


Clinical and Academic Policy		
	Policy Title	Tuition Refund
	Policy Number	OME-900.18
	Department/Office	Office of Medical Education
	Effective Date	November 30, 2017
	Last Reviewed	August 2020
	Approved By	Executive Medical Education Committee
	Approval Date	September 18, 2025
	Endorsement	Endorsed by WCM-Executive Policy Review Group on September 23, 2025.

Purpose

To define the tuition refund process for students who withdraw, are dismissed or take an approved leave of absence from the Weill Cornell Medical College (WCMC), in alignment with institutional, federal, and Cornell University financial aid policies.

Scope

This policy applies to all MD students at WCMC who withdraw, are dismissed, or are placed on an approved leave of absence, including students on medical leave, personal leave, or extended curriculum for research (ECR).

Policy

Should a student decide not to attend Weill Cornell, it is their obligation to officially withdraw. Non-attendance of classes does not classify as an official withdrawal and does not relieve the student of the financial obligation or entitle the student to a refund. The process of withdrawing from a program is a formal procedure which the student has the responsibility to initiate. A student withdrawing shall be responsible for payment of tuition and fees in accordance with the Tuition & Fee Refund Schedule. The date recorded by the Registrar's Office will be used as the official withdrawal date for tuition adjustment purposes.

Tuition and Fees Liability/Refund Schedule

Courses Dropped during the	Tuition & Fees Refund	Tuition & Fees Liability
1st week	100% refund	0% liability
2nd week	90% refund	10% liability
3rd week	80% refund	20% liability
4th week	70% refund	30% liability
5th week	60% refund	40% liability
6th week	50% refund	50% liability
7th week	40% refund	60% liability
8th week	30% refund	70% liability
9th week	0% refund	100% liability

The count of days includes all calendar days, including weekends and holidays that fall within the term.

Additional Financial Guidelines:

- A. Health Insurance: Students are charged health insurance premiums for the months they are enrolled. Students who withdraw will receive a proration of these charges based on the date of their withdrawal. Students are not eligible for coverage after the last day of the month they withdraw.
- B. Withdrawn students who received financial aid will also have their aid reevaluated and may be required to pay a portion of the financial aid back or otherwise may owe a balance to the institution after a [Return to Title IV Funds](#) calculation is completed with the Department of Education for all federal funding. Institutional aid will be prorated according to the Tuition Refund Policy. The balance due, if any, will be determined by a combination of the Medical College Tuition Refund Policy and the Return to Title IV Federal calculation. This calculation is determined based on the number of days within the term that the student attended.

Additional Provisions:**A. Students on Medical or Personal Leave**

- Students who are approved for medical or personal leave *before* the start of the semester will not be charged tuition for that semester but will remain responsible for all applicable Medical College fees.
- Students who are approved for medical or personal leave *after* the semester begins are not eligible for the Tuition Refund policy outlined above and will remain responsible for 100% of the applicable tuition and fees for that semester. In these cases, the semester will count toward one of the eight (8) required semesters of MD program tuition.
- Students receiving financial aid are subject to return of Title IV policy (for federal aid) and if eligible will not have their need-based WCM Grant adjusted. WCM health insurance grant will be prorated according to insurance policy noted above.

B. Students Enrolled in Extended Curriculum

- Students enrolled in the Extended Curriculum (ECR) are not eligible for the refund policy outlined above and will be charged 100% applicable tuition and fees for the relevant semester(s). These semesters will count toward the required eight semesters of tuition for the MD program.
- Students in Extended Curriculum remain eligible for financial aid and must apply through the annual process.

Compliance with this Policy

Compliance is monitored by the Office of Medical Education in collaboration with Student Accounting and the Office of Financial Aid. Students are responsible for understanding the financial implications of withdrawal or leave and for completing all required forms in a timely manner. Noncompliance may result in financial holds or other administrative consequences.

Contact Information

For Billing-Related Questions:

Student Accounting

Email: student-accounting@med.cornell.edu

For Financial Aid Questions:

Office of Financial Aid

Email: finaid@med.cornell.edu

References

- WCM Policy OME-900.17 – Involuntary Leave of Absence
- WCM Policy OME-900.21 – Academic Sustainability and Dismissal
- WCM Policy OME-900.25 – Attendance Standards
- University Policy 3.13 - Graduate Tuition and Other Support
- University Policy 7.3 - Processing and Reporting Changes in Student Enrollment Status Under Title IV

Policy Approval

This policy was reviewed and approved by the Executive Medical Education Committee (EMEC) on September 18, 2025.

This policy was endorsed by WCM-Executive Policy Review Group (WCM-EPRG) on September 23, 2025.

Version History

Date	Author	Revisions
11/30/2017	Medical Education	Original date of issue.
08/2020	Medical Education Policy Council	Minor Revisions.
09/18/2025	Student Financial Services; Office of Medical Education	Revised to ensure alignment with LCME standards and university policies.
04/23/2026	Student Financial Services; Office of Medical Education	Revised to ensure alignment with tuition policies across the medical school programs.

Appendix

N/A