

Academic Standards and Regulations

INFORMATION ABOUT COURSES

Course Credit

Bowdoin courses typically meet for three hours a week, with the anticipation that additional time may be spent in lab, discussion group, film viewings, or preparatory work. Most courses earn one credit each. Music and dance performance courses generally earn one-half credit each. The one exception is Advanced Individual Performance Studies in music, which earn one credit each.

Course Load

All students at Bowdoin are full-time students and, in order to make normal progress toward the degree, are expected to enroll in no fewer than four credits each semester. Students may not take more than four credits while on academic probation without approval from the Recording Committee. Seniors may be required to take one course per semester in their major department, at the department's discretion.

No extra tuition charge is levied upon students who register for more than four credits, and, by the same token, no reduction in tuition is granted to students who choose to register for fewer than four credits during any of their eight semesters at Bowdoin. A student may be granted a tuition reduction for taking fewer than three credits *only* if a ninth semester is required to complete the degree *and* he or she has previously been a full-time Bowdoin student for eight semesters. All such appeals should be made in writing to the Dean of Student Affairs and the Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration & Treasurer.

Attendance and Examinations

Students are expected to attend the first meeting of any course in which they are enrolled. Students who do not attend the first meeting may be dropped from the course at the discretion of the instructor, but only if the demand for the course exceeds the enrollment limit. Otherwise, Bowdoin has no class attendance requirements, but individual instructors may establish specific attendance expectations. At the beginning of each semester, instructors will make clear to students the attendance regulations of each course. If expectations are unclear, students should seek clarification from their instructors.

Attendance at examinations is mandatory. An absence from any examination, be it an hour examination or a final examination, may result in a grade of F. In the event of illness or other unavoidable cause of absence from examinations, instructors may require documentation of excuses from the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs after consultation with the Dudley Coe Health Center or the Counseling Office. Students bear ultimate responsibility for arranging make-up or substitute coursework. In unusual cases (family and personal emergencies, illness, etc.), examinations may be rescheduled by agreement of the course instructor and a dean.

Final examinations of the College are held at the close of each semester and must be given according to the schedule published each semester by the Office of the Registrar. No examinations may be given nor extra classes scheduled during Reading Period. All testing activity is prohibited during Reading Period including, but not limited to, take-home exams, final exams, and hour exams. All academic work, except for final examinations, final papers, final lab reports, and final projects, is due on or before the last day of classes; although instructors may set earlier deadlines, they may not set later deadlines. All final academic work,

including final examinations, final papers, final lab reports, and final projects is due at or before 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the final examination period; although instructors may set earlier deadlines, they may not set later deadlines. In all cases, students should consult their course syllabi for specific deadlines for specific courses. The deadline for submitting final, approved Honors projects for the Library is determined by the College.

Athletics and other extracurricular activities do not exempt students from the normal policies governing attendance at classes and examinations. When conflicts arise, students should immediately discuss possible alternatives with course instructors. At times, however, students may find themselves having to make serious choices about educational priorities.

A student with three **hour** examinations in one day or three **final** examinations in two days may reschedule one for a day mutually agreeable to the student and the instructor. Other changes may be made for emergencies or for educational desirability, but only with the approval of the Dean's Office.

Also, no student is required to take an examination or fulfill other scheduled course requirements on recognized major religious holidays and Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The College encourages instructors to avoid scheduling examinations on the following holidays:

2008:	
Rosh Hashanah*	September 29–October 1
Yom Kippur*	October 8–9
2009:	
Martin Luther King Jr. Day	January 19
First Day of Passover*	April 8
Good Friday	April 10
Easter	April 12

Course Registration and Course Changes

Registration for each semester is completed by submitting the Course Registration Card. Since most courses have maximum and minimum enrollment limits, as well as course prerequisites or enrollment priorities, students cannot be certain they will be enrolled in their top-choice courses. Consequently, the registration card should list four full-credit courses and up to two alternate courses for each. The card must be signed by the pre-major academic advisor (first-year students and sophomores) or the major department advisor(s) (juniors and seniors), and must be presented to the Office of the Registrar by 5:00 P.M. on the day specified in the registration instructions. Students receive initial notification of their courses within a few days, and Phase II Registration then gives students the opportunity to adjust their schedules. Students who are studying away are strongly encouraged to register at the same time that students are registering on campus; the Office of the Registrar Web site provides the necessary schedules and forms so that registration may be done electronically. All registration information may be found on the Web site at www.bowdoin.edu/registrar.

