

Student Handbook

Academic Policies and Procedures





Columbia University was established in 1754, making it one of nine colonial colleges founded prior to the Declaration of Independence. Initially established as King's College, Columbia is the only Ivy League university in New York City. Among its notable accomplishments, Columbia was the first school in the United States to grant the M.D. degree and is the birthplace of the wideband FM radio and the laser. The University has a number of notable alumni, including five Founding Fathers, 37 presidents and prime ministers, nine Supreme Court justices, and 45 Olympians. In addition to these alumni, there are 88 Nobel laureates who were at one point students or faculty at Columbia University.





About This Handbook

The SPS Student Handbook brings awareness of key community policies, practices, resources, and services for the student body of the School of Professional Studies at Columbia University. Efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained herein; however, accuracy is not guaranteed, and the information presented in this handbook is subject to change. The School of Professional Studies reserves the right to depart without notice from any policy or procedure referred to in this handbook. This handbook is not intended to and should not be regarded as a contract between the School of Professional Studies and any student or other person.

If you have questions or need guidance during your time with us or have suggestions for future handbook editions, you may submit them to spsadvising@columbia.edu.

If you have general thoughts concerning your student experience, we encourage you to submit them on the [Listening Owl](#) as well.

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I. School Overview



About Columbia University

For more than 250 years, Columbia has been a leader in higher education across the nation and around the world. At the core of our wide range of academic inquiry is the commitment to attract and engage the best minds in pursuit of greater human understanding, pioneering new discoveries, and service to society.

Our distinguished faculty, alumni, and student body are expanding the boundaries of knowledge in medicine, sciences, the arts, the humanities, and the professions. The University offers an outstanding and comprehensive array of academic programs. These include three undergraduate schools, 14 graduate and professional schools, a world-renowned medical center, four affiliated colleges and seminaries, 25 libraries, and more than 100 research centers and institutes.

Columbia is both global and local in focus. We are a vital part of New York, and our research and teaching are enhanced by the vast resources of one of the world's greatest cities. We are an intellectual community of some 40,000 students, faculty, and staff who work continually to expand our mission of teaching, research, patient care, and public service.

For additional historical background, please visit: columbia.edu/content/history.html.

About the School of Professional Studies

The School of Professional Studies, a graduate school at Columbia University, spans the continuum from high school and pre-college students through lifelong learners with innovative offerings at the highest levels of academic excellence.

Our Mission and Vision

Mission:

As one of the 21 prestigious schools affiliated with Columbia University, the School of Professional Studies is committed to supporting a diverse community of faculty, students, and staff while expanding the reach and impact of an Ivy League education so that more students can excel in their careers.

Vision:

We build and deliver flexible programs at the highest level for a broad array of people that lead to amazing career and educational outcomes.

The School's programs are offered in multiple formats: from online asynchronous degree programs that enable full-time professionals to continue their development to intensive in-person programs that enable students to immerse themselves in their studies. Our programs support the academic aspirations of high school, undergraduate, and graduate students, and offer the University's neighbors educational opportunities through the Auditing program. Our Student Affairs Division and co-curricular programs ensure that students are able to access career coaching and development, special events and programs across New York City, and a wide array of clubs. The Academic Affairs division ensures programs draw on the latest research to equip our students to innovate across sectors, and mobilizes distinguished practitioner adjunct faculty to translate research into practice.

Our Offerings

- Programs focusing on emerging market needs, including online and hybrid courses, and residency intensives, in addition to the on-campus coursework
- 19 master's degrees
- 13 certificate or certification programs
- Visiting undergraduate, graduate, and postbaccalaureate studies and Summer Sessions for Columbia University
- Access to Arts and Sciences courses through the Auditing and Lifelong Learning programs
- Courses in more than 100 subject areas

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- Pre-college academic study for high school students with more than 50 curricular options
- English language instruction through the American Language Program

The SPS Student Experience

The School of Professional Studies (SPS) at Columbia University acknowledges the responsibility of students to actively participate in their own educational experience, as well as to complete academic requirements of their program of study. Students are encouraged to become familiar with their course syllabi, student support resources, and supporting offices to enhance their student experience at Columbia and move toward career readiness. Students are expected to adhere to these institutional policies and exhibit behavior that reflects the standards of the School and University.

Student Life

The Office of Student Life aims to immerse students in professionally grounded student activities that foster development through community engagement and networking. We ensure our students are represented in the SPS Student Government and the Columbia University Senate.

The Office of Student Life guides students through:

- Engaging with student organizations on campus or virtually
- Experiencing community engagement via school-wide events
- Providing housing and a quality residential life experience
- Developing leadership skills via co-curricular programming
- Becoming civically engaged within the Columbia University community
- Enhancing physical and mental health
- Advancing discourse on critical topics pertaining to equity and inclusion
- Advocating for the well-being and development of each student to ensure a quality student experience

The Office of Student Life is located in 203 Lewisohn Hall and can be contacted at sps-studentlife@columbia.edu.

Career Design Lab

Career Advising and Services

The Career Design Lab supports current students and alumni with individualized career coaching including career assessment, résumé and cover letter writing, agile internship job search strategy, personal branding, interview skills, career transitions, salary negotiations, and much more. Wherever you are in your career journey, the Career Design Lab team is here to support you.

Our Mission

Our mission is to facilitate collaboration among students, alumni, employers, and faculty through holistic and innovative coaching and programming. We empower students to design and navigate flexible, purpose-driven, and meaningful careers in a global and evolving workplace.

Our Philosophy

Empowerment

- We believe in empowering students to build lifelong career skills, to hold themselves accountable, and to take ownership of their careers.
- We are passionate about our work and believe in self-empowerment.

Empathy

- We meet students where they are and provide individualized and customized coaching.

Creative

- We are flexible, agile, and resilient.
- We provide creative career design space both virtually and physically.
- We are not satisfied with the status quo but strive for innovation.

Authenticity

- We build authentic and effective relationships.

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Value-Driven

- We practice reframing our perspectives with a growth mindset.
- We value efficiency and make data-informed decisions.

Career Design Lab Offers:

- Jobs & internship opportunities via SPS Talent
- Individualized coaching
- Premium subscriptions & AI tools for the career process

Robust Calendar of Events, Which Include:

- Career and networking fairs
- Virtual interview preparation
- Employer information sessions and site visits
- Career development events

Student Wellbeing & Support

The Office of Student Wellbeing & Support provides comprehensive, student-centered support, advocacy, and case management services to all students at the School of Professional Studies. We foster a compassionate, inclusive environment where students feel supported and empowered to address life's challenges. Through resource connection, timely intervention, and a strengths-based approach, we work to build a thriving community where every student can grow, succeed, and belong.

SPS students have meetings with our wellness team for a variety of reasons, including:

- Mental and medical health concerns
- Family concerns
- Financial issues
- Interpersonal conflict
- Struggling to meet basic needs (food/housing/etc.)
- Navigating University policies and procedures
- General well-being inquiries
- Referrals for well-being and legal-related services on or off campus
- Disability-related inquiries and course accommodations

While enrolled at SPS, students can partner with our team to set goals, develop action plans, and explore resources that support holistic well-being. Appointments can be scheduled through our website.

Office of Student Wellbeing & Support is located in 203 Lewisohn Hall and can be contacted at sps-wellness@columbia.edu.



I. School Overview

Advising & Academic Success

The [Office of Advising and Academic Success](#) at the Columbia University School of Professional Studies strives to collaborate with students, academic programs, and the SPS community as a whole to enhance the student experience. Acknowledging the unique needs of our population, we mentor and support students as they navigate a rigorous curriculum and their career aspirations. Our program-specific advisors connect with students in an individualized and flexible manner, providing them with guidance on course planning, University resources, policies, and procedures to help them succeed academically, professionally, and personally. The Office of Advising and Academic Success is here to give you guidance, support, and encouragement. We will:

- Guide you through your transition to SPS and Columbia
- Help you clarify your goals (and achieve them!)
- Ensure you get the most out of your education
- Connect you with relevant faculty
- Discuss and clarify the curriculum
- Connect you with the resources that can enhance your experience: Career Design Lab, events, tutoring, student groups, and beyond

The Office of Advising and Academic Success is located in 203 Lewisohn Hall and can be contacted at spsadvising@columbia.edu.

Visiting Student Programs

After two consecutive terms, Visiting undergraduate and graduate students may either apply as a Visiting Postbaccalaureate Studies student or apply for a degree-seeking program at Columbia University. They may NOT continue enrolling in courses as a Visiting undergraduate or graduate student for a third consecutive term.

Contact:

visiting@sps.columbia.edu | 212-854-9666

Visiting Undergraduate Students

Students may register for most courses for which they have the prerequisites, with the exception of limited-enrollment courses. Columbia degree candidates are given priority registration.

Visiting Graduate Students

Students may register for any course for which they have the prerequisites, with the exception of limited-enrollment courses. Columbia degree candidates are given priority registration.

Visiting Postbaccalaureate Studies Students

Admitted students may register for most courses for which they meet the criteria (i.e., any noted prerequisites must be fulfilled). In overenrolled courses, Columbia degree candidates have priority over non-degree students. Limited-enrollment courses such as seminars are not normally open to Visiting Postbaccalaureate Studies students. Some courses required for admission to medical or other health profession schools are not available through the School of Professional Studies.

Academic Immersion High School Program

High School Visiting Students (College Edge)

Students may register for any course for which they have the prerequisites and their guidance counselor's approval. Typically, introductory courses (those numbered in the 1000s) are most appropriate for visiting high school students. For foreign languages, one year of a foreign language in high school typically equals one semester of a foreign language in college.

Contact:

collegeedge@sps.columbia.edu | 212-854-9889

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Academic Programs

Master of Science and Master of Professional Studies Programs

Actuarial Science

actuarial@sps.columbia.edu

Applied Analytics

appliedanalytics@sps.columbia.edu

Biodiversity Data Analytics

biodiversityanalytics@sps.columbia.edu

Bioethics

bioethics@sps.columbia.edu

Construction Administration

construction@sps.columbia.edu

Enterprise Risk Management

erm@sps.columbia.edu

Human Capital Management

hcm@sps.columbia.edu

Information and Knowledge Strategy

ikns@sps.columbia.edu

Insurance Management

insurancemanagement@sps.columbia.edu

Narrative Medicine

narrativemedicine@sps.columbia.edu

Negotiation and Conflict Resolution

negotiation@sps.columbia.edu

Nonprofit Management

nonprofit@sps.columbia.edu

Political Analytics

politicalanalytics@columbia.edu

Project Management

projectmanagement@sps.columbia.edu

Sports Management

sports@sps.columbia.edu

Strategic Communication

communications@sps.columbia.edu

Sustainability Management

sustainability@sps.columbia.edu

Sustainability Science

sustainability@sps.columbia.edu

Technology Management

techmanagement@sps.columbia.edu

Wealth Management

sps-wealthmanagement@columbia.edu

Certificates

Advanced Classics

classics@sps.columbia.edu

Ecology, Evolution, and Environmental Biology

EEEB@sps.columbia.edu

Psychology

psychology@sps.columbia.edu

Quantitative Studies for Finance

quantfinance@sps.columbia.edu

Certifications of Professional Achievement

Bioethics (Online)

bioethics@sps.columbia.edu

Critical Issues in International Relations

internationalrelations@sps.columbia.edu

Enterprise Risk Management

erm@sps.columbia.edu

Human Rights

humanrights@sps.columbia.edu

Narrative Medicine

narrativemedicine@sps.columbia.edu

Sustainability Analytics

sustainability@sps.columbia.edu

Sustainable Finance

sustainability@sps.columbia.edu

Sustainable Water Management

sustainability@sps.columbia.edu

United Nations Studies

unstudied@sps.columbia.edu

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Auditing Students

The Auditing programs provide adults not currently enrolled in college with the opportunity to attend selected lectures drawn from the University's offerings during the academic year.

