

ARTICLE __
LEAVES

Section 1. Sick Leave. GWs shall have a right to take sick days as needed with no loss of compensation. GWs are permitted to use sick time for any of the following reasons:

1. Caring for their own physical or mental illness, injury or medical condition or for medical procedures, including abortions;
2. Caring for a physical or mental illness, injury, or medical condition of their child, spouse or partner, immediate or chosen family member;
3. Attending their own routine medical appointment;
4. Attending a routine medical appointment for their child, spouse or partner, immediate or chosen family member, and members of the household regularly sharing the employee's residence;
5. Addressing the psychological, physical, or legal effects of domestic violence; or
6. Travel necessitated by any of the above.

A GW who is using a sick day must inform their supervisor as soon as is reasonably possible.

In no case shall the sick time provided be less than would be provided to an individual covered by the Massachusetts Sick Time Law.

Section 2. Family and Medical Leave of Absence. All GWs have a right to take paid family and medical leave for the following reasons:

1. Up to 12 weeks of paid family leave in a benefit year for the birth, adoption, or foster care placement of a child, or because of a qualifying exigency arising out of the fact that a family member is on active duty or has been notified of an impending call to active duty in the Armed Forces;
2. Up to 20 weeks of paid medical leave in a benefit year due to their own serious health condition that incapacitates them from work
3. Up to 26 weeks of paid family leave in a benefit year to care for a family member who is a covered service member undergoing medical treatment or otherwise addressing consequences of a serious health condition relating to the family member's military service.
4. 12 weeks of paid family leave in a benefit year to care for a family member with a serious health condition.

GWs are expected to notify their supervisor and Dean of Graduate Studies at least 30 days in advance whenever possible of the anticipated birth or adoption of a child, so that appropriate arrangements can be made to cover any teaching or research responsibilities. A GW shall not be precluded from being appointed to a position comparable to the position they held before their leave solely because the GW took a leave under this section.

Section 3. Bereavement leave. All GWs may be absent without loss of pay or benefits for up to seven (7) days when called for by a death in the immediate family or household.

In circumstances of logistical difficulty or severe emotional distress or religious observance, a longer paid absence may be appropriate. Such requests will not be unreasonably denied.

The Union reserves the right to add, delete, or modify any of these proposals at any time.

For the purpose of this leave, immediate family includes: the GW's spouse or partner, children (including stepchildren), grandchildren, children-in-law, parents (including step-parents), grandparents, parents in-law, siblings, (including step siblings) and siblings-in law, chosen family members, and household includes individuals regularly sharing the GW's residence.

Section 4. Civic Duty Leave. All GWs shall retain all compensation and benefits during jury duty, serving as a witness in a court case, similar civic obligations, or other court appearances.

Section 5. Military Leave. The University shall comply with any applicable state and federal laws governing military service and leaves. A GW may use this leave in addition to other leaves provided for under this Article.

Section 6. Immigration Leave. GWs shall have a right to ten (10) paid days of leave per year in order to attend immigration, citizenship, and/or documentation proceedings and any other related matters for the GW and the GW's family. A GW may request additional paid days off from their supervisor(s) and requests shall not be unreasonably denied.

Section 7. Gender-Affirmation Leave. GWs who wish to transition and/or affirm their gender identity shall be guaranteed the right to a leave of absence without loss of pay or benefits and shall not be unreasonably denied. WPI acknowledges that transitioning is a non-linear and personal process and shall provide appropriate time off for transition related activities including but not limited to doctor appointments, court visits & documentation changing procedures, and medical procedures including no less than eight weeks of time off for gender-affirming surgery and recovery.

Section 8. Maintaining continuation of student benefits during leaves under this Article is conditioned on maintaining active student status with the University. GWs shall retain any and all other rights under state and federal law regarding leaves of absence.

Section 9. GWs shall make reasonable effort to provide as much advance notice as possible before taking any leave under this Article.