

August 11, 2021

Syllabus language regarding possible Covid absences

After much hard work by the Faculty Senate officers, colleagues in Student Affairs, and the General Counsel's office we have policy language for use in all syllabi for the Fall semester. I know this is close to the start of the semester, but we wanted to make sure all units were on the same page. The language is at the bottom of my message, and also on the [FCTE website](#). We will be posting this same language on multiple FAQ pages related to the Fall semester and Covid policies. Among the highlights: this year faculty will not be responsible for providing an alternate, virtual presentation of course content when students need to miss class due to Covid; but faculty will accommodate students who have a documented, serious medical issue—as in years past—by graded assignments such as quizzes, exams, or papers available (or allow students to turn them in late). A serious medical issue includes quarantine or isolation due to Covid. We believe this strikes the appropriate balance between supporting and not penalizing students who need to miss class due to Covid and removing some of the most difficult, time-consuming expectations that affected faculty last year.

Other Fall reminders

Seating charts. The faculty should keep seating charts again this Fall semester. The contact tracers in Student Affairs confirmed that these were invaluable and could be even more critical this year since we will have some classrooms at full capacity.

Office hours. Faculty should hold F2F office hours if at all possible. As many faculty reported greater use of office hours last year via Zoom, it is certainly fine to offer Zoom sessions as well.

COVID syllabus language: revised 8/9/21, Faculty Senate

Students are expected to adhere to course attendance policies, as stated in the course syllabus. Students must complete the Sycamore Symptom Assessment by email before arriving on campus each day unless they have documented their COVID immunization and have been exempted from the program. Documented COVID-related absences will be treated like any other serious medical issue. Following University policy, students with a documented, serious medical issue must contact the Office of the Dean of Students for assistance. The Office of the Dean of Students will supply documentation for faculty. Students with a documented serious medical issue should not be penalized and will be given a reasonable chance to complete exams or assignments. Once notification is made, faculty will make reasonable efforts to accommodate the student's absence and will communicate that accommodation directly to the student. Please note that faculty are not required to accommodate a serious medical issue with virtual content options, like streaming or recorded lectures. Students who have been notified by contact tracers of a close contact who has tested positive for COVID must abide by their instructions, which will include a mandatory period of quarantine, especially if the student is unvaccinated, and/or mandatory testing. To avoid the potential of missing significant class time, students are strongly encouraged to receive the COVID vaccination that has been made available on campus. For more information about the vaccines or to find a vaccination site, go to: ourshot.in.gov. The [ISU Health Center](#) also administers COVID-19 vaccines by appointment.

Students should contact the [Office of the Dean of Students](#) with questions by calling **812-237-3829**.

The information provided in this section of the syllabus is subject to modification based on guidance by public health authorities. Please follow [this link](#) for updated information on ISU's Fall 2021 requirements.