Auditors are encouraged to attend class and to keep up with the reading. No examinations or papers are required, no grade is assigned, and no credit is granted for course completion. Auditors are silent participants in class and may join in discussions only at the discretion of the instructor. In addition to the General Auditing program, Columbia offers the Lifelong Learner's Auditing program, for individuals who are 65 or older, and [Manhattanville Course Auditing](#), a community benefit available to the residents of Manhattanville. Alumni who have previously completed a degree at Columbia may audit courses as a [lifelong learner](#).

Contact:

auditing@sps.columbia.edu | 212-854-9666

American Language Program

The American Language Program (ALP) teaches academic English to speakers of other languages. Students learn language and skills to help them succeed at an American university, including essay writing, presentation skills, and note-taking. The classes engage students through in-depth conversations and collaborative learning with their peers in the classroom. Classes aim to expand critical thinking, promote intercultural awareness, and build confidence in using English in an American academic context. Students receive extensive feedback on their written and spoken English in order to help them become more proficient, independent users.

Contact:

alp@sps.columbia.edu | 212-854-3584

Essential Policies for the Columbia Community

Columbia University is committed to providing a learning, living, and working environment free from unlawful discrimination and harassment, and to fostering a nurturing and vibrant community founded upon the fundamental dignity and worth of all of its members.

Consistent with this commitment, Columbia University prohibits any form of discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, pregnancy, age, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, marital status, status as a victim of domestic violence, citizenship or immigration status, creed, genetic predisposition or carrier status, unemployment status, partnership status, military status, or any other applicable legally protected status in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, employment, scholarship and/or loan programs, and athletic and other University-administered programs and functions.

Complaint Procedures for Students

Student consumer complaints against an institution operating under [SARA](#) must first go through the institution's own procedures for resolution of grievances. Students should first address complaints to the school within Columbia where they are registered.

Complaints regarding student grades or student conduct violations are governed entirely by institutional policy and the laws of New York State. If a person bringing a complaint is not satisfied with the outcome of the institutional process for handling complaints, the complaint (except for complaints about grades or student conduct violations) may be appealed, within two years of the incident about which the complaint is made, to the SARA Portal Entity in the home state of the institution against which the complaint has been lodged.

Student consumer complaints regarding programs at SPS should be directed to Zelon Crawford, senior associate dean of Student Affairs, at zec2001@columbia.edu or 212-853-2139.

Additional information about complaint procedures can be found here:

[NC-SARA Complaint Procedures](#)

[NYSED's Complaint Procedures](#)

I. School Overview

Title IX

Columbia University is committed to fostering an environment that is free from gender-based discrimination and harassment, including sexual assault and all other forms of gender-based misconduct. The University recognizes its responsibility to increase awareness of such misconduct, prevent its occurrence, diligently investigate reports of misconduct, support students and others who experience gender-based misconduct, and respond fairly and firmly when students violate University policy. The University is also committed to supporting students accused of gender-based misconduct who go through the disciplinary process. In addressing issues of gender-based misconduct, all members of the University must respect and care for one another in a manner consistent with our deeply held academic and community values. Complaints by students against students for gender-based misconduct are processed in accord with the [Gender-Based Misconduct Policies for Students](#).

All members of the University community are expected to adhere to the applicable policies, to cooperate with the procedures for responding to complaints of discrimination, harassment, and gender-based and sexual misconduct, and to report conduct or behavior they believe to be in violation of these policies to the [Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action](#) or the [Center for Student Success and Intervention \(CSSI\)](#). Note that all SPS employees are mandated reporters and are required by federal law to report any incidents of discrimination or gender-based misconduct to the University.

Acceptable Use of Information Resources

The University's information resources are provided to support the teaching, learning, clinical, and research missions of the University, and their supporting administrative functions. Inappropriate use of these information resources threatens the atmosphere for the sharing of information, the free exchange of ideas, and the security of an environment for creating and maintaining information resources.

This policy applies to the access and use of the University's information resources, whether originating from University or non-University information resources, including personal computers, as well as the access and use of information resources provided by research

sponsors to, or leased or hired by, University users. Failure to safeguard account information or any violation of the University's acceptable use of information resources is subject to disciplinary sanctions.

The University respects the privacy of individuals and keeps user files and emails on central University systems as private as possible. Students are expected to:

- Ensure that their account or password is properly used, properly protected, and not transferred to or used by another individual
- Ensure that sensitive data is protected with a password and encrypted while in transit or storage
- Use University email systems only in compliance with the [Columbia University Email Usage Policy](#)
- Take responsibility for any traffic that appears on the network that originates from a network jack assigned to them, or from their wireless device(s) and their wireless network(s)

However, to protect the integrity of its information resources and the rights of all users, the University reserves the right to monitor access to information resources, communications on the University network, and use of systems and data. More information can be found on the [Columbia University Information Technology website](#).

SPS Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

SPS students are expected to understand and comply with the [University's Generative AI Policy](#), with specific attention to the guidance on generative AI and academic integrity. This policy was developed by a working group convened by the Office of the Provost and is considered a "work in progress" that will evolve along with the technology, law, and Columbia usage. Please regularly refer back to the policy to stay current on requirements and guidance.

I. School Overview

Academic Calendar and Important Dates

Academic Dates

The [Academic Calendar](#) serves as a reference and planning document for all students, faculty, staff, and departments. The Academic Calendar includes registration dates, class start dates, add/drop deadlines, exam dates, and more. The following are a few important dates for students registered in the full fall/spring semesters. Students registered in Block-Week Courses or alternatively scheduled courses should visit the Academic Calendar for a comprehensive list of important dates and deadlines. Students registered in courses at another school of the University are subject to the dates and policies of the school that owns the course.

Summer Term

The [Summer Academic Calendar](#) serves as a reference and planning document for all students, faculty, and staff. It includes registration dates, class start dates, add/drop deadlines, exam dates, and more. Students registered in courses at another school at the University are subject to the dates and policies of the school that owns the course.

Please visit the [SPS Summer Session website](#) for a complete list of important registration dates.

Fall Term 2026

First Day of Class: Tuesday, September 8, 2026

Change of Program Period:
Tuesday, September 8, 2026–Friday, September 18, 2026

Last Day to Drop an Individual Class:
Tuesday, October 13, 2026

Last Day to Pass/Fail: Thursday, November 19, 2026

Last Day of Classes: Monday, December 14, 2026

Final Exam Period:
Thursday, December 17, 2026–
Wednesday, December 23, 2026

Spring Term 2027

First Day of Class: Tuesday, January 19, 2027

Change of Program Period:
Tuesday, January 29, 2027–Friday, January 29, 2027

Last Day to Drop an Individual Class:
Tuesday, February 23, 2027

Spring Recess:
Monday, March 15, 2027–Friday, March 19, 2027

Last Day to Pass/Fail: Thursday, March 25, 2027

Last Day of Classes: Monday, May 3, 2027

Final Exam Period:
Friday, May 7, 2027–Friday, May 14, 2027

SPS Graduation: May 2027

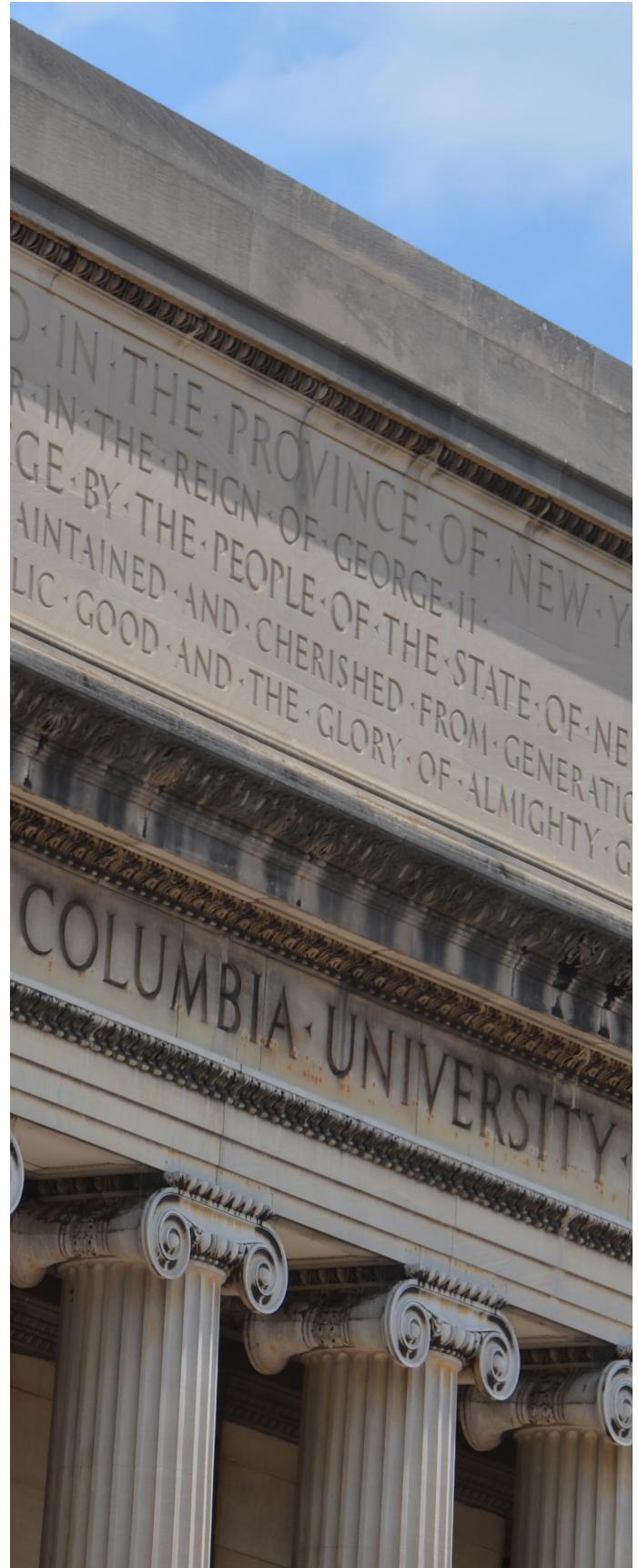
Columbia University Commencement:
Wednesday, May 19, 2027

I. School Overview

Columbia University Holidays

Most administrative offices will be closed with limited or no services available. Offices may have shorter open hours the day before to a major holiday. Please check with the specific office regarding updated hours of service.

Labor Day: Monday, September 7, 2026
Academic Holiday: Monday, November 2, 2026
Election Day: Tuesday, November 3, 2026
Academic Holiday: Wednesday, November 25, 2026
Thanksgiving Day: Thursday, November 26, 2026
University Designated Holiday: Friday, November 27, 2026
University Designated Holiday—Christmas Eve: Thursday, December 24, 2026
Christmas Day: Friday, December 25, 2026
University Designated Holiday—New Year's Eve: Thursday, December 31, 2026
New Year's Day: Friday, January 1, 2027
Martin Luther King Day: Monday, January 18, 2027
Memorial Day: Monday, May 31, 2027
University Designated Holiday: Friday, June 18, 2027
Independence Day (Observed): Monday, July 5, 2027



II. Student Checklist



II. Student Checklist

Insurance and Immunizations

Columbia University Student Medical Health Insurance

Students enrolling full-time (12 or more points per term) and international students are automatically enrolled in the Columbia University Student Health Insurance Plan every semester they are registered, unless granted a waiver upon proof of acceptable alternate insurance.

