

GCTS-Jacksonville Attendance Policy

In any GCTS—Jacksonville course that involves class time, that time in class is an integral part of the learning experience, and attendance and active participation are required. We try to offer courses in a variety of formats to help students take each course at a time and in a format that is possible for them, and we expect that once a student has chosen a particular course, that student will plan his/her other responsibilities around the class meetings for that course and will be present at each meeting. Therefore, if, prior to the term in question, a student has a foreknown conflict (e.g. officiating in a wedding or leading a missions trip) with more than 3 hours of class time missed, he/she should ordinarily not enroll for the course but should seek to take it at a different time and/or in a different format.

At the same time, we recognize that unexpected things (e.g. a sudden, severe illness or a death in the immediate family) do happen and that it is occasionally necessary for students to miss class despite their best efforts. In such unexpected circumstances, we encourage professors to work with students to try to duplicate the learning that takes place in the classroom. Students should recognize that decisions about how to handle missed class time (both for unexpected absences or, in rarer cases, for exceptions to the policy above regarding foreknown attendance issues) rest with the professor of the course in question and depend heavily on the nature of the course and the nature of the learning the professor intends to happen during the session missed. In some courses it is relatively easy to duplicate that learning; in other cases it is almost impossible. Therefore, students should not assume that a procedure that was followed in one course will be an option in a different course.