Registration for continuing students occurs at the end of the prior semester, generally about four weeks before final examinations. Registration for new students occurs during orientation. Enrollment in courses is complete only when students submit the Enrollment Form, which must be submitted by the end of the first week of classes. This form verifies that a student is on campus and attending classes. A student who does not submit the Enrollment Form may be removed from all classes and barred from using many of the services of the College, including, but not limited to, dining services, library services, and fitness services. Enrollment

*Holidays begin at sundown on the earlier date shown.

Forms returned late are subject to a \$20 fine. In addition, any student who registers initially for courses after the first week of classes must pay a \$20 late fee.

Once classes begin, students may adjust their course schedules by submitting an add/drop card to the Office of the Registrar. Students have two weeks to make the necessary adjustments to their schedules. An instructor will allow a student to add a course if the following three conditions have been met: (1) the student has the necessary qualifications, including but not limited to the course prerequisites; (2) the approved maximum class size limit has not been reached; and (3) the student and instructor have agreed on how missed class material and assignments will be managed. No course may be added or dropped after the second week of classes. Students in their first semester at Bowdoin, however, have an extended drop period of six weeks; this longer period for new students recognizes the fact that new students sometimes undergo a period of adjustment to college-level work. Anyone who wants to add or drop a course after the two-week deadline must petition the Recording Committee, except for first-semester students who may drop through the sixth week with the permission of their dean and advisor. Generally petitions are only approved if the student can show extreme personal or medical reasons for the lateness of the change. Any course dropped after the deadline will appear on the transcript with a grade of W (for withdrew). Late adds will require that the student has been attending the course from the very beginning of the semester. Documentation may be required. Course changes made after the deadline will require payment of a \$20 late fee per change, unless the change is made for reasons outside the control of the student.

A student will not receive a grade for a course unless he or she has completed and submitted the forms to register for or add the course. Also, a student will receive a failing grade for a course he or she stops attending unless a drop form has been completed and submitted before the deadline. Students are expected to monitor their records on Bearings, the College's student information system; this includes monitoring the courses for which they are registered. The student bears ultimate responsibility for completing and submitting forms that provide the College with an accurate record of the student's course schedule.

Independent Study

With approval of a project director, a student may elect a course of independent study for which regular course credit will be given. A department will ordinarily approve one or two semesters of independent study. Where more than one semester's credit is sought for a project, the project will be subject to review by the department at the end of the first semester. In special cases, the Recording Committee, upon recommendation of the department, may extend credit for additional semester courses beyond two.

There are normally two kinds of independent study and each should be registered for under the appropriate course number. A directed reading course designed to allow a student to explore a subject not currently offered within the curriculum shall be numbered **291, 292, 293, or 294**. An independent study that will culminate in substantial and original research; or in a fine arts, music, or creative writing project; or that is part of a departmental honors program shall be numbered **401** or higher. Independent study may not be taken on a Credit/D/Fail basis.

In independent study and honors courses that will continue beyond one semester, instructors have the option of submitting at the end of each semester, except the last, a grade of S (for Satisfactory) in place of a regular grade. Regular grades shall be submitted at the end of the final semester and shall become the grades for the individual semesters of the course.

Course Grades

Course grades are defined as follows: A, the student has mastered the material of the course and has demonstrated exceptional critical skills and originality; B, the student has demonstrated a thorough and above average understanding of the material of the course; C, the student has demonstrated a thorough and satisfactory understanding of the material of the course; D, the student has demonstrated a marginally satisfactory understanding of the basic material of the course (only a limited number of D grades may be counted toward the requirements for graduation); F, the student has not demonstrated a satisfactory understanding of the basic material of the course. Plus (+) or minus (-) modifiers may be added to B and C grades; only the minus (-) modifier may be added to the A grade.

Faculty report grades to the Office of the Registrar at the close of the semester. Grade reports are available to students on Bearings shortly after the grade submission deadline.