Students may:

1. Remain enrolled in the [Columbia Student Medical Health Insurance Plan](#)
2. [Request a waiver](#) if they have existing insurance and would like to opt out. Failure to opt out of the insurance by the deadline will result in the student's account being billed. Students will be held financially responsible for insurance coverage from which they do not opt out.

Note: Domestic students enrolling in fewer than 12 points per term are not automatically registered in the Columbia University Student Health Insurance Plan. They may opt into receiving the insurance coverage but are not required to do so. Students opting into the insurance are financially responsible for the coverage.

Immunization Compliance

New York State law requires that all students who are eligible to attend a class on campus document their immunity to measles, mumps, and rubella. Students must submit this through the [Columbia University Patient Portal](#) to the Columbia Health Immunization Compliance Office and confirm their meningococcal meningitis decision online via the Secure Health Portal.

Failure to submit required immunization documents in a timely fashion will result in a registration-preventing hold being applied to the student's account.

Columbia LionMail Email Account

An official Columbia University email address is required for all students. Columbia University and the School of Professional Studies will send all official communications to the student's Columbia University email address.

New students activating their email account or continuing students who have forgotten their UNI and/or password should visit the [CUIT website](#) to access their accounts.

Columbia University ID Card

A Columbia University ID card grants students access to campus libraries, the student center, and other secure campus locations. It allows them to make purchases at campus cafés and the University bookstore, and enables them to take advantage of several discount programs specific to Columbia University ID cardholders. Students can learn more about the University ID card features by visiting the [Student Services Center](#).

In order to replace an existing ID card, students should first [submit an ID photo online](#). New students will receive more information on ID card pickup via email toward the start of their first term of study.

1. Visit the ID Center in person
2. [Submit a photo online and pick up at the ID Center](#)

Columbia University ID Center

Location: 204 Kent Hall

Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Please note that the office is closed on University holidays.

Campus and Classroom Accommodations

[Disability Services](#) (DS) facilitates equal access for all students with disabilities by coordinating reasonable classroom and physical accommodations and support services, cultivating a campus culture that is sensitive and responsive to the needs of students. Students seeking reasonable accommodations or support services from DS are required to [register](#) with the office. Students are encouraged to apply for DS accommodations as early as possible, as it may take up to three weeks for the documents to be reviewed and processed.

Location: Wien Hall, Main Floor–Suite 108A

Hours: Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Phone: 212-854-2388

Fax: 212-854-3448

Email: disability@columbia.edu

Website: health.columbia.edu/disability-services

SPS

Liaison: sps-accommodations@columbia.edu

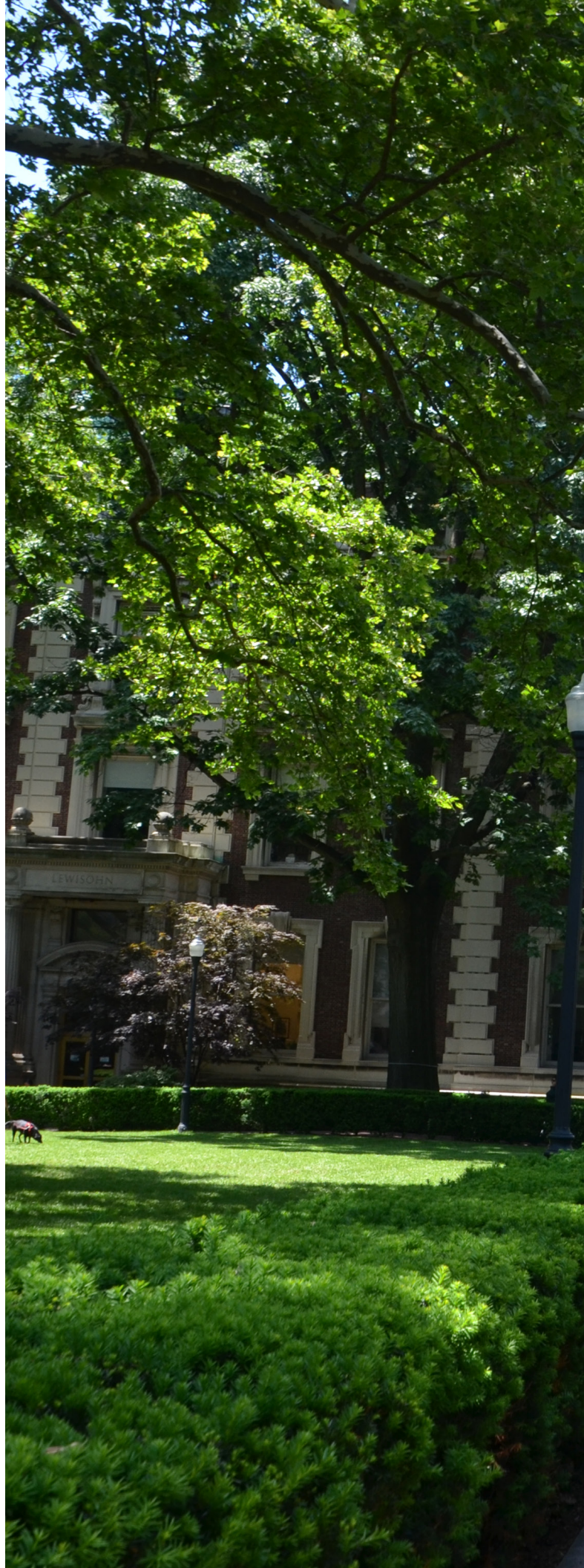
II. Student Checklist

Pre-Orientation Modules

All SPS students are required to complete online pre-orientation modules prior to the beginning of their academic program. The required pre-orientation modules introduce students to the offices and resources available to support them during their time at SPS. Failure to complete the designated required sections will result in a registration hold being applied on your student account, which will prevent you from registering for classes. New students will receive an email with details on how to access and complete the modules.

Student Account Statement Online

A student's [E-bill statement](#) will be available through Student Services Online ([SSOL](#)). Students will receive an alert at their Columbia email address indicating that it is available. Please visit the Student Financial Services website to find out more about [financial aid](#) and [tuition payment options](#).





III. Registration and Academic Review



III. Registration and Academic Review

Registration

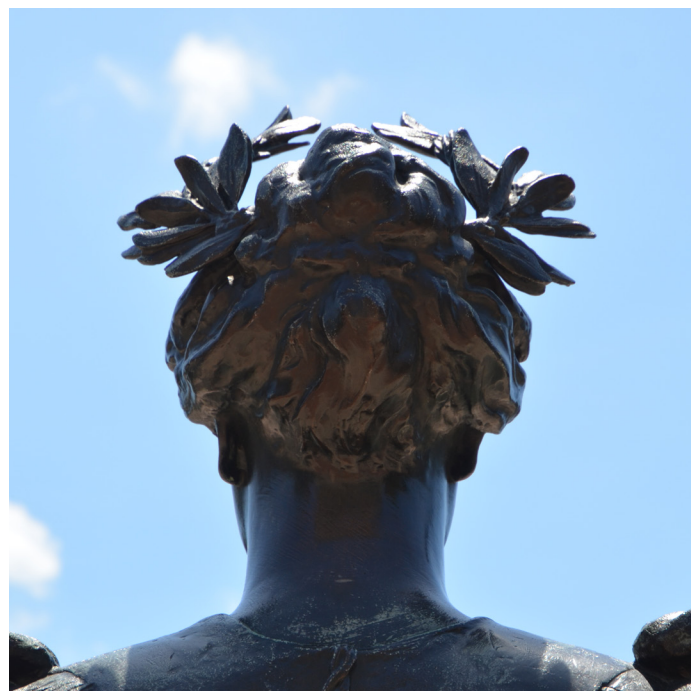
Columbia University students use [Vergil](#) to check registration appointment times, build and plan a course schedule, search and register for classes, and much more.

How to Register for Courses

Students may register for courses on Vergil using their Columbia UNI and password. All students are assigned registration appointment times when they will be able to register for their courses. Students can register online only during these appointment times. These appointment times will be posted on Vergil one week prior to the registration period. Students who do not see a registration appointment time in their account should contact their [academic advisor](#).

Choosing Courses

[The Directory of Classes](#) and [Vergil](#) are Columbia's online course catalogs of all classes at the University. Vergil and the Directory of Classes provide the course's five-digit call number, course times and locations, and course instructor. Students can also check whether courses require departmental or instructor permission, the structure of the course (lecture or seminar), method of instruction, and course enrollment numbers. Auditors can also view course offerings in Vergil, which are listed "By Subject" under "Auditing."



Registering for Courses That Need Approval

Some courses require the approval of either the professor teaching them or the department offering them. To determine whether the course requires preapproval from an instructor or department, students should refer to the course "Details" on Vergil. Courses that do not fall under the School of Professional Studies will also require prewritten approval, even if "None" is listed under "Approvals Required." Students will need to submit written approval from the instructor/department, along with submitting an appeal through Vergil, in order to be given permission to enroll. Students should always connect with their advisor before attempting to join a class outside their program in order to receive the most appropriate/current cross-registration instructions. Courses that are not preapproved by their academic program will not count toward program requirements. Taking courses outside of the degree requirements may also require permission from advising or the academic program of the student. Undergraduate courses below a 4000 level will not be counted toward a graduate degree in the School of Professional Studies.

Late Registration

Students who are unable to register for their first class before the Change of Program period may register during the late registration period upon payment of the late registration fee of \$50. After the late registration (Change of Program) period is over, students who were still unable to register will require the permission of the Office of Advising and Academic Success and of the course instructor, and must pay a late registration fee of \$100. Permission to register after the late registration period is given only under exceptional circumstances. Students are responsible for all assignments and may not receive extensions to submit work.

Adding and Dropping Courses

Students must register for the courses they wish to take, and they may not attend courses for which they are not registered. Students may add/drop SPS courses through Vergil at any point during the Change of Program period of that term or session. There is no refund of tuition for courses dropped after the last day of the Change of Program period, unless you withdraw from the University. Simply ceasing to attend a class or telling the instructor you no longer wish to attend does not constitute dropping the class, and you will be held financially responsible for it. Please note that the window to [add/drop](#) courses will change based on the length of the

III. Registration and Academic Review

course, including, but not limited to, Executive Seminars, Block-Week Courses, and [Summer Sessions](#). Students should consult the [Academic Calendar](#) for the exact dates of the Change of Program period, as well as other important registration dates. Students are responsible for adhering to registration deadlines regarding changes to their schedule. Students enrolled in courses outside SPS are held accountable to the registration dates and policies of the school that owns the course. For more information about the registration process, visit the [Registrar's website](#).

Current M.S. Audit Policy

Auditing ensures that participants have access to current marketplace knowledge that leads to a competitive professional advantage. If granted program approval, current M.S. students may audit classes, attending as silent observers. Current M.S. student Auditors are encouraged to attend class and to keep up with the reading. No examinations or papers are required, no grade is assigned, and no credit is granted for course completion. Auditors are silent participants in class and may join in discussions only at the discretion of the instructor. Auditing options are contingent on space availability after the Change of Program period has ended.

