

# Preparing for Fall Semester 2021 Newsletter

## Classes and Classrooms

### Masks

At this time, we continue to require face coverings regardless of vaccination status in classrooms, on campus transportation, with participants in human research, and in health care areas where patients may be present. As we are able to better assess vaccination rates in our community, we may modify our approach for classrooms. [Read more about the University's face covering policy here.](#)

### Format

Any class that meets 50% of the time is considered in-person. The remote part of the class can be synchronous or asynchronous. If you hope to offer your class in this hybrid format (50% or more in-person with remote synchronous or asynchronous meetings), please reach out to Lorraine Gutiérrez or Barb Hiltz to discuss curricular implications and to appropriately identify the course in the catalogue for students' registration. The SSW will not be using hyflex models of teaching (some students in the classroom while others are online, simultaneously), this fall.

### Walk Through of Classrooms

The SSW-IT team will be hosting a walk through of our classroom A/V systems Thursday 8/19/2021 from 3-4pm and Friday 8/20/2021 from 9-10am in room B798. How to turn on and use the classroom computer, projector, microphones, and camera and connect your laptop (if desired) to the system will be covered along with a quick overview of using Kaltura Classroom for lecture recording. To set up an individual walk through of a specific classroom at a different time, please email [ssw.av@umich.edu](mailto:ssw.av@umich.edu).

### In-Person Teaching Exemption Requests

The provost's office has a new policy for in-person health teaching exemption requests. If you are asked to teach an in-person class, but feel that you should be exempt due to a health condition, your request will be evaluated by Work Connections, and not by the School of Social Work. Consistent with past practice for medical issues, instructors can request an evaluation of their health status for teaching through Work Connections.

### Eating/Drinking

There is no need to designate specific areas within a building for eating. Common areas such as kitchenettes, break areas can be used for food prep, storage and eating. Shared resources such as coffee pots and water coolers can be used. For students, classroom spaces should still not be used for eating/drinking (with the exception of quick sips of liquid). Students may eat at other locations within buildings adhering to distancing requirements according to their vaccination status.

### Grading

We will be returning to our regular grading policies in the fall semester. Students will no longer have the option to change their grades to S (satisfactory) or NRC (no record COVID). The deadline for requesting a change from a letter grade to S (Satisfactory) is July 1, 2021 for the Fall 2020 term, and November 1, 2021 for the Winter and Spring/Summer 2021 term.

## Entering the Building

Building access information is currently being reviewed for fall semester. As of the date this is being sent:

- Building access has been suspended for all non-essential visitors until August 16th.
- Access to the building requires an active Mcard until August 16th. You can only enter the building from the main entrance at South University and East University.
- Fully vaccinated guests who have completed the [ResponsiBLUE Guest Screening](#) are still required to wear masks in classrooms, on campus transportation, with participants in human research, and in health care areas where patients may be present.
- Everyone entering the building must [complete the U-M Health Screen](#) once a day. You will be asked to participate in a brief screening process which includes five questions. To speed this process along and to avoid delays, complete the [online health screening](#) and be ready to present the completed screen to the person monitoring the door.
- Restrooms and classrooms are reconfigured to allow for social distancing.

**Because of the changing nature of this information, please refer to the [COVID-19 page on the SSW Website](#) for the most up to date information.**

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