

Leave of Absence (LOA)

The PA program is a cohort program and, as such, each student's timely progression through the program is essential for the scaffolding of new knowledge and skills and the refinement of clinical decision-making abilities. **The plan of study is designed to be completed in 24 months of continuous study and must be completed in no more than 30 months.** The time limitation to LOAs (consecutive days away from the program) reflects the nature of course progression in a cohort program, the importance of timely acquisition of knowledge, and the scaffolding of learning.

Given the pace of the curriculum, students in the didactic phase of the program may take up to a **two-week** LOA (with Program Director approval) without the need to withdraw from courses. If a student requires a longer LOA in the didactic phase, the student will be required to withdraw from coursework and may apply for readmission. Readmission is at the sole discretion of the PA Program Admissions Committee. No advanced standing will be granted if the student is readmitted.

During the clinical phase of the program, students may take one consecutive LOA for a duration of up to **six (6) months** (with an exception that if the student was granted a LOA in the pre-clinical phase, this time is deducted). If a clinical phase student needs time away from the program that extends beyond six months, the student must withdraw from the program and will be eligible to apply for readmission. Readmission is at the sole discretion of the PA Program Admissions Committee. No advanced standing will be granted if the student is readmitted.

A formal written request for any LOA must be submitted to and approved by the Program Director. A leave of absence cannot be granted for academic reasons (i.e. to keep the student from failing) and is typically only granted in the setting of significant illness, injury, childbearing, or catastrophic life event.