

University of Florida Walk Out of Term Policy

Definition

Walk out of term (WOOT) refers to a student crossing the stage in a commencement ceremony in a different semester than the one they are graduating in. These students or graduates will participate in the ceremonies, but are not extended any other privileges of a graduate of that semester, such as:

- Receiving a diploma in that semester
- Getting their name printed in the program
- Wearing honor cords in the ceremonies (if walking early)
- Eligibility for semester-specific graduation awards

Policy

A student petitioning to Walk Out of Term ahead of their final term should:

- Be within one (1) semester of graduating

A student petitioning to Walk Out of Term after their final term should:

- Walk within two (2) semesters of graduating*

**This does not apply to graduates affected by the coronavirus pandemic*

Requests are submitted and approved through the Colleges. The Colleges will prioritize requests and limit the numbers to the allocated seats in that semester for the college. Petition requests for a semester open on the first day of classes and close two weeks after the late degree application deadline. The list of approved petitions is submitted by the college to the commencement office within a week after the deadline to petition to WOOT.

Petitions submitted after the deadline cannot be approved without first consulting with the commencement office. Except for very extreme circumstances, petitions for Walk Out of Terms will not be accepted the last two weeks of a semester.

Colleges can approve petitions independently, but are encouraged to prioritize the following requests ahead of others:

- Health issues (of the applicant and/or their immediate family members)
- Military station changes or deployment of the graduate or their spouse
- VISA expiration deadlines (of the applicant and/or their immediate family members)
- Complications stemming from the Coronavirus pandemic

Colleges hold the right to take into consideration extenuating circumstances that might create an exception to the policy.

Seat Allocation Explanation

The maximum number of students that can Walk Out of Term for a given semester per college, per ceremony will be calculated by the commencement office. The numbers are based on the estimated number of available seats for a ceremony after factoring the number of anticipated participants within the graduating class in the ceremony. Numbers will be provided before the start of the semester.