

1. PURPOSE

The safety of individual students as well as the entire community is a priority at The American University of Paris. When a student engages in, or is at risk of engaging in, behavior that could lead to the serious injury of themselves or others, and when this student is unwilling or unable to accept University-recommended support to address this behavior, they may be placed on an involuntary leave of absence.

An involuntary leave of absence will not be considered in lieu of disciplinary action or residential life sanctions, which are instead governed by other processes as defined in policies SS007 – Student Rights and SS008 – Student Responsibilities.

2. WHO IS AFFECTED BY THIS POLICY

Undergraduate and graduate students who are at risk of harming themselves or others, including as a result of physical or psychological illness.

3. POLICY STATEMENT

Student Life Senior Leadership may impose an involuntary leave of absence in exceptional situations where a student places either their own personal safety or the safety of the community at risk. An involuntary leave of absence will only be applied after Student Life senior leadership have been presented with compelling information that clearly suggests that the student's behavior is either self-destructive or harmful to others.

Before opting for an involuntary leave of absence, the University will first review all other options to address the at-risk behavior, including support through University resources and accommodations as well as an involuntary leave of absence.

4. PROCESS

A student engaged in at-risk behavior may be asked to consent to meet with an AUP guidance counselor as well as an off campus medical specialist or therapist for an evaluation. The student may also be asked to provide relevant medical and or psychological information from their personal health care providers. A student's refusal to agree to such a request will be factored into senior leadership's decision to consider an involuntary leave of absence.

In addition to reviewing all available medical assessments, senior leadership will fully investigate the case, gathering information from all relevant sources, including guidance counselors, the Health Office, Housing & Residential Life staff as well as other staff, faculty, and students.

Upon gathering all relevant information, senior leadership will consult with AUP guidance counselors, and other medical specialists when relevant, to decide on how best to respond to the student's at-risk behavior.

If an involuntary leave of absence is determined by the appropriate response, a member of Student Life senior leadership will notify the student in writing, providing information regarding the procedures for an involuntary leave of absence. This statement will include all relevant terms and conditions of the leave, including conditions for a possible return to The American University of Paris in the future.

An involuntary leave of absence imposed while the semester is underway will result in the student being automatically withdrawn from all courses and barred from accessing campus. The normal University tuition refund policy will apply. An involuntary leave of absence may also have consequences for residential life, financial aid, visa status and health insurance.

A student who wishes to resume studying at AUP after an involuntary leave of absence must submit a petition to the Dean of Health and Wellness with appropriate medical documentation.

5. APPEAL

Students placed on an involuntary leave of absence may appeal the decision in writing to the President of the University.

6. CONFIDENTIALITY

The American University of Paris abides by FERPA regulations and will maintain all information regarding involuntary leaves of absence in strict confidentiality.

The University reserves the right to contact a parent or guardian when it deems a student is in danger of harming himself or herself or others.

7. APPROVALS & HISTORY

Last review: June 2026

Next review: June 2028

8. ISSUING OFFICE AND CONTACT

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