

Advice for Academic Units in Arts and Sciences on Autumn 2021 Instruction

Remote Instruction:

At present, the UW plans to return to in-person instruction this Autumn quarter and is closely monitoring the situation with regional and state health experts. Although it is possible that public health guidelines could force a change, ***please continue to plan for in-person instruction for this coming academic year.***

Student Accommodation:

Instructors are only required to provide [DRS-approved](#) accommodation for student learning, and [religious accommodation](#) for students observing religious practice that conflicts with course timing. Both of these forms of accommodation confer responsibilities on the student to provide the instructor(s) with information in advance of the quarter (DRS) or class period (religious). All other forms of absence, including, but not limited to, medical absence, do **not** require faculty to provide specific, legally-based accommodations. Rather, ***individual absences should follow the norms established by the faculty member in their course syllabus*** (see below).

If individual students request remote accommodation due to COVID concerns, instructors are **not expected** to engage in a discussion of possible accommodation. Instead,

- If the student requests accommodation due to medical concerns, please refer that student to [DRS](#) for decision on an official, DRS-sanctioned accommodation.
- If the student requests accommodation for any other reason, or if DRS rejects their request for a DRS-sanctioned accommodation, please treat the absence request like any other such request as described in the course syllabus. There is no expectation for special accommodations for COVID-related absences or requests for remote learning options.

Hybrid Teaching Expectations:

Instructors **are not expected** to teach two versions of their course, one remote and one in person. We anticipate that only a small number of students will need formal accommodations, per DRS. DRS will work with instructors and their unit to determine appropriate accommodations when necessary, and it may be determined that accommodation may not be possible in a given quarter. We **do not** expect our instructors to teach simultaneously in person and online.

Sample Syllabus Language:

This class is conducted in-person. Students are expected to participate in class to fully benefit from course activities and meet the course's learning objectives. Students should only register for this class if they are able to attend in-person. To protect their fellow students, faculty, and staff, students who feel ill or exhibit possible COVID symptoms should not come to class. When absent, it is the responsibility of the student to inform the instructor in advance (or as close to the class period as possible in the case of an unexpected absence), and to request appropriate make-up work as per policies

established in the syllabus. What make-up work is possible, or how assignments or course grading might be modified to accommodate missed work, is the prerogative of the instructor. For chronic absences, the instructor may negotiate an incomplete grade after the 8th week, or recommend the student contact their academic adviser to consider a hardship withdrawal (known as a Registrar Drop).

Instructor Accommodation and Remote Instruction:

Academic units (schools and departments) are responsible for decisions regarding whether a course is offered fully in-person, in a hybrid format (combining remote and in-person instruction), or fully remote. These decisions are based upon the norms and pedagogical best practices of the unit. An instructor can request a fully remote teaching accommodation only in extraordinary circumstances, and they should work with their chair regarding their request. Approval to change an in-person course to fully remote requires approval of the Dean and may be referred to [UW's Disability Services Office](#). Other than these limited exceptions, ***instructors should assume that classes will be taught fully in-person or in a hybrid format.***

Student Vaccination and Masking:

Students are required either to be vaccinated and to attest to that vaccination in order to return to campus, or else to request an exemption. Unvaccinated persons, including students, are required to wear face masks on campus. Due to privacy concerns, instructors cannot be provided with class lists that report the vaccination status of individual students. Mask requirements are set at the campus-level. Because mask-wearing is a constantly evolving public health requirement, the UW will partner with public health authorities regarding campus-wide masking policies.

Robert C. Stacey, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences
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