Student auditors must be in good academic, behavioral, and administrative standing to qualify for the auditing benefit. Audited courses will not be noted on a student's transcript. To explore the student auditing option, please contact your academic advisor. If you are a current Columbia University student not enrolled in SPS, you are not eligible to audit courses within the School. To learn more about our Auditing program, please refer to the [auditing page](#).

Holds

Failure to meet deadlines, respond to an academic advisor, pay outstanding account balances, submit missing admissions documents, complete health requirements and submit documentation, and/or maintain satisfactory academic progress will result in a "hold" on a student's account. A hold prohibits students from making changes to their course schedule, obtaining a diploma, and/or requesting transcripts. The office that applies the hold will be the only office to remove it for a student. Students can see their existing holds and how to remove them on their SSOL or Vergil account.

Change of Program Period

Students may add and/or drop courses through Vergil, without penalty, during the Change of Program period (i.e., the first two weeks of classes for the fall and spring semesters). Students are not charged tuition for courses dropped during this time, and dropped courses do not appear on the student's transcript. Please note that the window to add/drop courses will change based on the length of the course, including, but not limited to, Executive Seminars, Block-Week Courses, and [Summer Sessions](#).

During Change of Program

Adding Classes

Students may add courses through Vergil at any point during the Change of Program period. Please refer to the [Columbia University Academic Calendar](#) and the [Columbia Summer Calendar](#) for specific dates for a session or term. Please note that the window to add courses will change based on the length of the course, including, but not limited to, [Executive Seminars](#), [Block-Week Courses](#), [Hybrid Courses](#) and [Summer Sessions](#).

Dropping an Individual Class

Students may drop individual courses from their schedule through Vergil at any point during the Change of Program period without financial penalty. Students planning on dropping all of their courses for a term should visit the Withdrawal section of the SPS Student Handbook. Please refer to the [Columbia University Academic Calendar](#) for specific dates for a session or term. If you are attempting to drop the only course you are registered for, you must submit a withdrawal for the term.

Students must speak with their [academic advisor](#) about withdrawing from courses for the term. International students should speak with [ISSO](#) to ensure that any changes to their registration will not impact their visa status.

III. Registration and Academic Review

Withdrawing

The University defines withdrawing as dropping one's entire program of courses in any given semester. However, it is important to read and refer to the [Withdrawal with Intent to Return](#) (formerly called Leaves of Absence) section of our website if you are interested in taking a temporary leave from your studies. During the Change of Program period, students may also withdraw, meaning drop all of their courses, and receive a full tuition refund. All students who withdraw after a term has begun will be assessed a \$75 withdrawal fee. Students must submit the [Notice of Withdrawal form](#) online with the Office of Advising and Academic Success to initiate the process. A withdrawal statement is added to the academic transcript for each term during which a student withdraws from the University.

Permanent Withdrawals

Circumstances occasionally require that a student withdraw from their academic program permanently. Withdrawal from a term in progress may have serious financial and academic consequences, and thus students should meet with their advisor so that they can make an informed decision. All withdrawals are noted on a student's transcript. A student should select this option if they do not intend to return to SPS within the time frames outlined for voluntary/medical/military withdrawal with intent to return. If this option is selected, students will be required to reapply to their academic program if they decide to return to SPS in the future.

Complete the [Notice of Withdrawal form](#) and notify your academic advisor or email spsadvising@columbia.edu. Failure to complete all sections of this form will significantly delay the withdrawal process. A nonrefundable \$75 fee is applied to all withdrawals. Please check your account on [Student Services Online](#) (SSOL) or Vergil approximately one week after submission to either pay your bill or request a refund.

You may either pay your bill online through SSOL or send checks, payable to Columbia University, to Columbia University, Student Account Payment, 210 Kent Hall, 1140 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10027. Please be sure to include your UNI or PID, also known as your C-number. If you are entitled to a refund, refunds are automatic for all SPS programs except American Language Program and Auditors/Lifelong Learners. Students in the ALP or Auditing programs should log on to SSOL to request a refund after the withdrawal has been processed. If you will receive an automatic refund but do not have direct deposit set up, please log on to SSOL to see where your check will be mailed.

Master of Science and Master of Professional Studies students who wish to add or drop partial-term courses must do so during the Change of Program periods associated with each of those partial terms. If students drop individual partial-terms courses after the partial-term Change of Program periods, they will be responsible for the full tuition of the course.

After Change of Program

After the Change of Program period, students may continue to add or drop individual courses through Vergil until the final deadline to add or drop a course (please refer to the [Academic Calendar](#)). Courses added during this time are subject to the instructor's approval, as well as the \$100 late registration fee if it is the first course for which a student is registering. Students may drop a course via Vergil, which will be routed to their advisor for approval. Courses dropped after the Change of Program period are charged at full tuition and are not eligible for a refund, but they do not appear on a student's transcript.

Failure to attend classes or unofficial notification to the instructor does not constitute dropping a course. Students who stop attending a course without formally dropping it by the deadline will be assigned a final grade by the instructor. Students seeking to drop all of their courses for the term after the Change of Program period should complete the [Notice of Withdrawal](#). If you are attempting to drop the only course for which you are registered, you must submit a withdrawal for the term.

III. Registration and Academic Review

The drop deadline is the last day that students may drop classes without the course appearing on their transcript. Students dropping individual courses after the Change of Program period are not eligible for a refund. In order to be eligible for a refund (based on the [refund schedule](#)), students must withdraw from all of their classes for the term (see “Withdrawing”).

Students must speak with their academic advisor about withdrawing from courses for the term. International students should speak with ISSO to ensure that changes to their registration will not impact their visa status.

Please refer to the [Columbia University Academic Calendar](#) and the [Columbia Summer Calendar](#) for important registration dates every term.

Dual Enrollment

Per Columbia University policy, no student registered in any school/college of the University shall at the same time be registered in any other school/college, either of Columbia University or of any other institution, unless there is an existing registration agreement between the two schools.

Cross-Registration

Students are expected to follow degree requirements in place during their initial term of enrollment. Some programs allow for coursework outside the home program. At times, opportunities to take courses outside the program appear in the form of electives. Students should contact their advisor if they would like to pursue a course within another SPS academic program. Approval from a student’s academic program is required for cross-registration; cross-registered courses will not count toward degree requirements without prior written approval submitted to the student’s academic advisor. Students registered in courses at another school at the University are subject to the dates and policies of the school that owns the course. There are three types of cross-registration:

1. Registration across SPS academic programs
2. Registration across the University
3. Registration at another institution with which Columbia has a formal agreement

Permission to register for courses in other divisions of the University may be contingent on the course, the school that offers it, and the student being in good academic standing within the School of Professional Studies. Some schools allow cross-registration; others do not. Below is specific cross-registration information for each school.

School of the Arts

Office of Student Affairs
305 Dodge Hall | soastudentaffairs@columbia.edu

Undergraduate courses in film, theater, writing, and visual arts are open to SPS students based on availability. Although not permitted to enroll in M.F.A. writing courses, Visiting Postbaccalaureate Studies students at SPS may cross-register in selected graduate courses in the other divisions of the School of the Arts based on availability, with the permission of both the advisor or program director of the School of Professional Studies and the appropriate division of the School of the Arts.

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Low Memorial Library | 212-854-4737

SPS students interested in taking a course at the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) should use Vergil to search for a course in an [Arts and Sciences program](#). Students should consult their SPS academic advisor before registering for a course offered by GSAS. After receiving permission from their advisor and home program, students must receive approval from the instructor to enroll in a GSAS course. Some GSAS courses also require departmental approval. Students should submit a course appeal on Vergil.

School of International and Public Affairs

408 IAB | 212-854-6216

Certain SIPA courses are available on a space-available basis. Students can register for courses listed on the cross-registration site using Vergil. Students should consult the [website](#) for complete information about the cross-registration procedure.

III. Registration and Academic Review

The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science

Students seeking to register for courses in the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS) should submit a course appeal on Vergil. Students may only cross-register for up to two courses in SEAS per term. Any questions regarding cross-registration in SEAS should be directed to the student's SPS academic advisor.

Columbia Business School

Select Business School offerings, excluding core courses, are open to Columbia University graduate degree candidates and Visiting Postbaccalaureate Studies students in the School of Professional Studies. SPS students may take no more than 3 credits of Business School courses per semester and no more than 12 credits during their entire Columbia course of study. Please navigate to [Cross-Registration for Non-CBS Students](#) for complete information about the cross-registration procedure for Columbia Business School.

Barnard College

111 Milbank Hall | 212-854-2014
admissions@barnard.edu

Barnard courses appear in departmental course listings with the prefix "BC" before the course number. Limited-enrollment courses at Barnard, especially seminars, are open to SPS students only on a space-available basis and with instructor approval. While it is generally possible to cross-register in Barnard courses without limited enrollments, SPS students should be aware that some courses at Barnard are not interchangeable with what appear to be equivalent Columbia courses. Please note that SPS students do not have permission to register for classes in the Architecture department at Barnard.

The Mailman School of Public Health

722 West 168th Street, Suite 1030 | 212-305-3927

SPS students interested in taking Mailman School of Public Health (MPH) courses must submit a registration appeal on Vergil. If you have any questions, please connect with your academic advisor.

SPS students may cross-register for up to two courses or 6 credits in any one semester and no more than 12 credits in total. These credits may not be used toward a future Columbia Public Health degree. The MPH Core is unavailable for cross-registration.

School of Social Work

1255 Amsterdam Avenue, Room 525 | 212-851-2364

SPS students interested in taking School of Social Work (CSSW) courses must submit a course appeal on Vergil for Non-CSSW Students. Cross-registration is not guaranteed and applies only to select courses. CSSW reviews cross-registration requests after the semester has started. If space is available in the requested course/section, and any necessary prerequisites are met, students will be registered by the Office of Student Services, and registration will be confirmed via email. Cross-registration is limited to one CSSW class per term, and no more than 6 credits total.

Teachers College

301 Thorndike Hall | 212-678-3710
tcinfo@tc.columbia.edu

SPS students interested in taking Teachers College (TC) courses should review the [TC schedule](#) for important course information. To cross-register, students will need the five-digit call number (referred to as a CRN on TC's website). Students must obtain the instructor's approval to register for any TC course. Contact instructors individually to secure written, signed approval. If unable to reach an instructor directly, students should try contacting the academic department office.

III. Registration and Academic Review

Schools Not Granting Cross-Registration to SPS Students

School of Professional Studies students are not allowed to cross-register in courses in the schools listed below:

- College of Dental Medicine
- School of Nursing
- College of Physicians and Surgeons
- School of General Studies

Billing and Payments

Columbia University bills students for tuition, fees, and other charges at the beginning of each term. When a new student account statement is generated, an email notification is sent directly to the student's Columbia email account, and the e-bill can be accessed by logging on to [SSOL](#). The University does not mail paper bills, so it is important for students to check their Columbia email. Please visit the [academic program page](#) for information regarding the cost per point and associated fees for a specific program of study. Review the Office of Student Financial Services billing schedule for the current academic year. The bold dates in the Payment Due column indicate when payment must be received to avoid late charges.

Counselors in the [Office of Student Financial Services](#), 210 Kent Hall, are available to discuss financial aid and payment options. Students may refer to the Financial Resources for information regarding loans, financial aid, and outside funding.

