Policy on Student Status and Benefits During Research Years or Leave of Absence

—This policy applies to Legacy Curriculum students.—

**MD/PhD**

Student status is maintained while in the research phase of the MD/PhD programs. During research years, students are registered in either the graduate school or under the program granting the master’s degree. Both student health and disability coverage are provided by the Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences.

**Master's/MD**

Student status is maintained while in the research phase of the MSCI and MPHS programs. Both student health and disability coverage are provided.

**Five-Year MD Program**

**Research Year at WUSM**

Student status is maintained throughout the approved research year. In exceptional circumstances, a second research year may be permitted. The student may receive a stipend, but may not be considered an employee of the university. Students are registered in the School of Medicine. Both disability and student health coverage are required and are payable by the student. Outside funding often covers such fees.

**Approved Research Year Away**

Student status is maintained throughout the approved research year. Students are registered in the School of Medicine. Both disability and student health coverage are optional with proof of like coverage. The cost of either elected coverage is payable by the student. Outside funding often allows these costs.

**Leave of Absence**

**Leave of Absence Year at WUSM**

Student status is not maintained during the leave of absence though benefits of student health coverage and disability insurance are optional throughout an approved leave. Costs are payable by the student. MD/PhD students may request support for these costs from the Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences if funds are available. The Office of Financial Aid should be consulted for information regarding loan repayment and grace periods when on a leave of absence.

**Leave of Absence Year Away**

Student status is not maintained during the leave of absence away from Washington University School of Medicine. Both disability and student health coverage are optional with proof of like coverage. The cost of either elected coverage is payable by the student.