



Academic Affairs Update

June 23, 2021

AVC Community,

Last week, our state reopened fully, and many of the COVID-related mandates were set aside. Hopefully, you have all received and read the AVC update sent earlier this week regarding the elimination of social distancing, the lifting of caps on class sizes, and the new guidelines for mask wearing. What does that mean for our classes, in the short (Summer) and long (Fall) term?

First off, I would like to invite you all to attend the Faculty Meeting this Friday at 9 am at <https://avc.zoom.us/j/92756423769> where I hope to answer as many questions as I can.

In the meantime, below is the information that I have available for you today:

1. **Summer 2021:**

All Summer courses will continue in the way they were set up. No modification will be applied to any course, even to those scheduled for the second six-week session.

2. **Fall 2021:**

We had scheduled Fall courses in the following configurations:

A. Fully Online (asynchronous) - No changes will occur for this category.

B. HyFlex (50-50 split between face-to-face and remote students):

As of yesterday, we had about 660 courses scheduled in the HyFlex model. Of those, about 600 courses have students enrolled in both the face-to-face and remote (synchronous) versions, and 60 courses where no students are currently signed up in the remote version. Academic Deans are reaching out to faculty scheduled to teach those 60 courses to find out whether they would like the remote section eliminated, and the class size for the face-to-face version increased to the regular (pre-COVID) levels. (The elimination of these remote sections is also predicated on the availability of an online section for the same course. We want to ensure that students who are not yet ready to return to campus have the possibility to enroll in the courses of their choosing.)

The other 600 sections where some students are enrolled in the remote version cannot be modified, except to possibly adjust the ratio between the remote and face-to-face caps. However, both sections (remote and in-person) will have to remain for each course, with the caveat that any faculty member may now be more flexible in allowing students to go back and forth between the remote and in-person modes. Instruction for all these courses will occur with the faculty member present on campus, in his/her/their classroom.

C. In-Person Courses:

A significant number of our science courses were scheduled for in-person instruction, with the class size capped at 50 percent of the normal size. After consultation with the department chairs in those areas, it was decided yesterday to lift the 50 percent enrollment limit and allow students to sign up for these courses up to the regular course cap. There are a handful of other areas where the 50 percent cap was applied; I or the Dean overseeing those disciplines will reach out to the faculty to discuss the adequate modification.

D. Hybrid Courses will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Please contact your Dean.

As we progress toward a more normal set of circumstances, I would like to once again thank the AA members who have worked diligently behind the scenes to adapt to the ebb and flow of the changes brought on by the COVID pandemic. Kyle Jacobsen and Sam Darby have been heroic in their dedication and hard work, rolling with the punches and adjusting sections with literally thousands of entries. If you see them on campus, please take a moment to recognize their incredible work ethic and positive attitude.

I look forward to "seeing" you on Friday.

Sincerely,
-Isabelle Saber
Vice President of Academic Affairs

P.S. I have used the expressions "in-person" and "face-to-face" interchangeably.