

TO: Instructors, Faculty, Department Heads, Academic Associate Deans, and Deans

FROM: Jay Akridge, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity
Jenna Rickus, Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning

DATE: March 8, 2021. **Updated Releases: May 15, 2021 and July 30, 2021.**

RE: Residential Learning Guidance Fall 2021

We thank you for your on-going efforts to adapt instruction during the relentless waves of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to your hard work, we met our goals of providing academic continuity and supporting student success. Our offering of face-to-face and hybrid courses was substantially higher than our peers, many of whom were fully online. In Fall 2020 Purdue students achieved academic outcomes (e.g., GPAs, Credit Hours earned) on par with pre-pandemic semesters. These outcomes are a major achievement with tremendous impact on our students and our university – and we want to acknowledge all you did to make that happen.

The Fall 2021 Instructional Guidance included here is a follow-up to the [Fall 2021 semester update from President Daniels and Provost Akridge](#), which outlined general plans for our academic endeavors in the context of the pandemic as we look ahead to the 21-22 academic year. Based on current public health guidance from our Medical Advisory Team, all we have learned to date, and the needs of our students, in-person courses will resume as the default mode of instruction in Fall 2021. Fully online courses should only be offered when they add instructional value and/or as an integral part of a unit's portfolio of course offerings. Note that medical accommodations, should they be required, could necessitate an online offering, and will be defined by the Medical Advisory Team as we get closer to the start of the Fall semester.

Fall 2021 will likely be a semester of transition. Some of our academic endeavors will return to pre-pandemic ways of functioning, whereas other Protect Purdue protections will remain in place. The Fall 2021 Instructional Guidance therefore is a living document that will be updated periodically **with the most recent updates highlighted in yellow**. To assist planning, we provide a [summary table that includes the status of updates](#) with completion or target dates.

Importantly, some instructional pandemic practices are likely to be kept even after the pandemic simply because they were really good ideas and impacted learning in a positive way. As you prepare for the 21-22 academic year, consider the innovations and practices that you might retain as you transition your courses and academic programs toward a new post-pandemic residential campus experience.

The Fall 2021 Instructional Guidance will be posted, along with all other key references, at the [Teaching & Learning Resources webpage](#) on the [Innovative Learning website](#).

Fall 2021 Instructional Guidance (Updated May 15, 2021 and July 31, 2021)

Purpose: To provide guidance for academic instruction that

- protects the well-being of faculty, staff, and students based on recommendations from the Protect Purdue Medical Advisory and Implementation Teams.
- reflects our institutional values and identity as a residential campus and a community of students, staff, and faculty engaged in discovery, learning, and engagement with a mission and commitment to transformative education.
- takes advantage of the innovations, new instructional practices, technologies, and lessons learned during the pandemic that improve student learning and success.
- supports the planning of academic units and instructors.

Assumptions

- The state of the pandemic and vaccine distribution will be such that Fall 2021 will be a transition period.
- By the Fall 2021 semester, virtually everyone on campus will have had the opportunity to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Protect Purdue will also be in transition with respect to the many layers of protection and steps taken to mitigate and suppress the viral pandemic. Consistently in alignment with medical advice, some layers will remain in place while others will be relaxed.
- Protect Purdue will remain responsive to the pandemic and could at any point pivot should the conditions change; therefore, instructional guidance could be modified at any point as well.

