

## NUGGETS FOR DEPT CHAIRS TO KNOW ABOUT STUDENT HEALTH AT WWU:

- All students enrolled for 6 or more credits are eligible for free unlimited visits to the Health Center, which provides acute illness/injury and chronic condition primary care, including psychiatric consultation, travel clinic, nutrition services, women's health, and sports medicine. We do not provide care to faculty or staff.
- We provide patient care through the Self Care Clinic, Consulting Telephone Nurse (24 hour), Virtual Visit (24 hour), and Ask the Doc (anonymous Q&A).
- We endeavor to schedule students for appointments so they will not miss class. However, due to severity of their symptoms, or because of patient volume and demand, we may only have appointment slots available during class time. Students who call early in the day will have their choice of almost 120 same-day appointment slots.
- Signed medical excuses are provided to students who have missed classes due to clinic appointments or illness/injury preventing attendance in class. Students are encouraged to fill out their own medical statement of absence if it is not clinically necessary to see a health care provider (symptoms resolved or minor) and that statement is date stamped by our receptionist, and releases the Health Center to respond to an inquiry from the instructor about the absence.
- Emergency Medical Leave of Absence may be provided for medically documented extended absences beyond two days. These are sent by email from Dr. Gibson but the student is responsible for contacting the instructor about making up missed course work.
- Hardship Withdrawals from class can be verified by Health Center staff, but are reviewed for approval by the Student Life Office.
- Public Health concerns on campus are managed by the Student Health Center in consultation with the Whatcom County Health Department as these illnesses may impact faculty and staff. Although the Health Center does not provide direct clinical care to faculty and staff, it does provide oversight for management of communicable disease outbreaks on campus, such as influenza, hepatitis A, food-borne gastrointestinal illness, measles, mumps, meningitis, chicken pox, tuberculosis, SARS, and whooping cough.
- Restrictions on release of personal health information as regulated by HIPAA prevents our staff from providing faculty or staff any information without specific patient permission, including whether or not the patient was seen in the clinic on the date and at the time in question.
- The Student Health Center has professional staff with expertise in chemical dependency, eating disorders, attentional disorders, Asberger's, as well as management of suicidal and parasuicidal (cutting, burning) behavior. We welcome referrals of students struggling with these issues any time it comes to your attention.

Emily Gibson, M.D.  
Director, WWU Student Health  
[Emily.Gibson@wwu.edu](mailto:Emily.Gibson@wwu.edu)  
360-650-7328  
24 hour availability by pager 714-3755