University of Rochester Dining Services will go out of its way to provide students with acceptable options at every meal. Only those students who can **document reasons** why the University of Rochester Dining Services cannot provide food that meets their dietary needs will be considered for an exception to the meal plan requirements. The applicant is responsible for submitting ALL appropriate documentation and reviewing all procedures listed below. ***Only one appeal per student per year will be considered.*** **No appeals will be accepted after October 1st for the fall semester and March 1st for the spring semester.**

**Meal Plan Exception and Change Procedures**  
A signed & dated appeal with an explanation of your request for exemption should be emailed as an attachment using either a word document or pdf format. Students appealing their meal plan requirement should submit the following items with their request:

1. **Medical Exceptions:** Must include:
   1. A brief introductory paragraph explaining your circumstances and a nutritional plan.
   2. A 7-day menu outline
   3. Identification of optional purchasing sources
   4. Special preparation instructions
   5. Where food will be prepared
   6. A **copy of the appeal** and **a letter from your physician written on his/her letterhead** must accompany exemptions for medical reasons and should be addressed and mailed to:

University Health Services

c/o Dr. Ralph Manchester

PO Box 270316

738 Library Road

Rochester, NY 14627

* 1. The letter from the physician should include the diagnosis and the specific dietary restrictions.

1. **Religious exceptions must include:**
   1. A brief paragraph explaining your dietary restrictions
   2. A 7-day menu outline
   3. Supporting verification from your religious affiliate
2. **Financial Appeals** will be considered if supported by the Office of Financial Aid. You must be a financial aid recipient who demonstrates high financial need based on your family’s household information. Contact your financial aid counselor for more information. If approved by the Financial Aid Office, the Director should send a note to [mealplans@services.rochester.edu](mailto:mealplans@services.rochester.edu) verifying your financial situation and that you need relief from your meal plan requirement to meet your financial commitments.
3. **Veganism and vegetarianism** are not considered valid reasons for a Dining Plan exception. Vegan and vegetarian dietary requirements are carefully considered by our chefs and nutritionist in menu and recipe planning,
4. **Exceptions are not automatically renewed year-to-year unless indicated on the approved appeal form.** If an approved appeal indicates student follow up is required, it is the responsibility of the student to contact dining services within the time frame indicated.
5. All requests requiring individual consideration are reviewed by a Dining Advisory Committee consisting of members from Auxiliary Operations, Dining Services, and University Health Services (appeals for medical reasons).
6. Please note that a request for exception or reduction to a smaller plan does not guarantee that you will be excused from the meal plan or granted a reduction to the plan you are requesting.

**Appeal Process**

Reviewing and finalizing an appeal request may take up to two weeks..

**Notification**: The student will receive an email regarding the outcome of the appeal.

**Questions:** Please email mealplans@services.rochester.edu