Once reported, no grade is changed (with the exception of clerical errors) without the approval of the Recording Committee. Grades cannot be changed on the basis of additional student work without prior approval of the Recording Committee. If students are dissatisfied with a grade received in a course, they should discuss the problem with the instructor. If the problem cannot be resolved in this manner, the student should consult with the chair of the department and, if necessary, with a dean, who will consult with the department as needed. The student may request a final review of the grade by the Recording Committee.

Most departments will not accept as prerequisites, or as satisfying the requirements of the major, courses for which a grade of D has been given. Questions should be referred directly to the department chair. Students who receive a grade of D or F in a course may retake the course. Both courses and both grades will appear on the transcript, but only one course credit will be given for successful completion of a given course.

Credit/D/Fail Option

A student may choose to take a limited number of courses on a Credit/D/Fail basis as opposed to a graded basis. Courses to be taken on a Credit/D/Fail basis should be so indicated on the Registration Card or Add/Drop Card. If a student chooses this option, credit is given if the student produces work at a level of C- or above, a grade of D is given if the student produces work at a D level, and a grade of F is given otherwise.

Each semester, a student may elect no more than one course of the normal four-credit course load on a Credit/D/Fail basis, although a student may elect a fifth course any semester on a Credit/D/Fail basis. No more than four of the thirty-two courses required for graduation may be taken on a Credit/D/Fail basis; courses in excess of the thirty-two required may be taken for Credit/D/Fail without limit as to number. Courses that can only be taken Credit/D/Fail (music ensemble and dance and theater performance courses) are not counted within these restrictions.

Most departments require that all courses taken to satisfy requirements of the major be graded. Courses taken to satisfy the College's requirement for a first-year seminar must be graded, and courses satisfying distribution and division requirements must also be taken on a graded basis. No course may be changed from graded to Credit/D/Fail or vice versa after the sixth week of classes.

Incompletes

The College expects students to complete all course requirements as established by instructors. In unavoidable circumstances (personal illness, family emergency, etc.) and with approval of the dean of student affairs and the instructor, a grade of Incomplete may be recorded.

An Incomplete represents a formal agreement among the instructor, a dean, and the student for the submission of unfinished coursework under prescribed conditions. Students must initiate their request for an Incomplete on or before the final day of classes by contacting a dean. If approved, the Incomplete Agreement Form is signed by all necessary individuals, and a date is set by which time all unfinished work must be submitted. In all cases, students are expected to finish outstanding coursework in a period of time roughly equivalent to the period of distraction from their academic commitments. In no case will this period of time extend beyond the end of the second week of classes of the following semester. The instructor should submit a final grade within two weeks of this date. If the agreed-upon work is not completed within the specified time limit, the Office of the Registrar will change the Incomplete to Fail or ask the instructor to give a grade based on work already completed. Extensions must be approved by the dean of student affairs. Any exceptions to these rules may require approval of the Recording Committee.

Comment, Failure, and Distinction Cards

Faculty may communicate the progress of students in their classes periodically through Comment Cards. The written observations alert students, academic advisors, and the deans to potential problems confronting students. They can also be used by faculty to highlight improvement or successes. Students should view comment cards as academic progress reports providing warnings or highlighting achievements. When comment cards are used for warning purposes, the student should immediately seek out his or her instructor to discuss strategies for improvement. Academic advisors and deans can also be very helpful in developing strategies for improvement and identifying existing support services and resources, but it is the student's responsibility to seek out each of these people. Not all course instructors utilize Comment Cards so students should not rely on this form of communication as their only source of feedback regarding their progress or standing in a course.

At the end of each semester, instructors issue Failure Cards to students who fail courses. These notations provide precise reasons for a student's failing grades. Students and academic advisors generally find these comments instructive as they plan future coursework. In some cases, when a student has performed exceptionally well or has accomplished something that is particularly noteworthy, an instructor may issue a Distinction Card at the end of the semester.

Transcripts

The Office of the Registrar will furnish official transcript copies upon written request. There is no charge for transcripts unless materials are requested to be sent by an overnight delivery service.

Statement of Student Responsibility

The College Catalogue is made available each year to every Bowdoin student. Also, students have access to their academic records on Bearings, the College's student information system. In all cases, the student bears ultimate responsibility for reading and following the academic policies and regulations of the College and for notifying the Office of the Registrar of any problems in his or her records.