Columbia University reserves the right to withhold the privilege of registration, or any other University privilege, including transcripts and diplomas, from any person with unpaid debts to the University.

Withdrawal and Withdrawal with Intent to Return

Withdrawing from All Classes

There are occasions where students must withdraw, meaning drop all of their classes, while a term is in progress. Students who must withdraw after a term has begun will be assessed a \$75 withdrawal fee and may be entitled to a tuition refund based on the date of the withdrawal in accordance with the [tuition refund schedule](#). The deadline to submit a withdrawal is the last day of classes. Students intending to withdraw

from all of their classes and be dropped to zero units in a term should notify their advisor and complete the [Notice of Withdrawal form](#) and allow up to 10 business days for the withdrawal request to be processed by the Office of Advising and Academic Success. Please note that withdrawing from a term may have financial and academic consequences, and students are strongly encouraged to communicate with their academic advisor in order to make an informed decision. Withdrawing from classes in consecutive terms may have an impact on a student's Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) and may result in a change to their academic standing. A withdrawal notation is added to the academic transcript for each term that a student withdraws from the University.

Financial Considerations

Withdrawal Fee

All students who drop their entire academic program will be charged a \$75 withdrawal fee, regardless of when the withdrawal takes place.

Tuition Refunds

Tuition for courses dropped during the Change of Program period is refunded in full. After the last day of the Change of Program period, the University retains a percentage of the remaining tuition (as indicated in the withdrawal schedules below) for each week, or part of a week, that the student remains registered. Bear in mind that after the last day of the Change of Program period, refunds are granted only when students withdraw by dropping all of their courses. See the Calendar for the Change of Program periods for each term.

Any adjustment of the tuition that the student has paid or still owes is reckoned from the date on which the Office of Advising and Academic Success, 203 Lewisohn, receives the student's written notification. Failure to attend classes or notification submitted only to instructors does not constitute formal withdrawal (see UW, Unofficial Withdrawal, under Grades).

Fee Refunds

Fees such as the student activities fee, University facilities fee, course fees, and late fees are not refundable if the withdrawal takes place after the Change of Program period. If the withdrawal takes place before or during the Change of Program period, these fees are refunded in full. The one-time document fee, application fee, and Columbia Health fee are not refundable.

III. Registration and Academic Review

Student Health Insurance

Students who withdraw from the University (except for an approved Medical [Withdrawal with Intent to Return](#)), or are dismissed from the University, are ineligible to remain on the Columbia University Student Health Insurance Plan. Refer to the Eligibility page on the Insurance Office's website for specific details, and contact the Insurance Office with questions.

Federal Financial Aid Recipients

Students who receive federal financial aid are advised to contact the Office of Student Financial Planning with questions regarding financial aid eligibility and how a withdrawal may impact their aid.

Withdrawal with Intent to Return

Current Master of Science or Master of Professional Studies and certificate students may be eligible to take a [Withdrawal with Intent to Return](#). A withdrawal with intent to return allows students who must interrupt their studies for a compelling and documented reason—for example, a sustained medical condition that prevents attendance or a significant personal matter requiring absence from their studies—to be exempt from the continued-enrollment requirement as stated in this Handbook. The withdrawal with intent to return for a given semester will not be accepted after the final day of classes of that semester and will not be granted retroactively.

Withdrawals with intent to return will not be approved for first-semester students who have not attended classes. Students considering a leave should contact their academic advisor to discuss their options as soon as possible.

Students who intend to take a withdrawal with intent to return must first meet with their advisor to discuss all academic options. If a withdrawal with intent to return is the best course of action, the student must notify the School of Professional Studies by submitting a [Withdrawal with Intent to Return Form](#) to the Office of Advising and Academic Success.

Until students are notified by the Office of Advising and Academic Success that the withdrawal with intent to return has been approved, they should assume that they are registered for their courses and will be expected to fulfill their academic and/or financial responsibilities, including attending classes and completing coursework. A withdrawal with intent to return can be granted for one or two semesters. However, a student's total leave

may not exceed one year, after which time they may be required to reapply to their academic program.

Withdrawals with intent to return are considered a type of withdrawal from the University. Approved withdrawal with intent to return by the Office of Advising and Academic Success indicates that a student has been permitted an exception from the continuous-registration requirement of the University.

Students are responsible for understanding the implications of a withdrawal with intent to return for housing, financial aid, health insurance, and progress toward the degree.

Students on a withdrawn with intent to return status are not considered registered Columbia students and do not have access to University facilities. Still, they are considered affiliates of the University and are expected to abide by all University policies. An approved withdrawal with intent to return is entered on a student's permanent academic record. If withdrawal with intent to return is requested during an ongoing term, once the withdrawal with intent to return is processed by the Office of Advising and Academic Success, courses and grades for the courses in progress are expunged from the student's record.

The academic term(s) a student takes on a leave of absence are not counted toward the time allowed for completion of the degree requirements, nor toward the time for completion of an incomplete grade. A student on leave may not fulfill any degree requirement during that time, including incomplete work.

III. Registration and Academic Review

Important Notes

Students Studying on a J1 or F1 Visa

Students studying on a J1 or F1 visa who intend to take a leave of absence must contact the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) immediately.

Students with Financial Aid

Students on financial aid should contact [Student Financial Services](#) for information about the effect of taking a leave of absence on federal aid, loans, and/or fellowships. Most University and government loan programs do not permit the deferment of loan repayment while a student is on leave.

Students with Veteran Benefits

Students using veteran benefits to fund their education should contact the [Office of Military and Veteran Affairs](#) for information about the effect of taking a leave of absence on their eligibility for benefits.

Medical Withdrawal with Intent to Return

When students are faced with medical or mental health concerns that may impact study habits, course attendance, or class preparation, they are urged to consult with their advisors and/or the Office of Student Wellbeing & Support to discuss taking a medical withdrawal with intent to return from the University. A student who must interrupt study temporarily because of physical or mental health concerns may request a medical leave. The medical or mental health professional who has been providing treatment to the student will, with the student's written consent, confirm in writing that a medical leave is warranted. Students who are hospitalized during an academic term or who miss class for more than two weeks because of health issues are advised to take a medical leave from the term in progress. Documentation from a health-care professional should confirm that the student is unable to engage in academic studies and include a statement as to when the student may be expected to resume studies. The documentation can be submitted to sps-wellness@columbia.edu. Students must provide documentation from a health-care provider whose specialty is appropriate to the associated condition to support their requests for medical leaves of absence during the specified time requested.

Students who request a medical withdrawal with intent to return to their studies after the 11th week of the semester are not allowed to return for at least four months (a minimum of one semester), to allow time to address the situation that led to the medical withdrawal with intent to return. If a student does not return from a leave upon completion of the agreed-upon time, they will be considered withdrawn from the program and must reapply to return. During the medical withdrawal with intent to return, if a student determines that they cannot return at the agreed-upon date, the student may request an extension (again, for up to a maximum of two years). In order to be eligible for an extension, the student must provide updated documentation concerning the reason for the extension.

Please visit the [SPS website](#) for the time restrictions for a leave of absence.

Military Withdrawal with Intent to Return

Any student who is a member of the National Guard or other reserve component of the armed forces of the United States or of a state organized militia and is called or ordered to active duty will be granted a military leave of absence for the period of active duty and for one year thereafter. Students are expected to provide documentation from the appropriate military authorities with dates and length of obligation when requesting the leave of absence. The documentation can be submitted to spsadvising@columbia.edu.

Please visit the [SPS website](#) for the time restrictions for a leave of absence.

Voluntary Withdrawal with Intent to Return

Students who must interrupt their studies temporarily for reasons other than those described as medical or military may request a voluntary leave of absence. Reasons may include, but are not limited to, financial status; child care; illness, bereavement, or other critical matters in one's family; changes in one's outside employment; and other situations as required by applicable law. Students are expected to provide documentation of circumstances when requesting the voluntary withdrawal with intent to return.

Please visit the [SPS website](#) for the time restrictions for a leave of absence.

III. Registration and Academic Review

Involuntary Withdrawal with Intent to Return

A student may be placed on an involuntary leave of absence for reasons of personal or community safety. This process will be undertaken only in extraordinary circumstances when there is compelling information to suggest that the student is engaging in, or is at heightened risk of engaging in, behavior that could lead to serious injury to themselves or others.

Please visit the [SPS website](#) for the time restrictions for a leave of absence.

Returning to Active Enrollment

Medical Withdrawal with Intent to Return

In order to begin readmission, you must have a conversation with your advisor and must do the following two things:

Submit a letter to your advisor in the Office of Advising and Academic Success requesting readmission by the above deadline, by email. The letter should review the circumstances that led to the leave, describe in detail any activities you pursued while away, explain why you now feel able to resume studies successfully, and outline a plan for continued support. You should also indicate whether you plan to apply for housing.

Submit a letter from the medical practitioner(s) with whom you have been working by the above deadline to the Office of Student Wellness by email at sps-wellness@columbia.edu. The letter should describe the treatment, progress made, and an evaluation of your readiness to return to full-time or part-time study at Columbia. The letter must also address the continued-care plan recommended for your return so that you can be connected to the appropriate services upon return.

Students returning from a medical withdrawal or medical withdrawal with intent to return will be required to be evaluated by the relevant branch of University Health Services to complete the reenrollment process. Once the required materials are submitted, your request will be reviewed by the Office of Advising and Academic Success.

Students are urged to meet with their advisor during the first two weeks of the semester when they return and with their academic director, if applicable, to ensure a smooth transition to the campus community.

If you have questions related to the return process or are unable to meet the deadline, please schedule an appointment with the Office of Student Wellbeing & Support to discuss further.

Voluntary Withdrawal with Intent to Return

In order to be readmitted, students are required to submit a letter to their advisor requesting readmission. The letter should review the circumstances that led to the leave, describe in detail any activities pursued while out of school, and explain why you now feel able to resume studies successfully.

You must complete the following readmission procedures by the deadlines. All financial obligations to the University must be cleared before readmission.

If a student extends their voluntary leave past the one-year limit, they will be required to reapply to the program through the standard admissions process.

Military Withdrawal with Intent to Return

You are eligible for readmission under this provision if, during your leave, you performed or will perform voluntary or involuntary active duty service in the U.S. armed forces, including active duty for training and National Guard or reserve service under federal authority, for a period of more than 30 consecutive days, and received a discharge other than dishonorable or bad conduct. In general, the cumulative length of absence and all previous absences for military service (service time only) must not exceed five years.

The School must allow the student to reenroll in the next class or classes in the same program, with the same enrollment status, number of credits, and academic standing as when they were last in attendance at Columbia. The student may also request a later date of admission, or, if unusual circumstances require it, the institution may admit the student at a later date. If the School determines that the student is not prepared to resume the program where they left off, the School must make reasonable efforts at no extra cost to the student to enable the student to resume and complete the program. Such reasonable efforts include, but are not limited to, providing a refresher course and allowing the student to retake a pretest, as long as they do not place an undue hardship on the School. If reasonable efforts are unsuccessful or the School determines that there are no reasonable efforts that the School can take, the School is not required to readmit the student.

III. Registration and Academic Review

If the program to which the student was admitted is no longer offered, the student must be admitted to the program that is most similar, unless the student requests or agrees to admission to a different program.

To be readmitted, you must give notice (written or verbal) of your intent to reenroll to your academic advisor no later than three years after the completion of the period of your service. If you are recovering from a service-related injury or illness, you must notify the school no later than two years after your recovery.