Summary and Status of Instructional Guidance Related to Protect Purdue

	Status	Reference
Protect Purdue Pledge	Updated for F21	Fall 2021 Protect Purdue Pledge
Academic Calendar	Updated for F21	Fall 2021 semester update from President Daniels & Provost Akridge (2/11/21) 2021-2022 Academic Calendar
Classroom Capacities	Updated for F21	Fall 2021 semester update from President Daniels & Provost Akridge (2/11/21) Provost Memo to Deans, Assoc. Deans and Dept. Heads (2/12/21)
Course Modality	Updated for F21	Fall 2021 semester update from President Daniels & Provost Akridge (2/11/21)
Mask Policy	Updated July 30	Required COVID-19 Face Mask Protocols (5/26/20, updated 2/15/21, updated 7/15/21, updated 7/31/21)
Classroom Disinfection	Updated for Su21 and F21	Cleaning and disinfecting practices for summer and fall 2021 (5/11/21)
Overarching Classroom SOP	Updated for Su21 Updated for Fa21	Fall 2020 / Spring 2021 Overarching Classroom, Instructional Lab, and Experiential SOP Summer 2021 Overarching Classroom, Instructional Lab and Experiential SOP (4/26/21) Fall 2021 Overarching Classroom, Instructional Lab, and Experiential SOP (updated 7/30/21)
Midterms and Final Exams	Updated for Su21 Target updates: 7/1 for Fa21.	Spring 21 guidance for In-Person Exams (updated 2/3/21) Summer 21 guidance for In-Person Exams (4/26/21)

Attendance	Updated for Su21 Updated for F21	Spring 2021 Syllabus Letter and Templates Summer 2021 Syllabus Letter and Templates Fall 2021 Syllabus Letter and Templates
Isolation & Quarantine	Remains in effect until further notice	Communication Regarding Students in Isolation & Quarantine
Instructor & Student Surveillance	Updated for Su21	Summer 2021 Surveillance Testing Plan Fall 2021 Surveillance Testing Plan
Instructor Support	On-going	Innovative Learning Website

Protect Purdue Pledge

- All students and instructors are expected to follow the [Protect Purdue Pledge](#), which includes submitting vaccination records or participating in frequent surveillance testing and complying with all Protect Purdue guidance. Non-compliance is a student conduct violation (students) or a violation of employment (instructors).

Academic Calendar

- Fall 2021 will follow our traditional fall calendar, with normal start and end dates and our typical breaks.

Classroom Capacities

- All learning spaces, including lab spaces, up to 300 seats will be set at 100% capacity. (updated 5/2021)
- Facilities will be using the summer months to return furniture to learning spaces in preparation for fall; however, all Summer 2021 classroom capacities remain at AY20-21 de-densified levels with social distancing, unless an exception is granted by Protect Purdue review.

Course Modality

- Fall 2021 will resume the residential delivery of courses under a single course catalog.
- In-person instruction will resume as the default mode of instruction in Fall 2021.
- Accuracy of the official course schedule with respect to intended instructional modality of each course remains critically important as:
 - the official schedule of classes supports many Protect Purdue processes, including but not limited to contact tracing, classroom disinfection schedules, surveillance testing, etc.
 - the schedule provides essential information to students as they make important decisions.
- Online courses are a valuable component of a residential catalog and will continue to be offered post-pandemic as they were pre-pandemic.
- As was practice pre-pandemic, 100%-online courses should only be included when they add instructional value and/or as part of as an integral part of a unit's portfolio of course offerings. Possible examples may include:
 - one of multiple sections of a required course to provide flexibility to students for experiential learning opportunities such as co-op.
 - elective courses to enable a broad participation of majors by removing course conflicts
 - high demand courses for which some online offerings can increase capacity to meet student need.
 - increasing access to unique courses that only a particular individual can teach
 - As was practice prior to the pandemic, Instructors should consult with their department head if planning 100%-online delivery of a course.
 - Curriculum committees, department heads, and college leadership should evaluate the modality of their courses relative to university guidelines and academic program goals.

- Note that medical accommodations, should they be required, could necessitate an online offering. These situations will be defined by the Medical Advisory Team as we get closer to the start of the Fall semester.

Mask Policies

- The [Required COVID-19 Mask Protocols](#) (updated July 30, 2021) are posted to the Protect Purdue website and state that everyone must wear masks in all indoor spaces on the PWL campus, including instructional spaces:

“Face masks are required in [all indoor spaces for everyone on the Purdue University campus](#), including students, employees and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.”

Classroom Disinfection

- Building Services staff will continue to prioritize the large area disinfection and touch point cleaning through summer and fall 2021. They will also continue to provide self-serve disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizing stations.

Overarching Classroom, Laboratory Instruction, Experiential SOP

- The overarching SOP for Fall 2020 was extended into Spring 2021.
- The overarching SOP has been updated with minor changes for Summer 2021.
 - Most substantive changes are reflective of the updated Summer 2021 travel, events, and visitor policies. In addition, the recommendation to quarantine paper has been removed.
- The [overarching SOP](#) has been updated with minor changes for Fall 2021.

Midterm and Final Exams

- In-person exams in Fall 2021 will use the same classroom capacities and protocols as Fall 2021 in-person classes.
- Final exam week will return to standard operations during Fall 2021.
 - In-person/hybrid courses may again offer in-person, online, or no final exam
 - 100% online courses will be scheduled for online final exams.
- The recommendation to quarantine paper has been removed starting in Summer 2021.

Course Attendance

- For summer 2021, in-person attendance cannot be factored into final grades. However, the timely completion of alternative assessments and online participation can be part of the final grade.
 - Instructors are expected to support students who must be absent from in-person attendance (e.g., illness, symptoms, quarantine, isolation etc.).
 - Students are expected to attend in-person courses when they are able.
- Beginning Fall 2021 Academic Attendance Policies will return to standard, pre-COVID policies as outlined in the [University Academic Regulations](#).
 - Students are expected to attend classes for which they are registered.
 - Students must follow all PPHC medical protocols, which may differ depending on the vaccination status of the student.
 - Students with submitted vaccination records will typically not need to quarantine or miss class after a high-risk exposure if asymptomatic.
 - Students must quarantine and may not attend class after a high-risk exposure.
 - Students who are not vaccinated and who test positive must isolate and may not attend class until cleared by the PPHC.
 - Students who have COVID-19 symptoms may not attend class and should contact the PPHC as soon as possible.
 - If a student must quarantine or isolate:
 - Instructors should do their best to accommodate the student either by excusing the student or allowing the student to make up work, when possible.
 - Academic case managers will be available to coach and support students.

Quarantine and Isolation Communication to Instructors

- After a student is directed to quarantine or isolate: They receive a follow-up email from pphc-notification@purdue.edu with the subject line “Student/Employee Campus Access Letter.” Students may choose to forward this email to instructors.
- The Office of the Dean of Students sends out absence notifications directly to all instructors.
- When a student’s time in isolation or quarantine is completed, they receive a second email from PPHC with the subject line “Student/Employee Clearance Letter.” Students are directed to forward this email to faculty before returning to in-person class meetings.
- This process will remain in effect until further notice. See [Communication Regarding Students in Isolation & Quarantine](#) for more details.

Instructor & Student Surveillance Testing

- Summer 2021. General surveillance testing will not be required for employees and students this summer. Contact tracing, data and insights will be utilized to inform targeted testing in any potential hot spots on an as-needed basis.
- Fall 2021. Routine surveillance testing will begin Aug. 23, as outlined in the [Details for Normal Operations for Fall 2021](#) on the Protect Purdue website, for faculty, staff, and students.
 - Faculty, staff, and students who submit vaccine documentation are exempt from surveillance testing.
 - Faculty and staff designated as 100% remote will be exempt from routine surveillance testing.

Instructor Support

Resources and support for course instructors will continue to be a top priority including but not limited to support for Brightspace, course design/set-up, student success, and accessibility. For suggestions, questions, or assistance email innovativelearningteam@purdue.edu.

- [Teaching & Learning Technologies Training & Consultations Calendar](#)
- [Libraries and School of Information Studies Resources and Services for Instructors](#)
- [Technology Advocate to Support Classes](#)