THE AWARD OF HONORS

General Honors

General honors (or Latin honors) are awarded with the degree on the basis of an average of all grades earned at Bowdoin, with a minimum of sixteen credits required for the computation. To compute the average, an A is assigned four points; a B, three points; a C, two points; a D, one point; and an F, zero points. Plus (+) or minus (–) modifiers add or subtract three-tenths of a point (0.3). Half-credit courses are weighted as one-half course. Credit grades are omitted from the computation, but a D or F grade received in a course taken on a Credit/D/Fail basis does count. In the case of a course taken at Bowdoin one or more times, only the first grade will be included. The resulting grade point average (GPA) is not rounded. A degree *summa cum laude* is awarded to students whose GPAs are in the top two percent (2%) of the graduating class; a degree *magna cum laude* is awarded to students whose GPAs are in the rest of the top eight percent (8%) of the graduating class; and a degree *cum laude* is awarded to students whose GPAs are in the rest of the top twenty percent (20%) of the graduating class.

Departmental Honors: The Honors Project

The degree with a level of honors in a major subject is awarded to students who have distinguished themselves in coursework in the subject and in an honors project. The award is made by the faculty upon recommendation of the department or program.

The honors project offers seniors the opportunity to engage in original work under the supervision of a faculty member in their major department or program. It allows qualified seniors to build a bridge from their coursework to advanced scholarship in their field of study through original, substantial, and sustained independent research. The honors project can be the culmination of a student's academic experience at Bowdoin and offers an unparalleled chance for intellectual and personal development.

Students who have attained a specified level of academic achievement in their field of study by their senior year are encouraged to petition their department or program to pursue an honors project carried out under the supervision of a faculty advisor. The honors project usually takes place over the course of two semesters; some departments allow single-semester honors projects. The honors project results in a written thesis and/or oral defense, artistic performance, or showing, depending on the student's field of study. Students receive a grade for each semester's work on the honors project and may be awarded a level of honors in their department or program, as distinct from general honors.

The honors project process differs across departments and programs in terms of qualification criteria, requirements for completion, the level of honors awarded, and the use of honors project credits to fulfill major course requirements. In general, each semester's work on an honors project will be considered an independent study numbered **401** or higher until the honors project is completed. Students must complete an honors project to be eligible for departmental or program honors. If students do not fulfill the requirements for completion of the honors project but carry out satisfactory work for an independent study, they will receive independent study credit for one or two semesters.

All written work in independent study accepted as fulfilling the requirements for departmental honors is to be deposited in the College Library in a form specified by the Library Committee.

Sarah and James Bowdoin Scholars (Dean's List)

The Sarah and James Bowdoin scholarships, carrying no stipend, are awarded in the fall on the basis of work completed the previous academic year. The award is given to the twenty percent of all eligible students with the highest grade point average (GPA). Eligible students are those who completed the equivalent of eight full-credit Bowdoin courses during the academic year, six credits of which were graded and seven credits of which were graded or non-elective Credit/D/Fail. In other words, among the eight required full-credit courses or the equivalent, a maximum of two credits may be taken Credit/D/Fail, but only one credit may be for a course(s) the student chose to take Credit/D/Fail. Grades for courses taken in excess of eight credits are included in the GPA. For further information on the College's method for computing GPA, consult the section on General Honors on page 34, above.

A book, bearing a replica of the early College bookplate serving to distinguish the James Bowdoin Collection in the library, is presented to every Sarah and James Bowdoin scholar who has earned a GPA of 4.00.

Students who receive College honors have their names sent to their hometown newspaper by the Office of Communications. Students not wishing to have their names published should notify the office directly.

DEFICIENCY IN SCHOLARSHIP

Students are expected to make normal progress toward the degree, defined as passing the equivalent of four full-credit courses each semester. Students not making normal progress may be asked to make up deficient credits in approved courses at another accredited institution of higher education. In addition, students are expected to meet the College's standards of academic performance. The Recording Committee meets twice each year to review the academic records of students who are not meeting these standards. Students are placed on probation or suspension according to the criteria below; students on probation or suspension are not considered to be in good academic standing. In cases of repeated poor performance, a student may be dismissed from the College. In cases when a student's academic standing changes, copies of correspondences with the student that outline the student's academic standing are sent to the student's parents or guardian.

