



University of Idaho

TO: University of Idaho Faculty and Staff
FROM: Torrey Lawrence, Provost and Executive Vice President
Diane Kelly-Riley, Interim Vice Provost for Faculty
DATE: March 2, 2021
SUBJECT: Summer and Fall 2021 Semester Early Guidance

Planning efforts are underway for Summer and Fall 2021. While we are moving toward a return to in-person activities, we are mindful that the pandemic is not over. Thus, we have a two-step process as we plan. First, we must make plans and decisions in March 2021 to create a course schedule for Fall 2021 so students can register in April. Second, we may need to adjust to the realities of current conditions, particularly as we approach the start of Fall 2021 semester.

To mitigate both, we are adopting a framework that provides the most options for Fall 2021. This framework incorporates a primarily in-person experience for Fall 2021 and will position U of I to adjust, if needed. Our plan assumes:

- Summer 2021 will be a transition period that includes a mix of our current COVID-19-related instructional delivery methods and in-person activities as appropriate based on COVID-19 protocols and Idaho Public Health guidance.
- Fall 2021 will return to a more normal, in-person semester schedule. By the start of Fall 2021, the pandemic may have waned, but specific conditions remain to be seen.
- Some faculty, staff and students may continue to have required work or instructional accommodations into Fall 2021 due to COVID-19-related issues.

Schedule Building and Registration for Summer 2021

- Development of course offerings and schedules are underway within departments. These plans should assume existing [COVID-19 formats](#) and continued adherence to protocols set forth in the [Healthy Vandal Pledge](#).
- Field camps for undergraduate and graduate students can be scheduled while following university protocols for COVID-19.
- To clearly communicate to students about in-person requirements, course delivery should be consistent with the manner listed on the schedule developed during Spring 2021. Changes to course delivery — from what is advertised on the schedule of classes to the actual delivery of the course — can have negative consequences for students.

Schedule Building and Registration for Fall 2021

- Development of course offerings and schedules are already underway and will reflect a primarily in-person schedule. Colleges and departments will decide on the appropriate course formats for fall; these formats must be approved by the dean.
- Note that the available [COVID-19 formats](#) should change for Fall 2021. The HyFlex course format should be phased out as a course delivery option noted in the class schedule. Courses previously designated as HyFlex should return to in-person designations or can be offered through connected Classroom Meeting and Virtual Meeting sections. These connected sections are optional but provide departments and students greater flexibility, and this arrangement will allow us to adjust quickly if we need to accommodate classroom occupancy restrictions.
- Connected sections are not required but might be offered for the following reason(s):

- Make the method of instructional delivery clear to the student at the time of registration;
- Provide departments adaptable course configurations in the event the pandemic requires a quick return to enhanced social distancing and/or remote instruction;
- Ensure that international students are appropriately enrolled and can maintain eligibility for financial aid and other resources;
- Allow students who may have continuing COVID-19-related impacts the ability to complete coursework remotely;
- Allow the unit to offer some seats via [Online Idaho](#).
- Departments are responsible for managing course enrollments in connected Classroom Meeting and Virtual Meeting sections. Enrollment limits may need to be adjusted between sections to provide maximum access to students.
- Departments can integrate innovative course delivery methods that worked during the pandemic. Units are not required to go back to how things were in Fall 2019.

Actual Course Delivery During Fall 2021

We are hopeful for a return to more normal operations but will adjust if the situation changes. As we approach summer, decisions will be made about Fall 2021 safety protocols and potential impacts to course delivery. Much of this decision-making depends on successful COVID-19 vaccination distribution — those who want the vaccine can get it — and the advice of Idaho Public Health.

ADA Accommodations

For Fall 2021, we are working from the assumption of a return to in-person activities so the staffing needs of courses and programs will also assume resumed in-person activity. We are hopeful that many faculty and staff will choose to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and the pandemic will be diminishing.

Faculty and staff who have Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodations on file with Human Resources should continue to work with HR to determine the appropriate work arrangements for summer and fall. HR will follow up with employees at the appropriate time to confirm continued interest and need for these accommodations. HR will communicate to deans and direct supervisors regarding the status of employees with ADA-required work accommodations.

Students who have ADA accommodations on file will continue to work with the Center for Disability Access and Resources (CDAR) for updated arrangements. Faculty and staff are required to provide ADA accommodations for students working with CDAR.

Torrey Lawrence
Provost and Executive Vice President

provost@uidaho.edu
uidaho.edu/provost

Diane Kelly-Riley
Interim Vice Provost for Faculty

dkr@uidaho.edu
uidaho.edu/provost/faculty

Copyright © 2021 University of Idaho, All rights reserved.

Not the email you wanted to get? Customize what emails you receive from the University of Idaho by [updating preferences for <<Email Address>>](#). You can also [opt <<Email Address>> out](#) of all University of Idaho email communications.

You may wish to [forward this email to a friend](#).

