Frequently Asked Questions about Financial Aid and Temporary Withdrawal / Leave of Absence

What is a Temporary Withdrawal/Leave of Absence?
The Dean of Students may approve a Temporary Withdrawal (also known as a Leave of Absence) if a student requests to leave Macalester for personal reasons or for the purpose of attending another institution. If you are considering requesting a Temporary Withdrawal, you should begin by making an appointment with the Office of Student Affairs and they will assist you in navigating the process. Detailed information about Temporary Withdrawals can be found in the on-line Student Handbook.

If I am approved for a Temporary Withdrawal/Leave of Absence, will I still have to pay tuition for the entire semester?
Students who request and are approved for a Temporary Withdrawal prior to the semester start date will not be charged tuition. A student who has been approved for a Temporary Withdrawal after classes have started will be charged tuition, but may be eligible to receive a tuition refund according to Macalester’s refund policy published in the College Catalog. Eligibility for a tuition refund is based on the date your Temporary Withdrawal becomes effective. This date will be determined by the Dean of Students.

Tuition refunds for official withdrawal from the College during the first 33 class days of the semester are as follows for returning students:

- Class Day 1-7: 90%
- Class Day 8-17: 50%
- Class Day 18-33: 25%

No tuition, fees, room or board is refunded or credited after the 33rd class day of the semester. If you choose to take a Temporary Withdrawal/Leave of Absence during a semester when you had planned to study abroad, tuition refunds may vary based on the study abroad provider’s policies and procedures.

More information can be obtained by viewing the on-line College Catalog http://catalog.macalester.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=836&hl=refund+policy&returnto=search

Will I be charged for a full semester of room and board?
Room and board refunds are calculated on a daily basis by the number of days in the residence hall as of the checkout date. If you live on campus and are considering a Temporary Withdrawal, you may contact Residential Life to obtain an estimate of what you will be charged based on a specific checkout date. (Students who move out of the College residences but remain enrolled in the College are not eligible for room and board refunds.)

How will my financial aid eligibility be affected?
Macalester Financial Aid
Scholarship and grant aid from Macalester will be adjusted so that the percentage of tuition paid by Macalester scholarship and grant aid is consistent. For example, if Macalester scholarship/grant aid paid 50% of the tuition before withdrawal, Macalester scholarship/grant aid will pay 50% of post-withdrawal tuition.

Federal Student Aid
Federal student aid regulations require that Macalester reduce a student’s Federal Student Aid if the student withdraws before completing 60% of a semester. The reduction in Federal Aid varies based on individual situations. Federal Student Aid includes Federal PLUS Loans, Federal Subsidized and Unsubsidized Stafford Loans, Federal Perkins Loans, Federal Pell Grants, and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG).

State Financial Aid
Financial aid from state agencies will be returned according to the state’s policy.
Student Loans
If you are currently borrowing or have borrowed a Federal Stafford Loan or Federal Perkins Loan, Macalester will provide you with Federal Loan information including your loan history, repayment information, and instructions on how to access your Federal Loan accounts.

If you would like to receive an estimate of how your financial aid eligibility would be affected if you take a Temporary Withdrawal/Leave of Absence between the 1st and 33rd day of class, please contact the Financial Aid Office.

Student Loan Status During Period of Non-Enrollment
It is important to understand that your student loans may enter repayment during your period of non-enrollment and that it is your responsibility to remain in touch with your loan servicer to ensure you do not become delinquent or default on your student loans.

If you enroll at another school at least half-time after you leave Macalester, or you return to Macalester and enroll for at least six credits, your Federal student loans will likely be eligible for in-school deferment and you will not be required to make loan payments until you graduate or cease to be enrolled at least half-time. Remember that your student loans may accrue interest even during an in-school deferment, depending on the specific type of student loan.

You can obtain information about all of your Federal student loans from the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). www.nslds.ed.gov/nslds_SA/ or you can call the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-4354.

Please refer to the Financial Aid Office website for more information about loan repayment.

What do I need to do when I return from a Temporary Withdrawal/Leave of Absence?
There are several steps you should plan to take when returning from a Temporary Withdrawal/Leave of Absence.

1. Communicate with the Registrar’s Office
   The Registrar will attempt to contact you to provide registration instructions. It is important that you respond to those instructions in a timely manner so that you will be registered before you return to campus.

2. Apply for financial aid.
   Financial aid application instructions are available on the Financial Aid Office website.
   http://www.macalester.edu/financialaid/apply/returningstudents/
   
   Once you have submitted the required documents, the Financial Aid Office will process your application and provide a Financial Aid Award Notification letter

3. Communicate with the Student Accounts Office
   If you did not receive a billing statement for the semester in which you will return, you should contact the Student Accounts Office to find out if you owe a balance.

Other Links
College Catalog
http://catalog.macalester.edu/content.php?catoid=8&navoid=836&hl=refund+policy&returnto=search

Student Handbook
http://www.macalester.edu/studentaffairs/studenthandbook/academicpolicies/temporarywithdrawal.html