Academic Probation

Students are placed on academic probation for one semester if they:

1. Receive one F or two Ds in any semester;
2. Receive one D while on academic probation;
3. Receive during their tenure at Bowdoin a cumulative total of four Ds or some equivalent combination of Fs and Ds where one F is equivalent to two Ds.

Also, students are placed on academic probation for one semester upon returning from academic suspension. Students on academic probation will be assigned to work closely with their academic advisor and a person from the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs. Students are required to enroll in four graded full-credit courses while on academic probation. Students on academic probation normally are not eligible to study away.

Academic Suspension

Students are placed on academic suspension if they:

1. Receive two Fs, one F and two Ds, or four Ds in any semester;
2. Receive one F or two Ds while on academic probation;
3. Receive during their tenure at Bowdoin a cumulative total of six Ds or some equivalent combination of Fs and Ds where one F is equivalent to two Ds.

A student on suspension for academic deficiency normally is suspended for one year and may be asked to complete coursework at another accredited four-year institution before being readmitted. Students are expected to earn grades of C- or better in these courses. Other conditions for readmission are set by the Recording Committee and stated in writing at the time of suspension. A suspended student must submit a letter requesting readmission. The Readmission Committee meets to consider these requests twice each year, once in late July and once in mid-December. A student who is readmitted is eligible for financial aid, according to demonstrated need, as long as the student adheres to the relevant financial aid deadlines. Once the student is readmitted, the Office of the Registrar will send course information to the student's permanent address unless an alternative address has been provided. The student will be unable to participate in course registration until the first day of classes of the semester in which he or she returns. Students are ineligible for housing until after they have been readmitted and there is no guarantee that College housing will be available at that time. While suspended, students are not permitted to visit campus without the written permission of the dean of student affairs. Generally, permission to visit campus is only granted for educational or health treatment purposes. Students are unable to participate in Bowdoin College athletic programs until they have been readmitted. Students are permitted to submit an application for Off-Campus Study (normal deadlines apply); however, they are not eligible to apply for RA, proctor, or house resident positions until readmitted.

Dismissal

Students will be subject to dismissal if they:

1. Incur a second academic suspension; or
2. Receive during their tenure at Bowdoin a cumulative total of nine Ds or some equivalent combination of Fs and Ds where one F is equivalent to two Ds.

OTHER ACADEMIC REGULATIONS**Leave of Absence**

Students may, with the approval of a dean and in consultation with their academic advisor, interrupt their Bowdoin education and take a leave of absence to pursue nonacademic interests for one or two semesters. The conditions governing a leave of absence are as follows:

1. Students must be in good academic and social standing at the end of the semester immediately prior to the start of the leave.
2. Leaves typically begin at the start of a regular semester and may not extend beyond two terms. Exceptions may be granted by the dean of student affairs.
3. Leave extensions, terminations, or cancellations must have the approval of a dean.
4. Students on leave are not considered enrolled at Bowdoin and are expected to leave the College community. Exceptions may be granted by the dean of student affairs.
5. Students on leave may not transfer academic credit to Bowdoin for coursework taken while on leave.

Students on leave of absence will be able to participate in course registration for the semester in which they are expected to return. Materials will be sent to their permanent address unless an alternative address has been provided. Students will be able to participate in the selection of housing via a proxy process and are free to visit campus without the dean's permission. While on leave, students are unable to compete in Bowdoin College athletic programs until after the last day of exams prior to the semester that they are scheduled to return. Students are permitted to submit applications for Off-Campus Study and for RA, proctor, or house resident positions, and normal deadlines apply. Students are expected to return at the conclusion of their leave. Readmission is unnecessary, and individuals retain financial aid eligibility if they adhere to College deadlines.

To initiate a request for a leave of absence, students must complete a Leave of Absence Request Form. These are available in the Dean of Student Affairs Office and online at www.bowdoin.edu/studentaffairs/. Approvals for a leave and the conditions associated with the leave will be provided in writing to the student by the dean.

Medical Leaves

In unusual circumstances, the Dean of Student Affairs or his or her designee may, upon careful consideration of the welfare of the individual student and the college community, place a student on leave of absence from the College. This policy outlines the circumstances of such leaves as well as various procedures and conditions, including readmission criteria and processes and implications for the student in terms of academic, financial, insurance, and housing matters.

