

FAQs – Updated October 16, 2024

Funding

Each graduate program has its own sources of funding for graduate students, many of which may be affected by a student taking a reduced workload/course load or academic leave.

If a student receives his/her funding from an outside source (e.g., employer, foreign government, federal student aid, etc.), he/she is encouraged to discuss his/her funding with said source as soon as possible. In such cases, the student is responsible to determine how a reduced workload/course load or academic leave might affect his/her funding.

If a student receives his/her funding from the University, he/she is encouraged to discuss his/her funding with the academic program that provides his/her funding as soon as possible. Students are also encouraged to consult with the University's Office of Student Financial Assistance at financial-aid@cua.edu.

In all cases, federal student aid regulations will continue to apply.

Immigration Status

International students' immigration status may be affected by taking a reduced workload/course load or academic leave. For example, international student visas do not permit student visa holders to take time off for childcare purposes – although international students may be able to reduce their course load for a period of childbirth recovery, with a note from a medical professional. Students on F-1 or J-1 visas are encouraged to discuss their options with the Office of International Services as soon as possible (cua-ois@cua.edu).

Healthcare Coverage

If a graduate student opts to take academic leave in the fall, he or she will not be enrolled at the University and therefore ineligible for healthcare coverage through the University. Students are reminded that healthcare coverage may be available through their state health exchange. For questions about healthcare coverage, contact the Partner's team in Human Resources (hr-partners@cua.edu).

Breastfeeding

The University supports and respects nursing mothers. Subject to the provisions in the University's [Breastfeeding Policy](#), any woman may breastfeed her child on campus. Students should make reasonable efforts to pump or breastfeed between classes or outside of instruction time. If a student must miss class or other instructional time to nurse, faculty are prohibited from penalizing the student for her absence and must work with the

student to identify solutions for making up in-class work, participation credits, or missed instruction, as well as to put in place any necessary exam accommodations.

Please see the [Breastfeeding Policy](#) for information about the locations of wellness rooms that may be used as private lactation spaces. Please see the [Protection of Minors Policy](#) for terms relating to the presence of children on campus.