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ECO 209

Macroeconomic Theory and Policy

Submission of Medical Certificates

The University is cracking down on the excessive use — i.e., abuse — of doctors' notes to request tests and exam deferrals. Doctors' notes are supposed to certify that a student was ill and thus unable to write a test on a specific date, but they are not supposed to be used as an instrument for time management. The Office of Student Academic Integrity (OSAI) has started to evaluate the submission of all suspicious medical certificates.

If unable to write any one test for medical reasons, the student must submit a doctor's note where the physician clearly indicates that in his/her professional opinion the student was unable to write the test on that particular date. This means that the doctor cannot limit him/herself to repeat what the patient (i.e., the student) has told him/her. The physician must clearly certify that the student was sick at the time of the test and, in his/her professional opinion, unable to write it.

Students missing a term test for medical reasons are required (*without exceptions*) to submit official documentation *within one week* of the missed test. In these instances the University of Toronto official *Verification of Student Illness or Injury* form, available for downloading from the course website, must be used. Note that the form must be completed only by a Physician, Surgeon, Nurse Practitioner, Registered Psychologist or Dentist (i.e., not by a herbalist, acupuncturist, or chiropractor) and that the health professional's OHIP registration number must be provided. The original *Verification of Student Illness or Injury* form (i.e., not a photocopy) must be submitted to the *instructor in person* (i.e., not to the Department's receptionist and not by fax or e-mail).

Note that, in general, medical certificates indicating conditions such as headaches, diarrhoea, stomach ache, cold or other similar conditions will not be accepted as sufficient excuse for not writing a test. All suspicious submissions of medical certificates in ECO209 will either be rejected or forwarded to OSAI for further evaluation.

Students must be aware that the submission of a medical note to get out of a test when the student is not actually sick is considered an offence covered under the University of Toronto's *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters*.

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