Refunds

All students who withdraw or take a withdrawal with intent to return from a semester for which they are registered that is already in progress are subject to the \$75 withdrawal fee. Students who submit their withdrawal or leave of absence prior to the semester from which they are pausing their studies are not charged the withdrawal fee. A student may be entitled to a tuition refund based on the effective date of the withdrawal in accordance with the [tuition refund schedule](#).

Advanced Standing and Course Waiver

Advanced Standing and Course Waivers

Master of Science or Master of Professional Studies students may qualify for Advanced Standing and/or Course Waivers if they demonstrate subject matter competency for certain courses in their curricula. Students in non-degree programs are not eligible.

Students who have been granted Advanced Standing may be exempt from up to 6 units of study.

Students who have been granted Course Waivers may be able to replace up to 6 units of study. Once a student is granted a Course Waiver, they must satisfy the unit requirement by identifying and completing alternative courses, with the approval of their program director and/or advisor.

Students must submit an application form to be considered for [Advanced Standing & Course Waiver](#). The request should include significant academic experiences that have prepared them to meet course objectives, concepts, and learning outcomes stated in the course description for the program course. To determine eligibility, please see the parameters below:

- Demonstration of academic work that has direct equivalency to an approved program requirement
- Course completed at an accredited higher-education institution, at the graduate level (Advanced Standing) or undergraduate level (Course Waiver), with a grade of B or better
- The course has been taken in the past two years (exceptions to the two-year limit will be made at the discretion of the program director)
- Courses applied toward a previously earned degree or credential cannot be used

Submit the following in order to request Advanced Standing:

- A completed [Advanced Standing Form](#)
- Official syllabus or course description for each course that is being submitted for petition
- A statement that details the student's academic readiness to forgo a current course
- Transcript(s) from previous institutions

Submit the following in order to request a Course Waiver:

- A completed [Course Waiver Form](#)
- Official syllabus or course description for each course that is being applied for waiver
- A cogent statement that details the student's academic readiness to waive a current course and take another approved course in its place
- Transcript(s) from previous institutions

If the academic program allows Advanced Standing/ Course Waiver and the student is approved, they will receive a decision from their academic advisor within 10 business days from the date of the complete submission. Course completion and grade will be verified on the official transcript submitted at the time of application. Please note that it may take longer to review and process a request during peak times. Requests should be submitted no later than the end of the Change of Program period during the student's first term of study at SPS.

III. Registration and Academic Review

Attendance

At SPS, we value students not only learning from instructors, but also engaging in discourse and learning from one other. The expectation is that all students attend class and actively and respectfully participate in (a)synchronous discussions.

The attendance policy for a course is at the discretion of the instructor. The policy may include guidance for students on how to best achieve course learning objectives in the event of an absence (e.g., required office hours, additional assignments, etc.). Instructors will communicate the policy in writing to students as part of the syllabus. Questions or concerns about attendance in a course should be sent to the instructor.

Examinations

Exam Conflict

When a student has two exams scheduled for the same time, they should contact one of their instructors to schedule a makeup exam. Similarly, no student is required to take three exams on any given calendar day. Students with three exams on the same day should print their exam schedule from SSOL and present it to each instructor or program. An attempt will then be made to arrange for one of the instructors to schedule a makeup exam on a different day. It is the responsibility of students to communicate with their instructors to identify an alternative time to take one of their exams.

Students are expected to be familiar with coursework deadlines and exam dates. Examinations are not rescheduled to accommodate travel plans.

Exam Accommodations

In exceptional circumstances, and in consultation with the course instructor, an accommodation may be approved for a student who is unable to take a final examination as scheduled. Requests for examination accommodations must be made through the course instructor and approved by the academic program and, when appropriate, the Academic Affairs Dean.

Acceptable reasons for an examination accommodation include:

- Religious observance
- Medical or family emergency. Documentation is required for medical absences
- Military service
- Court appearances, including jury duty

Disability Services Accommodations

Students seeking exam accommodations should apply with Disability Services (DS) and can find more information in the Student Checklist/Campus and Classroom Accommodations section of section of this handbook.

Students are encouraged to apply for DS accommodations as early as possible, as the documents may take up to three weeks to be reviewed and processed. Accommodations are not provided retroactively, and faculty are not required to provide accommodations that have not been approved by DS.

The SPS will work with student requests for accommodations within reason and policy. Any questions or concerns regarding accommodations for academic programs or events can be sent to sps-accommodations@columbia.edu.

Reexamination

In cases of incapacitating illness or extenuating circumstances out of the student's control, they should contact their instructor and program director to request a rescheduled exam. Please note that students are responsible for coordinating with their academic program to reschedule their exam and identify a proctor when necessary. It is at the faculty member's and the academic program's discretion to allow the reexamination.

III. Registration and Academic Review

Grades

SPS's grading system is as follows: A, excellent; B, good; C, fair; D, passing but poor; F, a final grade that is not subject to reexamination. Plus and minus letter grades are also used, except with D. Unless program regulations specifically state otherwise, all courses fulfilling degree, certificate, or certification requirements must be taken for a letter grade, and each student must maintain at least a B (3.00) average. In certain cases, there might be program-specific courses that have higher minimum grades. To view their grade point average (GPA), students may visit [SSOL](#) or [Vergil](#), which calculate both a semester and a cumulative GPA.

Letter Grade

A letter grade is given to a student based on their completed work including the final exam or paper. It is expressed on a student's transcript by the following SPS letter grade and GPA point scales:

Grade Scale

Grade	Percentage	GPA Points
A+	98–100%	4.33
A	93–97.9%	4.00
A-	90–92.9%	3.67
B+	87–89.9%	3.33
B	83–86.9%	3.00
B-	80–82.9%	2.67
C+	77–79.9%	2.33
C	73–76.9%	2.00
C-	70–72.9%	1.67
D	60–69.9%	1.00
F	≤59.9%	0.00

Pass/Fail (P/F)

Indicates a course taken and judged not based on a quality scale that would be reflected in a letter grade but rather on whether the student completed enough quality work to pass or fail the course. Course instructors award the appropriate letter grade, which is converted by the Office of the Registrar into a mark of P (for grades A through D) or F.

Students in structured degree programs may not elect to take courses on a Pass/Fail basis to be counted toward the requirements of a degree, certificate, or certification, unless designated and assigned by their academic program. Visiting students should not request the mark of P without first obtaining permission from the appropriate official at their home institution. Elementary and intermediate foreign language courses, except for American Language Program courses, cannot be taken on a Pass/Fail basis.

Students for whom the mark of P is academically acceptable may indicate this during registration or on subsequent application based on the deadline for the term, which can be found on the [Academic Calendar](#). Under no circumstances may a student change to taking a course for Pass/Fail after the last day to exercise the Pass/Fail option.

Uncovering

Students in the Visiting Student Programs are allowed to uncover course letter grade(s) from a grade of Pass during the Change of Program period of the subsequent semester via Vergil. Uncovered grades will factor into the student's GPA.

IN (Incomplete)

The purpose of the mark of IN is to permit postponement of the final written work, exam, project, or presentation for the course when incapacitating illness (as certified in writing by the University Health Service or by a private medical practitioner), serious family emergency, or another comparably grave situation requires such postponement. Students must have completed more than 50 percent of their coursework to qualify for a grade of IN. Students who wish to receive the mark of IN must first discuss the option with their instructor and gain approval. After receiving approval for an IN grade, the student must contact their academic advisor to complete and submit an [Application for Grade of Incomplete](#) before the last day of class of that semester. This form requires the signatures of the instructor, the director of the student's program, and their academic advisor. Applications for a grade of IN will not be accepted retroactively. The student and instructor must agree on a deadline for completion of outstanding work within one academic year, at which point a

III. Registration and Academic Review

new grade will be awarded, or the IN will revert to the agreed-upon default grade on the application. Students with marks of IN in more than half of their courses in a given semester are at risk of not meeting [Satisfactory Academic Progress](#) and may be required to meet with an academic advisor before they register for courses. In extraordinary instances, a maximum one-term extension of an IN grade may be granted by the Office of Advising and Academic Success. An IN may not be removed by auditing or otherwise attending the course a second time.

Students with three or more IN grades on their record will have a registration hold placed on their account and will not be permitted to register in subsequent semesters until the instructors assign final grades for the IN grades. Students should contact their instructors to complete outstanding coursework and resolve the Incomplete grades.

Students on a withdrawal with intent to return may not submit work to resolve a grade of IN, and the deadline for submitted work will be adjusted to reflect the leave.

UW (Unofficial Withdrawal)

The mark of UW may be assigned to students who have registered for a course but have never attended or have discontinued attendance prior to the due date of substantive work without officially dropping the course. Alternatively, a letter grade may be assigned by averaging uncompleted work. Although marks of UW are not counted as part of a student's overall academic average, they do indicate that the student is not making satisfactory academic progress. As a result, the student may be placed on academic warning or academic probation, or they may be asked to terminate their studies. The mark of UW appears on the student record and cannot be changed by subsequent completion of coursework (see IN above). Students who receive a grade of UW are held financially responsible for any tuition and fees associated with the course.

R Grade

Students in the School of Professional Studies are not permitted to register in courses for an R grade.

Grade Appeal

The grade appeal process allows students to challenge a grade they believe is incorrect or unfair. SPS students may pursue a grade appeal **only for final course grades** in the following cases:

- The student can provide documentation to show that there was a miscalculation in the final grade they received for a course.
- The student has objectively reviewed and evaluated the grades they earned for each component of the coursework and believes there is a discrepancy in the grading or disagrees with the instructor's assessment of their performance as it is expressed in their final course grade.

The grade appeal policy applies to courses offered through SPS only. For courses that are administered by other schools, the student must contact that school directly to inquire about their grade appeal process and policy.

The performance of a student is judged at the discretion of the course instructor. If a student finds themselves in an untenable situation during a course and believes procedures are not appropriate or are biased toward an individual or group, they should submit their documented concerns to their academic advisor.

Only final course grades may be appealed; students may not appeal individual assignment grades. Prior to pursuing an official grade appeal, a student should first objectively review and evaluate what they have earned for each component of the final course grade, per the requirements outlined in the course syllabus. **Disagreement with an assigned grade is not grounds for an appeal, and those requests will not be considered.** If a student remains certain that there was an objective miscalculation, they should first contact their instructor to clarify the grading discrepancy. If all attempts to contact the instructor have failed and more than five business days have passed, or if the student still objectively disagrees with the instructor's assessment after receiving concrete feedback, the student may begin the formal grade appeal process by contacting their academic advisor with any objective documentation of why they believe their grade is incorrect. Once grades are

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posted for any given term, students must not exceed 10 business days for submitting a formal grade appeal. If more than 10 days elapse and the student does not complete the grade appeal process it will be considered resolved and no further appeals will be considered.

Graduating students seeking to appeal a final grade must submit their appeal request before degree conferral and no more than 15 business days after the end of the term, whichever comes first. Grade changes are not permitted after a degree or certificate has been conferred. Once grades are posted for any given term, students must take action on their grade appeal within 10 business days. If more than 10 days elapse and the student does not take any further action, the grade appeal process will be considered resolved.

Course Repeat

Students may retake only an SPS course in which they have received a failing grade or UW.

In certain cases, program-specific courses may require higher minimum grades. In such cases, students may retake the course to meet these standards. Students are financially responsible for any courses they retake. If necessary, students may retake the same course a maximum of three times.

