

Rules for Class Attendance

Legitimate excuses for missing class

- I was injured and was taken to the hospital (and here is the note from the doctor / paramedic / ambulance driver)
- I was sick (and here is the note from the Dean / doctor / faith healer / local voodoo priest)
- I am on the verge of a nervous breakdown (and here is the note from the Dean / shrink / licensed mental health care professional)
- I play competitive sports and will be away that day for a match / swim meet / full-contact mud-wrestling contest. [Note future tense.]
- My dorm room flooded / burned down / fell over in an earthquake (and here is the notice from the newspaper / Dean / Fire Marshal / Army Corps of Engineers)
- A close relative was very sick / injured / dying / dead so I had to fly out of town (and here is the notice from my family / the Dean / the hospital / the funeral home)

Non-excuses for missing class*

- I needed to pick my mother up at the airport
- My boyfriend / girlfriend / long-lost cousin arrived unexpectedly in town
- My boyfriend / girlfriend / alien lover broke up with me
- I am taking two classes whose time slots conflict
- One of my cats has a urinary tract infection, and I needed to take him to the vet.
- I overslept / needed to sleep / felt like sleeping / was overcome by that soporific feeling I sometimes get in the afternoon and didn't feel like drinking any more coffee
- My alarm clock fell off of my shelf overnight and shattered into a dozen of plastic pieces, and consequently, it didn't go off. I think my drunken roommate must have done it.
- I had work for my other classes
- I am not interested in _____ (insert topic of the week)
- I actually believed those Master Card ads that say I deserve whatever I want
- My dog / cat / goldfish / pet mongoose died
- There was a rerun of *Star Trek* on TV
- The lecture conflicted with my aqua-aerobics class
- I invented a time machine for my senior project and was trapped in 2071 when everyone else was in class, but I promise that three years from now, when I've gotten all the bugs out of the system, I'll go back to last week and make up the session.

Note: You get up to TWO unexcused absences without penalty per semester.

* All of which your professor has actually heard while at MIT.