University Policies and Procedures

07-07.55 – UNAUTHORIZED/UNSCHEDULED ABSENCE POLICY

I. Policy Statement: An employee is expected to be present for work as scheduled, and satisfactorily functioning during their work hours. At times it may be necessary for an employee to be off work unexpectedly for any reason. However, the employee is required to obtain leave approval from the supervisor, or the supervisor’s designee. If an employee needs to stop work for any reason before the end of their scheduled hours, prior to departing the workplace the employee must notify their supervisor, or the designee concerning their inability to continue work, and obtain approval for the use of leave. Failure to obtain the supervisor’s or designee’s approval to use any leave shall result in the employee being recorded on an unauthorized or unscheduled absence. This policy does not apply to faculty.

II. Reason for Policy: To outline the course of action regarding the use of an unauthorized or unscheduled absence from the workplace.

III. Definitions:

A. Unauthorized absences are absences from the workplace that are not in accordance with a request for leave, which has been approved by the employee’s supervisor or designee. Unauthorized absence occurs when:

1. An employee did not obtain supervisory approval for an absence.

2. An employee calls-in to his/her supervisor or designee later than within ten minutes of the employees start time.

B. Unscheduled absences are absences from the workplace when an employee fails to call-in that he/she will be absent or fails to report for duty or call-in within the prescribed time limits. Unscheduled absence occurs when:

An employee did not call, or report for duty, or fails to notify the workplace to indicate that they will not be reporting for duty as scheduled is considered a “no call/no show.”

C. Unforeseen absences are verifiable unforeseen absences which become necessary after the employee reports to work (such as having pick up a
child who becomes sick at school and for which the supervisor or designee would grant approval for leave).

D. **Job Abandonment:**

An employee has been absent for five (5) or more consecutive days without prior notice to the supervisor or department.

E. University means Towson University.

F. USM means the University System of Maryland

IV. **Responsible Executive and Office:**

Responsible Executive: Vice President for Legal Affairs & Human Resources and General Counsel

Responsible Office: Office of Human Resources

V. **Entities Affected by this Policy:** All regular and contingent employees, excepting faculty.

VI. **Procedures:**

A. **Documentation:**

1. Documentation: It is the responsibility of the employee to provide his/her supervisor, or designee, with appropriate information and/or satisfactory documentation regarding an unauthorized or unscheduled absence from work in order that the time may be properly charged to available accrued annual, compensatory, holiday, personal or sick leave, or leave without pay if all accrued leave is exhausted. Unforeseen absences are excluded from the scope of this policy; however, the supervisor or designee retains the right to require acceptable proof to verify the legitimacy of the leave for an unforeseen absence in order to determine if an exception is warranted.

2. Leave Request: All regular and contingent employees are required to comply with their department’s internal procedures for requesting time off from work.

3. Medical Certification/Verification: Medical certification/verification is a signed statement from a treating health care provider to validate an employee’s, or an employees’ family member’s condition, or other cause for which sick leave, family medical leave, or a medical leave of absence could be granted. The health care provider signing the medical
documentation must be appropriately and currently board certified. The medical certificate must provide information regarding the individual's prognosis to return to work, any functional limitations, the duration of the absence, and any follow-up appointments or treatment plans related to time off from work. An employee may submit the documentation to his/her supervisor or designee, or the Benefits Manager in the Office of Human Resources, if he/she informs the supervisor of the submission.

B. Accrued Leave:

1. Regular and contingent employees are eligible for leave with pay for authorized use of their accrued annual, compensatory, holiday, personal or sick leave in accordance with applicable University and USM policies. Annual, compensatory and holiday leave shall be scheduled consistent with the operational needs of the department and with prior approval from the supervisor, or designee.

2. Sick leave is to be used for the personal illness, or a non-work related injury of an employee or an employee’s qualifying family members’ illness or death, in accordance with applicable University and USM policies.

3. It is the responsibility of the employee to maintain adequate leave balances to appropriately account for their absence from the workplace, or arrange for a leave of absence without pay from their supervisor or designee and submitted to Human Resources for approval. Failure to do so could result in the employee being considered in an unauthorized or unscheduled absence status.

C. “No Show-No Call” - Not Reporting For Duty - Job Abandonment:

An employee is required to notify his/her supervisor or designee of an illness, injury, or inability to work for any reason, within 10 minutes of the employee’s normal start time. Should an employee fail to properly notify his/her supervisor, or designee, for five (5) or more consecutive workdays, it will be considered as job abandonment, which may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

D. Consequences:

An unauthorized or unscheduled absence may result in one of the following actions being imposed on an employee:

1. A warning letter and leave without pay for the period of the absence for the first occurrence within a twelve (12) month period.
2. A letter of reprimand and leave without pay for the period of the absence for the second occurrence within a twelve (12) month period.

3. Disciplinary suspension for the period of the absence for any occurrences following the second occurrence within a twelve (12) month period.

4. Termination of employment if the employee incurs multiple infractions, or his/her attendance record is unacceptable, or he/she is deemed to have abandoned his/her job as described in Section C above.

**Related Policies:**
- USM Policy VII-7.00
- USM Policy VII-7.01
- USM Policy VII-7.10
- TU Policy 7-07.40
- TU Policy 07-06.10
- TU Policy 07-07.30

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