

BUFFALO STATE COLLEGE

DIRECTORY OF POLICY STATEMENTS

Policy Number: I:09:01

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Subject: Auditing Laboratory or Studio Classes*

There is a fundamental difference between auditing a lecture class and a laboratory or studio class (a "hands on" course). Often, there is more supervision necessary in a laboratory or studio class.

An audit of a lab or studio course places an additional burden on an instructor. The instructor is required to supervise an auditing student in a way not present in a standard lecture class. A lab or studio course is a practical, hands-on class where the student is participating in learning a physical activity or technique that has risk. The instructor's time and energies are devoted to this student in a way similar to that given to the other students. In addition, there is no compensation to the college and no recording of credit toward the FTE count.

Releases or waivers are not recommended as they are, often, thrown out of court even if signed by the student.

To adequately address liability, the instructor should establish a rigorous safety protocol with a sign-off by the student. The student signs that he/she understands the dangers involved in the course activities. There should be some indication that the student must establish, to the instructor's satisfaction, his/her ability to safely use the implements/machinery involved in the course.

It is highly recommended to revoke approval to audit a laboratory or studio course and the student should be directed to register for the course if he/she wishes to continue.

***Information obtained from the Office of the University Counsel and Vice Chancellor for Legal Affairs.**