

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

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.

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. 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

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
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	Remains in effect until further notice	Required COVID-19 Face Mask Protocols (5/26/20, updated 2/15/21)
Classroom Disinfection	Remains in effect until further notice	
Overarching Classroom SOP	Target updates: 3/22 for Su21 SOP & 6/1 for Fa21 SOP.	Fall 2020 / Spring 2021 Overarching Classroom, Instructional Lab, and Experiential SOP
Midterms and Final Exams	Target updates: 3/22 for Su21 SOP & 6/1 for Fa21 SOP.	Spring 21 guidance for In-Person Exams (updated 2/3/21)
Attendance	Target updates: 3/22 for Su21 SOP & 6/1 for Fa21 SOP.	Spring 2021 Syllabus Letter and Templates
Isolation & Quarantine	Remains in effect until further notice	Communication Regarding Students in Isolation & Quarantine
Instructor & Student Surveillance	Remains in effect until further notice	Spring 2021 Surveillance Testing Plan
Instructor Support	On-going	Innovative Learning Website

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.
- Learning spaces above 300 seats will be set at 75% capacity or 500 seats, whichever is less.

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

- Mask-wearing remains mandatory according to [Protect Purdue protocols](#).

Classroom Disinfection

- Currently, all instructional spaces included on the official schedule of classes are disinfected nightly.
- Nightly disinfection will remain in place until further notice.

Overarching Classroom, Laboratory Instruction, Experiential SOP

- The overarching SOP for Fall 2020 was extended into Spring 2021.
- The SOP is expected to extend into Summer 21 with few changes. An updated document for Summer 2021 is targeted for release by 3/22/21.
- The SOP for Fall 2021 is likely to require more extensive updates. An updated document for Fall 21 is targeted for release by 6/1/21.

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.
- Changes in recommended paper handling protocols will be included with the updated overarching SOP targeted for 3/22/21 (Summer 21 SOP) and 6/1/21 release (Fall 21 SOP).

Course Attendance

- Currently, 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.
- These COVID-19 specific expectations will continue into Summer 2021 and remain in place until further notice.
- Any updates to the COVID-19 specific attendance adjustments for Fall 2021 will be targeted for release with the overarching SOP on 6/1/21.

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

Related to instruction, the [current surveillance testing plan](#) includes:

- Required random testing throughout the semester of 10% of all residential undergraduate, graduate and professional program students each week.
 - With additional testing for students in Fraternity, Sorority and Cooperative Life organizations.
- Required random weekly testing throughout the semester of 10% of all faculty/instructors who are teaching one or more in-person classes.

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](#)
- Summer IMPACT Opportunities (coming soon)
- [Technology Advocate to Support Classes](#)