the student to remain in the course or provide a makeup class for a student athlete in this situation; however faculty are highly encouraged to work with the appropriate department head, division chair, or dean to find an alternative to withdrawing the student athlete from the course.

First draft: Poole and Balding (March 2018)

Endorsed by Athletic Director: (March 2018)

Faculty Senate presentation:

Policy Council first presentation: