

7/8/20

Dear CAHNR Instructors,

As students move toward decisions regarding their Fall 2020 course schedules and campus residency, many of us have been contacted with student and family concerns. I am providing information below, to the level of my current knowledge. As you are aware, these decisions can change from day to day, and are not etched in stone.

- **Students requesting distance learning options for classes (including lab sections) that are being taught in one of the in-person modalities:**

My understanding is that students who are taking a class (including lab sections) in person should be afforded a way to make up classes (or labs) that they have missed (eg if in quarantine as a result of contact tracing, are ill, etc). This does **not** mean that every student has the option of taking every class online, regardless of the teaching modality. If the instructor chose to allow this, my understanding is that it would be on an individual accommodation basis (see following message discouraging this from VP Shoulson).

If the student cannot take the class offered on campus due to a desire to take all online courses, they should take an alternative class that is offered via distance learning for this semester, and change their schedule to take the class in question at a later date.

- From VP Shoulson:

“What we’ve told students is that if they are uncomfortable taking face-to-face classes, they will be given distance learning options. This does not mean that they can take any course as a distant-learning course. Rather, it means that they will be offered alternative courses that are being taught through a distance modality.

If an individual instructor teaching F2F (...face to face...) wishes to offer accommodations to students individually, that’s up to them, but these instructors then accept the responsibility of providing alternative means for the students to complete the work and they should be aware of how demanding that will be.

I strongly recommend that instructors not grant these one-off exceptions and, instead, direct students who don’t want to meet face-to-face to select different courses.”

- **Please check Student Administration to confirm that your class teaching modalities are correctly listed.** Work directly with the registrar’s office scheduling section for changes.

- **We hope to keep as many CAHNR experiential learning / teaching lab activities in place as possible, as these are a hallmark of CAHNR learning.** Thank you for creatively considering how to teach this content in the age of safe social distancing. Please see your Dept Heads for specific guidance and COVID laboratory space capacities, or special concerns. We have been working diligently with the University space planners to address these proactively.
- **CETL is producing “kits” for instructor use in developing remotely accessible laboratory/experiential teaching content.** These kits will likely include ipads, tripods, microphones, etc, and training will be provided. CETL will be the point of contact for these kits when they become available, hopefully by the end of the month.
- **Undergraduates involved in independent study/research/work in research settings will need to gain permission to do so via a process currently in development by the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) and the VP Research Office.** This will involve 3 steps: permission for the laboratory to conduct research as is currently required for research labs (OVPR); permission for undergraduates to work in that approved laboratory (OUR /OVPR form under development, which will be similar to the form used to allow graduate students to work in the laboratory, and be reviewed by committee); OUR direct contact with student to assure that they willingly wish to return to the laboratory (eg addressing concerns about students being pressured to return to the laboratory)
- **The University will strongly support the need for masks and social distancing while teaching F2F and other activities on campus**
- **CETL and EHS are procuring various different types of masks that show face/lips for instructors requesting them;** details will be forthcoming regarding what is available and how to request them

Thanks again for your concerns, creativity and patience as we move toward the Fall semester.

Best,

Sandy

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