Voluntary Medical Leave: A student is encouraged to request a voluntary medical leave in the event that he or she believes that physical and/or mental health concerns are significantly interfering with the ability to succeed at Bowdoin and/or that the demands of college life are interfering with recovery or safety. A student who, in consultation with either the director of the Health Center or director of the Counseling Service, determines that he or she needs to request a voluntary medical leave should contact his/her dean to discuss the terms of the leave as decided by the College.

Involuntary Medical Leave: In unusual circumstances, the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs or his or her designee, in consultation with Health Center and/or Counseling professionals, may determine that a student needs to be placed on involuntary medical leave. The determination will be based upon an individualized and objective assessment of the student's ability to safely participate in the College's programs and will examine whether the student presents a direct threat of substantial harm to that student or other members of the college community. The assessment will determine the nature, duration, and severity of the risk; the probability that the potentially threatening injury will actually occur; and whether reasonable modifications of policies, practices, or procedures will sufficiently mitigate the risk.

Parental Notification: The College reserves the right to notify a parent or guardian of their student's status if circumstances warrant and if it is believed to be in the best interest of the student and the College community without limitations to state and federal privacy laws.

Appeal Procedure for Involuntary Medical Leave: If a student believes that a decision for an Involuntary Medical Leave made by the College is unreasonable or that the procedures and/or information relied upon in making the decision were wrong or unfair, the student may appeal the decision. The appeal must be made in writing to the Dean of Student Affairs. Appeals should clearly state the specific unreasonable, wrong, and/or unfair facts and should present relevant information to support the statements. Once notified of the Involuntary Medical Leave, the student has five (5) business days to submit his or her appeal. The student

may not remain on campus during the appeal period. If no timely appeal is submitted, the decision as to the Involuntary Medical Leave is final. The dean or his or her designee will respond in writing to the student's written appeal within five (5) business days. The response will provide a conclusion as to whether or not the Involuntary Medical Leave is appropriate upon a thorough review of the relevant facts and information. The dean may request an assessment by an outside medical provider at the student's expense.

Readmission Criteria and Procedures: A student who has been placed on Medical Leave, whether voluntary or involuntary, must complete the following readmission procedures before the student is allowed to return to Bowdoin College:

The student must send a letter to the Readmission Committee, to the attention of the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs, requesting formal readmission to the College. The student must send to the Readmission Committee a report from the student's physician and/or mental health provider; the report will include discussion of the student's current health status, course of treatment undergone during the leave, as well as any specific recommendations for the student and the College with respect to the student's successful return to Bowdoin. The report will address the following: (a) the student's readiness to return to the academic and co-curricular demands of college life; (b) the student's readiness to live on campus; (c) the student's ongoing treatment needs; (d) the student's readiness to return to competitive sports, if the student is a collegiate athlete; and (e) any other suggestions that the healthcare provider deems appropriate.

The student's physician and/or mental health provider must be a licensed physician if the evaluation is regarding medical concerns and must be a licensed mental health provider if evaluating mental health concerns. Further, all providers must be unrelated to the student and must have specialty/credentials appropriate for the condition(s) of concern. The student is responsible for any cost associated with the physician or mental health provider's evaluation.

The Readmission Committee will review the information provided by the student and evaluate the appropriateness of the student's return. The Committee may request further information from the student's medical or mental health providers. In order to provide for such requests, the student will be asked to sign and return a release form so that those individuals at the College who are involved in evaluating the student's return can have access to the student's outside healthcare providers and have the ability to openly discuss relevant aspects of the student's condition. In addition, the director of the Health Center and/or the director of the Counseling Service may also choose to meet with the student as part of the evaluation.

Once the Readmission Committee has reached a decision, the student will be notified by his or her dean. The decision of the committee is final.

In the event that the student is permitted to return to Bowdoin, the student will speak with his or her dean before returning in order to discuss the terms of the student's readmission including, if appropriate, a discussion of a continuing treatment plan for the student. If such a plan is established, and if the student does not follow the established plan, the College will have the right to revoke its decision to readmit the student and will have the right to require the student to resume his or her Medical Leave immediately.