The final grade for all completed courses will appear on the student's transcript and be counted in their official Columbia University GPA. SPS will conduct a manual GPA calculation for satisfactory academic progress and graduation purposes. The student will be financially responsible for all courses.

Please note that students are not permitted to repeat the internship course while enrolled in their academic program.

Satisfactory Academic Progress and Student Persistence

Satisfactory Academic Progress

A student's academic progress is considered to be satisfactory when they maintain at least the minimum GPA required for their program in a given semester, complete a minimum of 67 percent of their total attempted credits in a given semester, and are on track to complete their program within the maximum time for completion.

The academic progress of each student is reviewed shortly after the end of each term. After the review of records has been completed, students will be alerted to any identified academic concerns and told of the consequences of failure to improve upon those concerns.

Students receiving federal financial aid must maintain satisfactory academic progress. A student who is not maintaining satisfactory progress, and whose inadequate progress is not judged to be attributable to mitigating circumstances, may be ineligible to receive financial aid.

Examples of financial aid include:

- Federal Work-Study Program
- Federal Perkins Loan Program
- Federal Direct Loan Programs
- Federal Parent PLUS Loan Program
- Federal Graduate PLUS Loan Program
- Institutional Grants and Scholarships

Questions regarding financial aid eligibility requirements should be directed to Student Financial Services at ssc@columbia.edu or 212-854-7040.

Student Persistence

Students who are not meeting satisfactory academic progress are considered to be in poor academic standing; students in poor academic standing for consecutive terms are subject to dismissal from their academic program and the SPS. Students earning grades of F in consecutive terms may also be subject to dismissal. All decisions of dismissal for academic reasons are subject to appeal. A permanent transcript notation will be made when students are dismissed from SPS.

Failure to meet satisfactory academic progress can lead to:

Academic Warning

Master of Science or Master of Professional Studies, certificate, certification, and Visiting students are placed on academic warning if their GPA falls below 3.0 in any given semester. In addition, students might receive notice of academic warning if they receive a grade of D or F. There is no appeal process available to students placed on academic warning.

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Academic Probation

Master of Science or Master of Professional Studies, certificate, certification, and Visiting students may be placed on academic probation for the following reasons: failure to return to good standing after a semester of academic warning and/or failure to make satisfactory progress toward the degree or certificate. students on warning whose semester GPAs fall below 3.0 (2.0 for students in the Visiting Student Programs) for two consecutive semesters are placed on academic probation.

Academic Dismissal

The Office of Advising and Academic Success monitors student persistence, as students are expected to maintain good academic standing when enrolled in SPS. When a student has not maintained satisfactory academic progress for multiple semesters, the Office of Advising and Academic Success will initiate proceedings to academically dismiss the student. Students who are dismissed are dropped from all of their classes, may not register for future classes, and are no longer considered Columbia University students.

Students who are academically dismissed are still held financially responsible for any tuition and fees associated with courses previously taken.

A student who has been dismissed must submit their request for an appeal within five business days after the receipt of the dismissal notice. The appeal should be no more than two pages single-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point font, and one-inch margins. Students may attach relevant documents that support one of the two grounds for an appeal. The appeal request should explain the grounds for challenging the dismissal. Disagreement with the dismissal is not grounds for an appeal. There are two grounds for an appeal:

- The student has new and relevant information that was unavailable at the time of dismissal with supporting documentation.
- The student has substantive concerns, with supporting documentation, about the process that led to the dismissal that could potentially change or affect the decision.

A member of the SPS senior leadership team will take one of the following actions:

- Affirm the dismissal, or
- Recommend an alternative academic sanction.

If a student is enrolled in the current term and chooses to appeal, they may remain in their course(s) and continue completing work until a final appeal decision is rendered. Students will be notified of the final decision in writing upon review of their appeal. The decision is final, and no further appeals will be considered. Students who have their dismissal overturned will remain on academic probation until degree completion. Failure to meet the outlined expectations in the appeal decision letter will lead to academic dismissal without the opportunity to appeal. Academic dismissals remain on a student's official University record.

Important Notes

Students Studying on a J1 or F1 Visa

Students studying on a J1 or F1 visa who are dismissed must contact the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO) immediately.

Students with Financial Aid

Students on financial aid must contact Student Financial Services for more information about the effect of a dismissal on federal aid, loans, and/or fellowships.

Students with Veteran Benefits

Students using Veteran Benefits to fund their education should contact the [Office of Military and Veteran Affairs](#) for information about the effect of dismissal on their benefits.

Continued Enrollment

Students in all degree programs are required to maintain consecutive enrollment in required terms unless otherwise advised by their academic program. Failure to register for required terms results in a withdrawal hold on the student's account and deactivation of their student record.

Students are exempt from the requirement to register continuously only when granted a withdrawal with intent to return.

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Students who are not currently registered for courses, including those who have been granted a withdrawal with intent to return, are not considered to be currently enrolled students by the University and are not eligible for student insurance plans, nor can they access Columbia University facilities.

Students who wish to return to their studies must comply with the process outlined in our readmission policy.

Readmission

Master of Science or Master of Professional Studies students who were in good academic and behavioral standing when their student record was deactivated may request to have their student status reinstated if no more than one year has elapsed, subject to program director approval. The student should contact their academic advisor to begin the readmission process.

Master of Science and Master of Professional Studies students who were not in good academic or behavioral standing when their student record was deactivated may be required to submit a new application to the Office of Admissions to be considered for readmission. These students should contact their academic advisor to begin the readmission process.

A degree candidate who leaves the University without obtaining an approval for a withdrawal with intent to return request, who has not been registered within one year, or who has failed to pay all outstanding debts to the University must submit a new application to the Office of Admissions to be considered for readmission.

Certificate, certification, and Visiting students in good administrative and disciplinary standing when they leave the University need only submit a new application for admission if more than two years has elapsed.

Students wishing or required to apply for readmission must submit a new application to the Office of Admissions at least four weeks prior to the first day of registration for the term in which they wish to resume their studies. If readmitted, these students become subject to all current requirements as interpreted by the academic program. In cases involving prolonged interruption of studies, the program may require students to retake examinations and/or courses, as appropriate.

Academic Integrity

As members of the Columbia University community, all students are expected to uphold the highest standards of respect, integrity, and civility. These core values are key components of the Columbia University experience and reflect the community's expectations of its students. Students are expected to conduct themselves in an honest, civil, and respectful manner in all aspects of their lives. Academic dishonesty or inappropriate personal conduct disrupts the integrity of the University, and therefore, infractions result in severe penalties. Integrity is a fundamental cornerstone of higher education, and any attempt to compromise this undermines the process by which knowledge is shared, created, and evaluated. Lapses in judgment and integrity are not tolerated. Students who violate standards related to academic or behavioral conduct interfere with their ability, and the ability of others, to take advantage of the full complement of University life and will thus be subject to [Dean's Discipline](#).

Academic Integrity infractions include, but are not limited to:

- Plagiarizing or unauthorized collaboration on work
- Copying work or answers from persons or sources with or without the person's or source's permission
- Collaborating with other students on assignments without the express permission of the instructor
- Submitting original work toward requirements in more than one class without the permission of the instructors
- Facilitating or aiding in cheating, plagiarizing, or any academic integrity infractions
- Falsifying attendance or participation
- Falsifying data in submitted work
- Sabotaging the work of another person
- Accessing previous course materials
- Sharing materials across class sections

Allegations of academic infractions may be reported by any member of the University community through the Center for Student Success and Intervention (CSSI), which also details the University policies and procedures that pertain to these issues. Students found in violation of the student Code of Conduct are subject to University sanctions. For more information, please visit the [CSSI website](#).

III. Registration and Academic Review

Students who are suspended or dismissed as a result of the academic integrity process are dropped from all of their courses and are held financially responsible for any tuition and fees associated with those courses.

Academic Integrity Training

At SPS, academic integrity is regarded as a key principle of intellectual development. The purpose of this training is to familiarize each incoming student with the expectations and standards for academic integrity at Columbia University. The modules will cover key terms, outline the consequences for students found in violation of Columbia's policies, and provide students with the opportunity to test their knowledge and judgment in exercising these standards throughout their time at the University. Complete the training [here](#).

Academic Integrity Pledge

"As a member of the Columbia community, I pledge to engage in honest and ethical behavior by utilizing only my own physical and intellectual property in pursuit of academic excellence. As a global student and innovative leader, I will abide by the University Student Code of Conduct and represent myself and my community with integrity at all times."

Degree, Certificate, and Certification Completion

The degrees of Master of Science or Master of Professional Studies are conferred upon students who have satisfactorily fulfilled the requirements of their program and the School of Professional Studies. Each program sets forth the specific requirements for the degree, in addition to the School's standards of satisfactory performance and progress. All students must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 in order to have their degree conferred. Students applying for the Master of Science or Master of Professional Studies degree or certificate conferral must fill out an [Application for Degree](#) and email it to diplomas@columbia.edu. Students applying for their Certification of Professional Achievement conferral should apply on the [SPS website](#).

Deadlines for Submitting Degree Applications

Last Term of Enrollment: Fall Semester
February Conferral—Deadline to Apply: November 1

Last Term of Enrollment: Spring Semester
May Conferral—Deadline to Apply: January 1

Last Term of Enrollment: Summer Semester
October Conferral—Deadline to Apply: September 1

Degree Completion for Master of Science or Master of Professional Studies Students

All students must apply for a degree conferral for the term in which they complete their final program requirements. Students who do not apply for degree conferral may have their degree automatically conferred by the School of Professional Studies for the term in which they complete their final program requirements. Please note: Applying for degree conferral is a separate process from applying for SPS Graduation and University Commencement ceremonies, which take place at the end of the spring term.

Students who fail to complete all degree requirements by the degree conferral date will have their degree conferred in the subsequent term, pending successful completion of all outstanding requirements. Requests for retroactive degree conferral will not be considered.

Students must apply separately to participate in ceremonial graduation exercises, such as SPS Graduation and Columbia University Commencement.

Registering for Courses after Completion of a Master of Science or Master of Professional Studies Program

Students who have completed a Master of Science or Master of Professional Studies degree in SPS and are interested in taking additional courses for credit after degree completion should apply to the Visiting Postbaccalaureate Studies program. Students wishing to pursue a structured certification or second degree must follow all application requirements for the particular program. Alumni also have the option to apply to the Auditing program to take courses for no credit.

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Certificate and Certification of Professional Achievement Completion

In order for the certification of Professional Achievement or certificate to be conferred, students must submit the appropriate application form. Please note: There are separate application forms for the certification of Professional Achievement and the certificate. The list of programs is below with the corresponding application form link.

