Policy:

Students experiencing documented medical needs (extraordinary cases in which serious illness or injury) or special extenuating circumstances (significant personal situation) that render them unable to engage in academic work for the remainder of the semester may request a withdrawal due to hardship. The request can be made after the first week of classes (following the 100% tuition refund date). If made after the tenth week of classes, students must also complete the request for late withdrawal (see the Request for Late Withdrawal Policy). The incident (medical and/or special extenuating circumstance) must have occurred during the current semester and the request for withdrawal due to hardship must be submitted no later than the final date of the respective semester. Completion of a request for a withdrawal due to hardship (medical and/or special extenuating circumstance) will also afford the student the opportunity to receive a leave of absence from KCAI for a maximum of four semesters.

A student may request and be considered for a withdrawal due to hardship based on medical needs when extraordinary circumstances, such as a serious illness or injury prevent the student from continuing classes. This policy covers both physical health and mental health difficulties.

A student may request and be considered for a withdrawal due to hardship based on special extenuating circumstances when extraordinary personal reasons, not related to the student's personal physical or mental health (for example, care of a seriously ill child, parent or spouse, or a death in the student's immediate family), prevent the student from continuing in classes.

Partial withdrawals will not be permitted. A student granted a withdrawal due to hardship must completely withdraw from the institution.

F-1 status international students must initiate with the Primary Designated School Official (PDSO) or Designated School Official (DSO) as designated by SEVIS, and will only be considered after initial approval from the PDSO/DSO.

The Dean of Student Affairs reviews withdrawal due to hardship requests.
If the request is approved, the following will occur:
1. The student will be withdrawn from all classes that semester and a notation of W will be recorded on the student’s transcript for each class. Partial withdrawals are not permitted in this situation.
2. The student will receive a tuition refund equal to the amount of tuition charged during the current semester only. Fees and Living Center charges are non-refundable. Living Center charges will be prorated.
3. The student will be subject to repayment terms of any Title IV federal financial aid as mandated by the federal government.

A request for withdrawal due to hardship will only be approved once to a student during the student’s academic career at KCAI.

Requests for withdrawal due to hardship and supporting documents are retained by KCAI for up to five years.

**Procedure:**

The following procedure applies to students who are requesting a withdrawal due to hardship.

1. The request for Withdrawal Due to Hardship Form, Leave of Absence, and Request for Late Withdrawal Form (if needed) may be obtained from the Dean of Student Affairs. F-1 status international students may initiate this process through the PDSO/DSO.
2. To **request a withdrawal due to hardship**, the student must submit a request for a Withdrawal Due to Hardship Form along with appropriate documentation to the Dean of Student Affairs:

   To request a withdrawal due to hardship based on **medical needs**, the required documentation is listed below:
   
   - The student’s health care provider's statement on letterhead stationery which is submitted in a sealed envelope to the Dean and contains the following:
     - The date of onset of illness.
     - The date student was/is under professional care.
     - A statement that a withdrawal from KCAI is needed at this time.
     - The date of student’s anticipated return to KCAI.
     - The last date student was able to attend class.

   To request a withdrawal due to hardship based on **special extenuating circumstances**, the student must present a statement on the form. This statement must address the specific situation with documentation.

   3. If a student is receiving financial assistance, the student must meet or consult with the Director of Financial Aid and designee of the Business Office to identify and understand the financial assistance/monetary implications of processing a
withdrawal due to hardship. The Director of Financial Aid will sign off on the form. The Business Office will also sign off on the form.

4. If a student is receiving veteran benefits, the student must meet with the Director of Financial Aid. The Director of Financial Aid will sign off on the form.

5. The completed form, with appropriate signatures, and attached documentation is submitted by the student to the Dean of Student Affairs for consideration. Final approval or denial of the request is at the discretion of the Dean of Student Affairs.

6. The Dean of Student Affairs submits the approved or denied request to the Registrar, Business Office, and Financial Aid for appropriate action, including notification to the student of approval or denial, withdrawal from courses and notification to responsible faculty member(s), and/or Department Chair(s)/Program Head(s), and other necessary departments (if approved), filing of request and documentation in the student’s file, and completion of leave of absence paperwork.

7. The decision of the Dean of Student Affairs is final.