**Expectations for Instruction during Spring 2022**

In-person classes are key in providing the energy, opportunities for collaboration, and overall experience that make a University of Arkansas education unique. At this time, the university is planning for in-person, face-to-face instruction on campus as scheduled.

Please know that the university’s COVID-19 Response Team continues to monitor the infection rate of the campus community and the surrounding region, as well as the burden on our medical community, especially hospitalizations. We ask that you remain flexible and ready to adjust as the health and safety of the campus community will continue to shape all decision-making.

We also continue to strongly encourage vaccination and booster shots, which we know to be among the best strategies for mitigation of the virus, along with frequent hand washing and use of hand sanitizer and masks.

As we return for the spring semester, please consider:

**Faculty are expected to teach classes face-to-face with students except for online and approved remote classes.**

* The university is requiring everyone to always wear a mask in the classroom.
* Faculty may encourage students to become vaccinated, but they cannot require or coerce students to become vaccinated.
* Academic incentives for vaccinations are not allowed.
* Seating charts are not required but faculty may assign seating in the classroom. If the classroom is large enough, faculty may leave the front row empty.

**Faculty control class attendance.**

* Faculty should inform students in their syllabus how they will handle class attendance.
* Faculty are encouraged to be lenient with class attendance policies, so students are not inclined to attend class when sick.
* Faculty are expected to provide class materials and resources to students who must miss class due to COVID or other excused absences.
* Faculty can but are not required to teach a hybrid class to accommodate absent students.
* Faculty can allow individual students to view recorded lectures instead of attending face-to-face lectures during the pandemic.
* If a student requests in writing (i.e., email) not to attend a face-to-face lecture but instead view a recorded lecture, it is up to the instructor to decide if they are willing to accommodate the student’s request.
* The instructor may send the following email to students to determine which students choose to view recorded lectures instead of attending the face-to-face lectures.

*As the COVID-19 omicron variant is increasing in our area, my class attendance policy will allow you to view a recording of class lectures instead of viewing face-to-face lectures. I will under normal conditions be lecturing face-to-face in the classroom if you want to attend the face-to-face lectures. If you would like to view the class recording instead of attending the face-to-face lectures, please send an email directly to me at* [*xxxx@uark.edu*](mailto:xxxx@uark.edu) *to make a request for my consideration. Please remember that I reserve the right to stop the viewing of recorded lectures and require face-to-face attendance at any time.*

**Faculty are encouraged to record classes, but they are not required to do so. However, some CEA accommodations may require class recording.**

* Faculty control who views the class recordings. Due to FERPA regulations, do not share class recordings from one section with students in another section.
* Faculty control when to delete class recordings.
* Instructors can stop the viewing of recorded lectures at any time they choose to do so.
* The university has invested in additional microphones and cameras to increase the quality of the class recordings.
* CEA accommodations may require instructors to provide individual students access to the lecture material (PowerPoints, handouts, etc.) and a recorded version of the lectures.

**Office hours are managed by faculty and can be face-to-face or virtual.**

* Faculty can indicate their preference for virtual office hours, but they should accommodate requests from students for face-to-face meetings.
* If the faculty’s office is small, they can choose an appropriate location with additional space for distancing for the face-to-face meeting (conference room, etc.).

**Department chairs/heads will deal with faculty absences as they have in the past.**

* Another faculty member may step in and deliver instruction face-to-face.
* Remote delivery is also available but only on a very short-term basis.

**Faculty should prepare students to pivot to remote delivery on short notice.**

* Having a practice class or event during the first two weeks of the semester is recommended.

**Suggested syllabi statement about wearing masks in the classroom:**

*You must wear a mask while in class for your protection and for the protection of those around you. Masks must be properly worn, over your nose and mouth, at all times especially when entering and leaving the classroom. If you do not have a mask, please let me know, and a mask will be provided for you. Eating and drinking is not permitted during class. Individuals should leave the classroom to eat or drink, as necessary. If you require accommodations due to a disability, please contact the* [*Center for Educational Access*](https://cea.uark.edu/)*.*

**Report Student COVID-19 Concerns.**

* If students are not complying with campus mask guidance or if faculty become aware that students are not [self-reporting a positive result](https://health.uark.edu/coronavirus/self-reporting.php) from a test conducted off campus or at home, faculty can file a report at <https://report.uark.edu/>.