

USC SCHOOL OF LAW ATTENDANCE POLICY

(excerpt taken from the Law Student Handbook)

IV. LAW SCHOOL CREDIT FOR COURSE WORK

C. Class Attendance.

Students are expected to prepare all assigned work and attend all classes. A professor may reduce materially a student's grade in a course because of absences. A student who is absent from a class for more than ten percent (10%) of the recitation periods may not take the examination or obtain a grade other than F unless the attendance requirement is waived by the Associate Dean. A student violates the Attendance Rule by missing more than 6 classes in a 4 credit hour course that meets four times a week; by missing more than 4 classes in a 3 credit hour course that meets three times a week; by missing more than 3 classes in a 2 credit hour course that meets twice a week; and by missing more than 2 classes in a 2 credit hour course that meets once a week for two hours.

No absences from class are "excusable" for purposes of determining whether a student has violated the Attendance Rule. The Associate Dean, however, can waive the Attendance Rule if a student has not missed more than thirty percent (30%) of the classes in a course. In exercising this discretion to waive the rule, the Associate Dean will consider the total number of absences and whether a substantial majority of these absences are "excusable". See VI.G.

NOTE: Students' class schedules must enable them to attend all regularly scheduled classes in all of their courses. Therefore, students may not register for courses that have any overlapping classes.

VI. STUDENT PETITION

G. Waiver of the 10% Attendance Requirement.

1. A student who has missed more than 10% but not more than 30% of the classes in a course, may petition the Associate Dean for a waiver of the attendance requirement. The petition shall contain a complete explanation of the reasons for all of the student's absences from class.
2. In ruling on such petitions the Associate Dean shall balance the necessity of maintaining high academic standards and fairness to the student. The Associate

Dean may consider the total number of absences, whether a substantial majority of the absences were the result of illness, personal or family problems, out-of-town job interviews, or out-of-town law school related activities, such as moot court, and whether the student has otherwise made a good faith effort to minimize the total number of absences.

3. If the Associate Dean denies a petition for waiver of the attendance requirement, or if the number of absences exceeds 30%, a student may petition the faculty. If two thirds of the faculty members voting vote to hear the petition, the faculty will consider the petition. If the faculty considers the petition, the Attendance Rule will be waived only if two thirds of the faculty members voting vote to grant the petition.