

COVID-19 EMERGENCY SYLLABUS POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS

The following classroom policies have been prescribed by the University of Mississippi during Fall 2021 in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Classroom Health Requirements (Language in this section can be inserted into syllabus.)

- Students are expected to comply with the University's protocols when they are in effect. Currently, a mask requirement is in place for vaccinated and unvaccinated people. As a result, proper mask wearing is required indoors and in the classroom. Current protocols can be found at <https://coronavirus.olemiss.edu/>.
- Students who have a diagnosed health concern that interferes with the wearing of face masks may contact the Student Disabilities Services (SDS) Office to seek a University-approved accommodation. Please contact SDS at <https://sds.olemiss.edu/> for more information.
- If students test positive for COVID-19 at any health care facility, they must report it to the Student Health Center (<https://coronavirus.olemiss.edu/report/>) and they must follow directions from the healthcare provider and isolate (pursuant to Mississippi State Department of Health order MSHAN-20210820-00534-ALT (https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/15485.pdf). Students must also contact the Student Health Center at 662-915-7274. (Faculty and staff should contact the Employee Health Service at 662-915-6550.) University Health Services will coordinate contact tracing in collaboration with the MSDH to lessen the likelihood of spread.
- Students with COVID-19 should seek medical attention at the Student Health Center and contact their instructor to let them know that they will be missing class due to a health-related issue.
- If you are exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should contact the Student Health Center to be tested three to five days following exposure and follow the guidance recommended by the Health Center. You should follow quarantine protocols found at <https://coronavirus.olemiss.edu/students/>.

Non-adherence with Health Requirements (Language in this section can be inserted into syllabus.)

- Currently, COVID-19 guidelines for the Fall 2021 semester include face masks for vaccinated and unvaccinated people inside University buildings; therefore, students should not be in classroom spaces when they are out of compliance with these guidelines unless they have an accommodation approved by Student Disability Services.
- The University's Academic Conduct and Discipline Policy states that "disorderly behavior that disrupts the academic environment violates the standard of fair access to the academic experience." Failure to adhere to health requirements during the COVID-19 emergency will be deemed as disruptive to the classroom and will be enforced following the Academic Conduct and Discipline procedures.
- The University of Mississippi has adopted a disciplinary protocol for non-adherence to COVID-19 health requirements. This disciplinary protocol is maintained by the Office of Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct: <https://conflictresolution.olemiss.edu/covidupdates>.

Attendance Policies (Information for faculty)

- A task force of faculty, students, and staff met to review best practices for attendance policies during the pandemic. Their full report, with suggested syllabus language, can be found at <https://olemiss.app.box.com/s/dt0e8dq4yw0pgf9vw7yu7u0ahz5td58z>.
- The University's Class Attendance Policy enables the instructor to determine the attendance guidelines that best promote learning in the delivery mode of the course. The instructor articulates and informs students of that policy in writing, via a course syllabus, on or before the first meeting of each course.
- Students attending the virtual component of hybrid or online courses are subject to the same attendance policy and procedures as traditional students. However, participation is defined in a different manner. The University's "Attendance Policy for Online Education" states: "Student attendance in online courses is defined

as active participation in the course as described in the individual course syllabus.” If students fail to meet online attendance requirements as stated in the syllabus, they will be given an absence.

- COVID-19 safety protocols hold the highest priority, and faculty should design attendance guidelines for students which do not penalize students for adhering to COVID-19 safety protocols. Course attendance policies must allow for absences necessary for isolation, quarantine, or other COVID-19 related absences.
- Students should NOT attend a face-to-face class when they are feeling ill, experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, or believe they may have been exposed to the virus. Instructors of courses with a face-to-face component should encourage students to stay home in these circumstances.
- Faculty will be notified if assigned seating will be required by an instructor for a face-to-face class session (for both face-to-face and hybrid delivery modes) to facilitate contact tracing. If assigned seating is necessary, it will be up to course instructors to establish the assigned seats. If required, students are to sit in only designated seats.
- An instructor should work with their department chair if the instructor expects to be absent from class.

Attendance Policies (Language in this section can be inserted into syllabus.)

- If you need to isolate due to contracting the coronavirus at any point this semester, you must do so, and email me as soon as possible. I will work with you to help you continue your progress in the course. More information on isolation protocols can be found at <https://coronavirus.olemiss.edu/>.
- Quarantines are an important tool for controlling the spread of the virus. If you need to quarantine at any point this semester, email me as soon as possible. In your email, state how long you expect not to attend class. I [will/will not] be able to provide recordings of class sessions, and we can work together to establish a plan for completing the necessary work. You will have access to your texts, my course content, and our Blackboard course site. More information on quarantine protocols can be found at <https://coronavirus.olemiss.edu/>.
- Students attending the virtual component of hybrid or online courses are subject to the same attendance policy and procedures as traditional students. However, participation is defined in a different manner. The University’s “Attendance Policy for Online Education” states: “Student attendance in online courses is defined as active participation in the course as described in the individual course syllabus.” If students fail to meet online attendance requirements as stated in the syllabus, they will be given an absence.

Student Support Services (Language in this section can be inserted into syllabus.)

- Students are encouraged to visit the University’s Keep Learning site <https://keeplearning.olemiss.edu/> to access information and resources related to COVID-19 support. The site provides links to University student services to facilitate and support learning.
- Students with diagnosed health concerns that may affect their compliance with COVID-19 health requirements should contact UM’s Student Disability Services (SDS) Office <https://sds.olemiss.edu/> to see if they are eligible for an SDS accommodation as soon as possible.
- The University Counseling Center is a professional facility offered by the University of Mississippi to assist students, faculty, and staff with many types of life stressors that interrupt day-to-day functioning, including the stressors associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. They offer individual counseling, couple’s counseling, group counseling, stress management, crisis intervention, assessments and referrals, outreach programs, consultations, and substance abuse services. There is no fee for currently enrolled University students and everything you say to your counselor is confidential. You can contact the Counseling Center for information about mental health issues at <https://counseling.olemiss.edu>, counselg@olemiss.edu, 662-915-3784, 320 Lester Hall, and <https://www.facebook.com/universitycounselingcenterolemiss/>. You can schedule an appointment or get information about appointments by calling the UCC at 662-915-3784.

Updated Contact Information
(Language in this section can be inserted into syllabus.)

- The University must have accurate contact information, including cell phone numbers, to facilitate student communications and contact tracing. Students should check and update their University contact information available at <https://olemiss.edu/mystudentprofile>.

Examinations and Last Week of Class
(Information for faculty – Policy ACA.AR.200.002)

- Exams, tests, or quizzes exceeding 10% of the grade are not be given on the last three days of classes. Papers and projects (so long as due dates are in the syllabus) are allowed during these last three days, just not exams, tests, or quizzes. The Fall 2021 semester will end on Friday, Dec. 3, 2021. Thus, exams, tests, or quizzes exceeding 10% of the total grade) are not permitted on the Wednesday (Dec. 1), Thursday (Dec. 2), or Friday (Dec. 3) of that week.

University Visitor Policy
(Information for faculty)

- All University visitors must follow COVID-19 emergency health and safety protocols.