Additional Considerations: Academic Implications

Enrollment Status: While on Medical Leave, the student is not an enrolled student at Bowdoin College. The Medical Leave status will continue until the student is prepared to return to the College and is readmitted by the Readmission Committee.

Taking Courses at Other Institutions: The College discourages students on Medical Leave from transferring course credit to Bowdoin. The Dean's Office may allow a limited course load (one or two courses pre-approved by the College) with the support, in writing, of the

student's healthcare provider. All requests for such course approval must be made in writing to the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs. Requests for transferring course credit for more than two courses are seldom granted and require prior approval of the Recording Committee.

Off-Campus Study Applications: Students on Medical Leave are permitted to submit applications for Off-Campus Study, but must comply with the deadlines for those programs. Questions should be directed to the Office of Off-Campus Study.

Course Registration: Once the student on Medical Leave has been readmitted to the College, he or she will be able to participate in course registration, and can do so until the Friday before classes resume. After that time, the student must wait until after the add/drop period to register. It is strongly advised that the student consult with his or her course instructors, advisor, and dean when choosing courses following Medical Leave.

Educational Record Reflection: The student's transcript will not reflect his or her Medical Leave. In the event a Medical Leave occurs after the start of the semester, the courses will be listed and a grade of "W" (withdrew) will appear. A copy of the student's Medical Leave approval letter will be placed in the student's file in the Dean of Student Affairs Office. The handling of the student's educational record is governed by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). For more information about FERPA and a student's rights under the law, consult the *Student Handbook* online.

Financial Implications

Financial Aid Eligibility: Students on Medical Leave retain financial aid eligibility as long as all College deadlines are met prior to readmission. Questions should be directed to the Office of Student Aid.

Tuition and Fee Refunds: Tuition and fee refunds for Medical Leaves taken during the course of a semester are made in accordance with the College's Refunds Policy. For more information, consult the Refunds section on page 20.

Tuition Insurance: Tuition insurance is available, but it must be purchased prior to the start of the semester. Questions should be directed to the College Bursar.

Insurance Implications

Student Health Insurance: If the student is currently enrolled in the Bowdoin Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Plan, his or her coverage will continue as specified by the policy. If the student waived Bowdoin's plan, he or she should consult his or her comparable plan for any exclusions or limitations. Questions should be directed to the Student Health Insurance Coordinator.

Housing Implications

On a case-by-case basis, the College, in consultation with the student's healthcare providers, may determine that the returning student should not live on campus but is capable of attending classes. In addition, College housing may not be available to the student upon his or her return, due to space limitations. Once the student has been readmitted, he or she can discuss availability and options with the Office of Residential Life. In the event that College housing is not available, the student may choose to live in housing in the local area. The Office of Residential Life maintains information on local area rental listings. Questions should be directed to the Office of Residential Life.

Presence on Campus: While a student is on Medical Leave, whether voluntary or involuntary, he or she will not be permitted to visit campus without prior written permission of the Dean of Student Affairs. Permission will be granted for certain pre-approved educational or health treatment purposes only.

Transfer of Credit from Other Institutions

The Bowdoin degree certifies that a student has completed a course of study that meets standards established by the faculty. It is normally expected that all of a student's coursework after matriculation will be completed either at Bowdoin or in an approved semester- or year-long off-campus study program. (More information about such programs can be found in the section on Off-Campus Study beginning on page 47.)

Apart from taking courses at Bowdoin or in approved off-campus study programs, the College recognizes that there may be rare occasions when it would serve a student's educational interests to take courses elsewhere for credit toward the Bowdoin degree. In such cases, the work done elsewhere should represent a standard of achievement comparable to what is expected at Bowdoin in a field of study characteristic of the liberal arts. The College does not grant credit for professional or vocational study at other institutions.

A student may transfer a cumulative total of no more than four credits from study in summer school programs. The College does not regularly grant credit for work completed through two-year institutions, correspondence, or Internet programs, or abbreviated winter terms ("Jan Plans"). Credit is not granted for courses taken elsewhere during the academic year except in special circumstances and with the prior approval of the Recording Committee.