Certificate	Certification of Professional Achievement
Advanced Classics	Bioethics (Online)
Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Biology	Critical Issues in International Relations
Psychology	Enterprise Risk Management
Quantitative Studies for Finance	Human Rights
	Narrative Medicine
	Sustainability Analytics
	Sustainable Finance
	Sustainable Water Management
	United Nations Studies
Click here for Conferral Application	Click here for Conferral Application

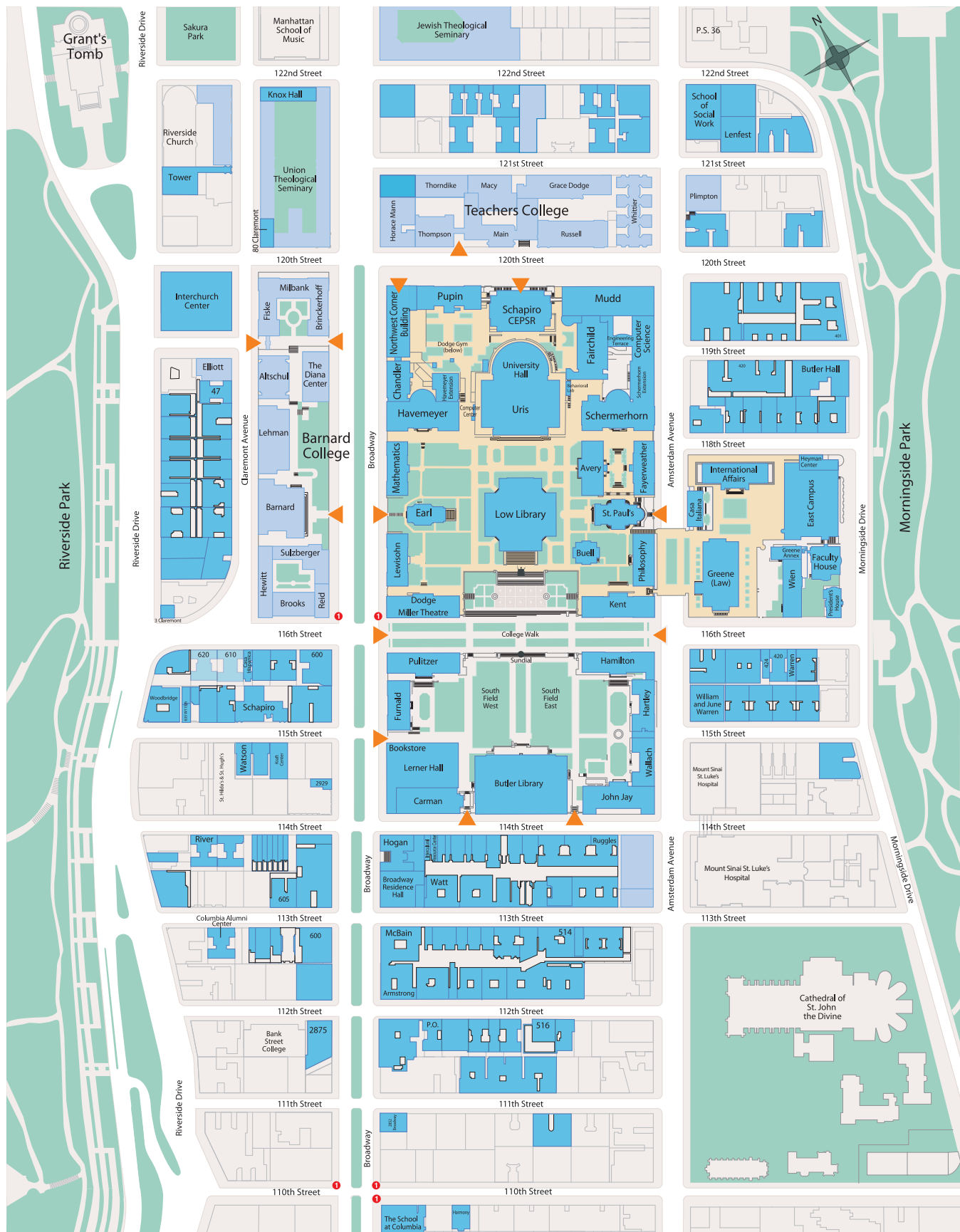
Approved applications will be printed and mailed a few weeks after the conferral date. Students should provide a mailing address that will remain valid for six months after the conferral date. If a student misses the deadline, they may still submit the application form for review in the subsequent term.

Students receiving a certificate or certification of Professional Achievement are not eligible to participate in SPS Graduation or Columbia University Commencement ceremonies.

To find the dates and forms that correspond with an application for graduation, please visit:

sps.columbia.edu/students/certification-certificate-completion

Campus Map



IV. Resources



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Important Resources

Campus Resources

Advising

To ensure that students are fulfilling degree requirements and on track toward the completion of their degree, they should regularly meet with their academic advisor. Advisors can assist with:

- Registration
- Advising students on course sequencing and program requirements
- Choosing courses based on career and curricular alignment
- Cross-registration processes
- Referring students to other offices on campus

All academic advisors can be found on the [Office of Advising website](#).

Columbia University Libraries

[Columbia University Libraries](#) is a top-tier academic research library system serving one of the world's most important centers of research and learning. The Libraries build, sustain, and make discoverable collections that transcend traditional boundaries of format and domain, keeping pace with a dynamic and rapidly evolving information environment and creating unique opportunities for users to encounter global thought. The University Libraries' resources can be accessed in person while on campus and virtually from anywhere across the globe.

Writing Center

[The Writing Center](#) provides writing support to undergraduate and graduate students. In one-on-one consultations and workshops, its consultants offer feedback and strategies to help students improve at every stage of writing, from brainstorming to final drafts.

Public Safety

Columbia University's Public Safety is committed to making the campus and its surrounding environments as safe and secure as possible. Public Safety operates 24/7 to ensure the safety of Columbia's three campuses: Morningside Heights, Manhattanville, and Columbia University Irving Medical Center. Public Safety offers

services such as a campus [Safety Escorts](#), a [Shuttle Bus Service](#), and [volunteer EMS team](#) to support the Columbia community. Learn more about our Public Safety services [here](#).

- Public Safety Morningside Heights: 212-854-2797
- Public Safety Manhattanville: 212-853-3301
- Public Safety Medical Center: 212-305-8100
- Public Safety Lamont: 845-359-2900
- Emergency Response: 911

Columbia Health

Columbia Health provides services to the Morningside campus with select services also provided on the Medical Center campus. The team consists of more than 150 medical providers, including medical providers, therapists, psychiatrists, disability specialists, health promotion specialists, nutritionists, peer counselors, support staff, and administrative professionals. Columbia Health includes, but is not limited to, the following services:

- [Alice! Health Promotion](#)
- [Disability Services](#)
- [Counseling and Psychological Services](#)
- [Immunization Compliance](#)
- [Insurance Compliance](#)
- [Medical Services](#)
- [Sexual Violence Response](#)

Alfred Lerner Hall Student Center

[Alfred Lerner Hall](#) is a hub for student life and activities at Columbia University. Lerner Hall encompasses multiple cafeterias, the office of University Events Management, the Arts Initiatives Ticket and Information Center and the University Bookstore. In addition to utilizing spaces for studying, students can get various other needs met within Lerner Hall.

Earl Hall Center

The Office of the University Chaplain, within the [Earl Hall Center](#), designs and sponsors a variety of programs on matters of justice, faith, and spirituality for small and large campus groups. The Office of the University Chaplain fosters learning and personal growth

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through spiritual, ethical, religious, political, and cultural exchange.

Dodge Physical Fitness Center

[Dodge Physical Fitness Center](#)'s Physical Education & Recreation Program meets the educational, recreational, and wellness needs and interests of the University community. Dodge offers a comprehensive recreation and wellness program, including but not limited to, intramural/club sports, group and personal fitness, diverse physical education curricula, camps, clinics, and special programming.

CUIT

[The Columbia University Information Technology](#) office works to assist students, faculty, staff, and alumni with various IT needs. Whether a student needs support using different academic systems or accessing a Columbia email account, requests can be submitted via askcuit@columbia.edu.

Off-Campus Housing Assistance

New York City's many and diverse neighborhoods, combined with an extensive public transportation system, offer a variety of housing options that are convenient to Columbia University's campus in Manhattan. The School of Professional Studies has limited housing availability for students who are enrolled full-time in a Master of Science or Master of Professional Studies program on campus. SPS does not offer family housing.

[Columbia's Off-Campus Housing Assistance](#) (OCHA) office is a good resource for students seeking alternative housing. It maintains an online database of available apartments and rooms for rent in the greater New York metropolitan area. A University Network ID (UNI) is required to log on to OCHA.

Food Pantry

[The Food Pantry at Columbia](#) is a student-run initiative that is open to all students. Any student who has any level of food insecurity can reach out to the Food Pantry to get a disbursement containing nonperishable food such as canned meat, canned vegetables, canned fruit, cold and hot cereal, and vegetarian options. Any information shared with the Food Pantry will remain confidential. You can contact them via email at thefoodpantry@columbia.edu.

University Life

[The Office of University Life](#) is the hub for University-wide student life information and initiatives. With the Office of University Life, students can:

- Learn about Columbia resources
- Join lively campus conversations on pressing issues in various forums and pop-up events
- Help shape community citizenship at Columbia through workshops, task forces, and working groups comprising students, faculty, and administrators from across the University

Arts Initiative

[The Arts Initiative](#) promotes discounts for students, faculty, and staff at some of the city's leading venues. Engage the cultural riches of New York, visit an Arts Initiative museum partner, attend a Broadway show, or take yourself to the movies.

New York City Resources

NYPD

[The New York City Police Department](#) (NYPD) is the largest and one of the oldest municipal police departments in the United States, with approximately 33,000 officers and 15,000 civilian employees. It is responsible for policing an 8.5 million-person city by performing a wide variety of public safety, law enforcement, traffic management, counterterrorism, and emergency response roles. Columbia University's Public Safety partners with the NYPD to ensure the safety of all students, staff, and faculty.

MTA and Taxi Service

New York City is famous for its methods of transportation, and many students utilize the MTA subway or bus service. These options allow students to travel to all five boroughs of NYC. Students can find out current fares and locate a subway map or bus map of NYC by visiting the [MTA site](#).

In addition to utilizing the subway and bus system, students can use taxis to get around NYC. [Yellow Medallion Taxicabs](#) charge by the duration of the ride and can be useful for travel to parts of NYC.

Uber and Lyft are also available in New York City and can be accessed by downloading the respective apps.

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Institutional Resources

SPS Division of Student Affairs 203 Lewisohn Hall	212-854-9666
CU Medical Services John Jay Hall, 4th Floor	212-854-7426
CU Disability Services 108A Wien Hall	212-854-2388
CU Counseling and Psychological Services Alfred Lerner Hall, 8th Floor	212-854-2878
CU Public Safety 111 Low Library	212-854-2797
CU Ombuds Office 660 Schermerhorn Extension	212-854-1234
CU Title IX Office 80 Claremont Ave., 4th Floor	212-854-5511
CU University Chaplain Alfred Lerner Hall 710	212-854-1474
CUIT Philosophy Hall 202	212-854-1919
CU Student Center Alfred Lerner Hall	212-854-9067

Important Emergency Numbers

NYPD	Dial 911
CU Public Safety Emergency Line	212-854-5555
On-Campus Medical Emergencies	212-854-7426
Sexual Violence Response & Rape Crisis Anti-Violence Support Center	212-854-HELP/4357
Nearest Hospital to Morningside Campus: Mount Sinai/St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital 111 Amsterdam Avenue at 113th Street	
Emergency Room:	212-523-3335
Psychiatric Emergency Room:	212-523-3347
US National Graduate Student Crisis Toll-Free, 24/7	1 877-GRAD-HLP/4723-457
National Suicide Prevention Hotline	1 800-273-8255





About the School of Professional Studies

The School of Professional Studies at Columbia University spans the educational continuum, from pre-college through graduate, and executive through lifelong learning, with innovative and industry-driven offerings at the highest levels of academic excellence.