

HARDSHIP WITHDRAWAL STATEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Section 1: Write a statement describing the hardship experienced during the semester being requested. Be sure to include the following information:

1. All pertinent dates related to the hardship
2. Details regarding the impact of the hardship on academic performance
3. Any communications made with course instructors regarding the hardship
4. Any student support services sought during the semester
5. Last date of attendance

Under what conditions may a Request for Hardship Withdrawal be approved?

A Hardship Withdrawal is intended as relief for extreme circumstances and is granted only in special instances. The following conditions apply:

- The student must meet the timelines and follow Steps 1-6 below, with emphasis on providing documented evidence in support of the claims warranting the request.
- The student must withdraw from all classes during the current term, and may not select only certain classes from which to withdraw.
 - Under *unusual* circumstances, a student may be granted a hardship withdrawal from only one class, while being allowed to remain in others. An example of *unusual* circumstances would be a student who is passing an applied piano course and injures a finger, thus being unable to play the piano the rest of the semester. A student would be allowed to complete other courses being taken concurrently.
- Hardship Withdrawals requested after the Friday immediately prior to the final week of the term or not processed by the end of the term will be treated as a Retroactive Hardship Withdrawal.
 - Retroactive Hardship Withdrawals will not be approved if the student has completed all course requirements such as a final examination and/or a final project.
 - Retroactive Hardship Withdrawals will not be approved for terms occurring more than six months prior to the time the request is made.
- **Please Note:** Academic suspension (term or one year) or academic dismissal may only be reviewed through a grade appeal or hardship withdrawal. The suspension or dismissal will not be overturned until the grade appeal or hardship withdrawal has been processed. (UWG Faculty Handbook, Section 208.05)
- Refunds will be based on a proportional percentage determined by the number of calendar days completed along with the total number of calendar days in a Semester. The unearned portion shall be refunded up to the 60% point in time. Withdraws after the 60% point in time are not entitled to a refund of charges. The category of Hardship Withdrawal does not grant any special refunds or financial consideration.

What are examples of conditions that do not warrant a Hardship Withdrawal?

The following list is illustrative of invalid reasons for a Hardship Withdrawal.

- Poor performance in one or more courses
- Registration for the wrong course
- Failure to drop a course during the drop/add period
- Failure to withdraw by the published deadline using normal procedures

Steps for Requesting a Hardship Withdrawal

In steps 1-6 below, the Dean may designate an Associate or Assistant Dean to act on his/her authority. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs may designate the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs to act on his/her authority.

1. The student completes the "Request for Hardship Withdrawal" form found online at http://www.westga.edu/vpaa/index_5879.php. The student should be prepared to provide documented evidence to substantiate the hardship being claimed.
2. The student submits the completed Request for Hardship Withdrawal form and documented evidence to Health Services (HS) or the Counseling Center (CC).
3. The HS or CC professional staff will interview the student, review the documented evidence, and recommend to support or not support the request for Hardship Withdrawal. HS or CC professional staff will send the request form and a letter, which explains the recommendation, as a confidential document to the appropriate unit within Academic Affairs, while retaining the documented evidence in their confidential files.
 - Undergraduate students with a declared major: The request form and recommendation letter will be sent to the Dean of the College where the major department is housed.
 - Undeclared students: The request form and recommendation letter will be delivered to the Dean of the Honors College.
 - Graduate students: The request form and recommendation letter will be sent to the Dean of the College where the graduate program is housed.
4. The Dean has the authority to approve the Request for Hardship Withdrawal. If the Dean approves the request, the Dean's Office will notify the student of the approval and communicate with the Registrar to change the grade/s to W.
5. If the Dean does not approve the request, the Dean's Office will notify the student of the denial. The student may then request a review by the Provost. It is the student's responsibility to notify the Dean that he or she wants the Provost review to be done. When notified by the student, the Dean will forward the request form and recommendation letter to the Provost.
6. The Provost has the final authority to grant the Request for Hardship Withdrawal. If the Provost approves the request, the student will receive a W for each course. The Provost's Office will notify the student that the request was approved and communicate with the Registrar to change the grade/s to W. If the Provost denies the request, the Provost's Office will notify the student of the denial. The Request for Hardship Withdrawal ends with the Provost.