


MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

April 16, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Committee on Academic Affairs

From: Samuel L. Stanley, Jr., M.D. 
President

Subject: Amendment to Student Rights and Responsibilities

RECOMMENDATION

The Trustee Committee on Academic Affairs recommends that the Board of Trustees approve an amendment to the Student Rights and Responsibilities document to update the definition of “student.”

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Michigan State University hereby approves an amendment to the Student Rights and Responsibilities document to update the definition of “student,” as reflected in Attachment A.

BACKGROUND

The Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR) document provides the framework for student rights and responsibilities at Michigan State University, including student conduct, academic pursuits, keeping of records, and publications. The application of the SRR is dependent upon an individual being classified as a “student.” The current definition of “student” in Article 11 of the SRR provides that: “[a]n individual is considered a student from the Semester Start Date of the first term for which the individual has enrolled until graduation, recess, dismissal, or withdrawal from the University or he/she fails to register for more than one consecutive semester.” This definition of “student” lacks clarity regarding when an individual’s status as a student begins and ends. Specifically, as currently defined, an individual is not classified as a student for purposes of the SRR during the summer prior to the start of their first semester at the university or once they leave the university, which limits the scope of the SRR. The newly proposed definition of “student” addresses this concern and aligns with best practices from peer institutions. Pursuant to Article 12 of the SRR, these changes have been approved by ASMSU, COGS, the University Committee on Student Affairs, and the University Council.

cc: Board of Trustees, T. Woodruff, N. Beauchamp, N. Barr, B. Quinn, M. Zeig, V. Gore, M. Largent



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**Amendment to the Student Rights and Responsibilities Document
re: Definition of “Student”**

Article 11: Definitions and Acronyms

Student: ~~An individual is considered a student from the Semester Start Date of the first term for which the individual has enrolled until graduation, recess, dismissal, or withdrawal from the University or he/she fails to register¹ for more than one consecutive semester.~~ A student is a person enrolled or participating in a collegiate-level, University-sponsored program or course, regardless of program level; full-time or part-time status; credit, degree, or certificate awarded; location; or mode of instruction. A person remains a student until graduation or completion of the program, permanent dismissal, or non-attendance for three full, consecutive semesters (including summer semester). This definition includes a person who is on a leave of absence, withdraws, is on recess, or graduates after an alleged violation of student conduct policies.