

Returning to Brown after a Separation by the Committee on Academic Standing

The great majority of students who have been separated from Brown for academic reasons return to the University to complete their degrees. Those who do ordinarily find themselves better able to work effectively in an academic program after spending time out of school. Time away from studies, particularly if carefully planned, can prove to be a period of constructive reflection and growth. The support and understanding of family and friends can make a tremendous difference during your time away, therefore, it is helpful to regard your separation as an opportunity to develop skills, gain experience, earn independence, and develop a new perspective on life and education, rather than as a punishment. There is no requirement that you return after only a year has elapsed, indeed, some students choose to extend their time away by one or two semesters more than the minimum.

The dean who signs your letter of separation represents a group of deans assigned to your case and it is important to stay in touch with them while you are away. One of the deans will contact you from time to time during your separation, but you should feel free to contact any of the deans in our office whenever you have questions about your activities while you are away, or your plans to return. You should always communicate with an academic dean before taking courses at another institution during your separation to ensure that the credit will transfer to your course credit total at Brown.

Before readmission is granted, students are normally expected to spend at least one year away from Brown. To initiate your readmission you must petition the Committee on Academic Standing. Readmission is contingent upon approval by this Committee and financial obligations to the University must be met before readmission can be approved. The Committee will hear petitions only from students who have no outstanding balance due to the University.

If you are an international student, you should also consult with the Office of International Students. Visa and other information relevant to your return can be found on the following url:

http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Foreign_Student_Office/index.html

The Petition for Readmission

There is no form for a petition to be considered for Readmission. It is simply a letter from you addressed to the Chair of the Committee on Academic Standing. It should be no longer than three pages and must include your current addresses (e-mail and surface mail) and telephone numbers for possible consultation during the process of readmission.

Your letter of petition should include the following:

- A brief account of the academic difficulties you encountered at Brown.
- An account of your activities while away.
- Your reflections on the affect of separation on you and the activities of the past year. Specifically, please answer the question: "Why do you feel that you are now ready to do better academic work?"
- A plan of your intended program of study and an explanation of your choices. In particular, if you are continuing in a program of studies that caused you difficulty you should discuss why you are continuing in that program or, conversely, if you are shifting to a different program of study, explain your decision.
- If you have had difficulty completing courses in your area of concentration, we require a letter from your concentration advisor, approving the plan you and the advisor have developed to complete the concentration in a timely manner.

The Committee asks that you give evidence of accomplishment in one full-time task for at least six consecutive months – ordinarily employment or study at another university. The Committee expects you to supply letters of evaluation from employers, supervisors, teachers, etc. representing support for your petition for Readmission. These letters should be on paper sent through the postal service to the address below, not by email.

If you have studied elsewhere during your separation (after prior consultation with an academic dean), you should send a transcript of the grades in courses taken.

Petitions for Readmission are due in my office, addressed to the Chair of the Committee on Academic Standing, Box 1828, Brown University, Providence, RI 02912 by November 1, for students petitioning to return for a Spring semester, and by May 1, for students petitioning to return for a Fall semester. Please keep in mind that completing the requirements of this petition process in advance of the deadline will be considered a favorable sign that you are ready to resume your academic work, therefore, you should allow yourself ample time to complete all aspects of the petition process.

Please note: Students whose status is Suspended or Refused Registration may not attend the Brown Summer Session until they are once again registered in the University. If you are enrolled in a course in the Brown Summer Session at the time your separation takes effect, you should request from the Office of Summer Studies a refund of any fees you have paid.

Stephen Lassonde
Chair, Committee on Academic Standing
Deputy Dean of the College