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*The Jonathan Edwards College  
Dean's Extension Handbook*

Dear Spiders,

Feeling sick? Have a varsity athletic event? Family emergency? Wondering if you qualify for a Dean's Extension?

Please keep the following guide handy as it tells you how to ask, when to ask, and what to expect!

And as always, if you are not sure if you qualify for a Dean's Extension or not, please reach out to me. I am happy to discuss your situation with you and find an appropriate course of action.

Warmly,  
Dean Ferando

**1) What is a Dean's Extension?**

A Dean's Extension is a form signed by the residential college dean that authorizes the postponement of written work or exams during term-time (i.e. until the end of reading week).

**2) When do you qualify for a Dean's Extension?**

As your Dean, I am only able to grant Dean's Extension s in certain circumstances, which are outlined in the Academic Regulations of Yale College, here:

<http://catalog.yale.edu/ycps/academic-regulations/completion-of-course-work/>.

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The circumstances in which I can approve a Dean's Extension are limited to the following:

- a) Incapacitating illness or incapacitating condition of any kind.
- b) Death of a family member
- c) A comparable emergency\*
- d) Observance of religious holy days
- e) Participation in varsity athletic competitions (NB: NOT practice, or club sports).

\* "A comparable emergency" refers to a significant, disruptive event. Unsure if what you are experiencing falls into that category? Don't preemptively decide you don't qualify; come and talk to me.

### **3) Do computer and technical issues count for Dean's Extensions?**

Please note that computer and technical issues are NOT considered a valid reason to request a Dean's Extension. It is your responsibility to back up all your work and to resolve all IT issues with the help of Student Computing.

### **4) First stop?: (Often) your instructor**

During term time, course instructors may give students permission to make up late or missed work, provided that such work is submitted before the end of the term. (N.B. This means regular coursework assigned during class time must be handed in by the end of reading week.)

While instructors may require that students obtain a Dean's Extension to postpone an assignment deadline as part of their individual course policies, they also have the authority to grant a postponement themselves. If, for some reason, you are not comfortable divulging the reason you require a postponement to your instructor, you should always feel free to come talk to me.

It is important to be aware of instructors' authority to postpone work during term time, since a Dean's Extension can be issued ONLY in the event of one of the circumstances listed above.

### **5) Ask yourself: “Can it be postponed?”**

It is important to know that Dean’s Extension s can only extend deadlines: **they cannot excuse absences, whatever the reason.** If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to notify your instructor as soon as possible.

### **6) A special note about problem sets and essays**

If you have an athletic event or a religious holiday that falls on a day when you are expected to hand in an essay or problem set, please note that you are expected to work ahead, and hand in the assignment ahead of time. I generally do not write Dean’s Extension s for assignments which can be completed ahead of time for conflicts that were also known ahead of time. The expectation is that you know your schedule, and you should juggle your assignments and responsibilities accordingly to complete work on time. If you are missing in-class work, such as an exam or quiz, that is a different matter and would qualify for a Dean’s Extension.

### **7) “Compelling” reasons may not qualify**

Your time at Yale is going to provide many fantastic opportunities that may, unfortunately, become obstacles for handing in work on time. Participation in dramatic events, singing groups, and non-varsity athletics will in many cases compete for time that might otherwise be used for studying, writing, or attending classes. In addition, every year many students must attend interviews for jobs, internships, graduate school, etc., and these commitments may also interfere with class work. It is precisely in such circumstances that you should be aware of the authority of your instructor to postpone work: it will be your **ONLY** means for turning in late work without penalty.

No matter how compelling the circumstances may be, I cannot write Dean’s Extensions for reasons that do not fall into the categories outlined in the YCPS.

### **8) Be aware and plan ahead**

Remember, certain times of the semester (such as midterms and finals) will often place heavy demands on your schedules. It is essential that you anticipate and

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coordinate these difficult periods: problems that arise from not having enough time to complete papers or prepare for exams are specifically excluded from reasons eligible for Dean's Extensions.

Be especially careful of situations in which an instructor may say, "It's fine with me, as long as you get a Dean's Extension." You will know under what circumstances you will be able to receive one, so you may have to resolve the issue on the spot. Be VERY careful about assuming you will get a Dean's Extension in instances where you ran out of time because you are overscheduled or did not plan well, because you may ultimately find yourself in a difficult situation.

### **9) If you do qualify, you must be timely with your request**

Students need to request Dean's Extensions in a timely manner. You must let me know you are sick as soon as you are able. If you reach out to me days or weeks after you missed an assignment, I may not be able to issue a Dean's Extension. However, I do understand that sometimes an illness or other issue can delay your getting in touch with me, so please always ask, even if it is past the deadline for your assignment, if you think you qualify for a Dean's Extension.

Please note that if you do know you will need a Dean's Extension because of a varsity event or religious observation, please request one as soon as you are aware of the conflict. Likewise, if you are sick (and able to send emails), please send me an email immediately informing me you are ill.

### **10) End of term extensions**

One last but essential remark about postponing work: at the end of term (i.e. during reading week and final exam period), everything changes. Only residential college deans can authorize extensions for outstanding work or make-up examinations after the close of the teaching term. I will circulate relevant information about extensions for end-of-term work and make-up final exams by email at the end of the semester. For now, please note that, after the close of regular term time, without WRITTEN permission from me, you will not be able to postpone a final examination or any other end-of-term project, or regular course work due during the term itself, regardless of whether the instructor gives you permission to do so.

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## **11) How to request a Dean's Extension**

1. First, if you feel comfortable doing so, contact your instructor to request an extension, and then follow up by requesting a Dean's Extension from me if needed.
2. If you find yourself in one of the situations listed above and require a Dean's Extension as a result, a) make an appointment with Jill ([jill.haines@yale.edu](mailto:jill.haines@yale.edu)) to speak with me or stop in during my office hours and b) fill out the form here:

<http://forms.sis.yale.edu/url/YCDeansExtension>.

You can complete these actions in either order depending on your circumstances.

The residential college dean is the only recipient of the form, so your reason for the Dean's Extension does not get passed on to your professors. However, you do not need to add any sensitive or confidential information to the dynamic form if you are uncomfortable doing so: it is sufficient to write on the form that you will have/have spoken with the Dean about your situation.

## **12) Didn't qualify for a Dean's Extension, but things are looking tight. Now what?**

Come talk to me. Please do not worry in silence. I may not be able to give you a Dean's Extension, but I will be able to listen and help you come up with a game plan on how you can get back on track. Just because I had to deny your request for a Dean's Extension does not mean I am not concerned about your wellbeing – so, please reach out.