Students must apply to the Office of the Registrar for permission to transfer credit in advance of enrollment at another institution. The Application for Transfer of Credit requires the approval of the advisor and the appropriate Bowdoin department chair as well as the Catalogue description and syllabus of each course for which credit is desired. In certain cases, students may be given conditional approval and be required to submit supporting documents, including the course syllabus and all papers and exams, after the course has been completed. The advisor, department chair, or Recording Committee may decline to grant credit if the course or the student's work in the course does not satisfy Bowdoin academic standards. Credit is not awarded for courses in which the student has earned a grade below C- or for courses taken on an ungraded basis.

No credit will be awarded until an official transcript showing the number of credits or credit-hours and the grade(s) earned has been received from the other institution. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the transcript is sent directly to the Office of the Registrar, and the transcript must arrive in a sealed envelope. The transcript must be received and permission to transfer credit secured within one year following the term in which the course was taken. Credit may not be transferred if a longer time period has elapsed.

Transcripts of credit earned at other institutions that have been presented to Bowdoin College for admission or transfer of credit become part of the student's permanent record, but are not issued, reissued, or copied for distribution. Course titles and grades for courses that were transferred from other institutions are not recorded on the Bowdoin transcript; credit only is listed.

Students should be aware that credits earned elsewhere may not transfer on a one-to-one basis; some courses may be accorded less (or more) than a full Bowdoin credit. Students are advised to consult with the Office of the Registrar in advance to learn the basis on which transfer credit will be determined. For comparison purposes, students should know that one Bowdoin course is generally understood to be equal to four semester-hours or six quarter-hours.

Graduation

Students must complete and submit to the Office of the Registrar the Notice of Intent to Graduate by November 1 of the academic year in which they will graduate. Submission of this form begins the final degree audit process and ensures that students receive all notices related to Commencement. Students will generally receive written notice by May 1 that they have been given preliminary clearance to graduate. Final clearance is determined after final grades for the spring semester have been received and all academic work has been completed.

Students may take part in only one Commencement, and they are normally expected to complete all degree requirements before they participate in graduation exercises. Students with two or fewer credits remaining and who can expect to complete all requirements by the end of the following August may be allowed to participate in Commencement but will not receive a diploma. In such cases, the degree will actually be conferred at the May Commencement following the completion of all requirements, and the diploma will be mailed to the student at that time. Speakers at Commencement and other students playing visible leadership roles in the ceremony must have completed all requirements for graduation.

Resignation

Students may resign from Bowdoin at any time. Resignation permanently terminates the student's official relationship with the College. If a student were to decide at some future date to wish to return to Bowdoin, the student would need to reapply to the College through the regular admissions process as a transfer student. Applicants for readmission are reviewed on a case-by-case basis and should contact the transfer coordinator in the Admissions Office for further information. Given the permanency of resignation, students are encouraged to discuss their plans thoroughly with advisors, parents, and a dean.

A decision to resign should be submitted in writing using the Notification of Resignation Form, available in the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs.

Students should consult the Expenses section of this Catalogue for information about tuition and room and board refunds.

The Recording Committee and Student Petitions

The Recording Committee is a standing committee of the College whose purpose is to address matters pertaining to the academic standing of individual students and to consider exceptions to the policies and procedures governing academic life. The committee meets regularly to consider individual student petitions and meets at the end of each semester to review the records of students who are subject to probation, suspension, or dismissal. Decisions of the committee are final.

Students who are seeking exceptions to the academic regulations or curricular requirements must petition the Recording Committee. Petition forms may be obtained from the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs. All petitions require the signature of a dean, and, depending on the nature of the request, some may require supporting documentation from a faculty member, doctor, or counselor. Students are notified of the outcome of their petitions by the secretary of the Recording Committee.

The Readmission Committee

The Readmission Committee is chaired by the Senior Associate Dean of Student Affairs and comprises the Senior, Associate, and Assistant Deans of Student Affairs; Director of Student Aid; Director of Residential Life; Director of the Counseling Service; Director of the Health Center; Director of the Baldwin Program for Academic Development; and a representative from the Office of Admissions. The Committee meets twice a year, in June and December, to consider the petitions of students who are seeking to return from Academic Suspension,

Disciplinary Leave, and/or Medical Leave. Letters requesting readmission and supporting materials should be directed to the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs. Students on Academic Suspension, Disciplinary Leave, and/or Medical Leave are not normally eligible to register for classes or make housing arrangements until they have been readmitted. Students seeking readmission are notified of the outcome of their petitions by the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs.