

## Reminders for In-Person Learning as We Start a New Academic Year

provost@slu.edu

Tue 8/24/2021 3:46 PM

Dear Colleagues,

Please see below for a message that was sent to all students today with reminders about their classes this semester. Let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Mike

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**From:** provost@slu.edu

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 24, 2021 3:39 PM

**Subject:** Reminders for in-person learning as we start a new academic year

Dear Billikens,

Welcome back to campus for the start of a new academic year. I plan on sending a formal welcome back to our entire community later this week, but prior to the start of classes for most students tomorrow, I want to provide a few reminders about how classes will operate this fall, with attention to what is different from last academic year. The information below applies to students who will be learning in person this fall.

- Absences due to isolation/quarantine (I/Q) this semester will be handled as extended authorized absences (such as those brought on by the flu or surgery) always are handled. Students should contact their instructors to discuss how they can maintain progress in their courses. This plan may look different for your respective courses.
  - In general, it will not include “Zooming in” to a live class session. The [University Attendance Policy](#) continues to consider these absences “authorized,” and students can expect to receive a letter clearing them from I/Q that they can share with their instructors when it is time to return to class. Fortunately, the University’s vaccine mandate should help to reduce the need for I/Q as compared to last year.
- The elimination of “dual-mode” classes [I announced last spring](#) means in-person classes will not have a simultaneous Zoom session for each in-person class meeting. Students and faculty overwhelmingly voiced to us that this format did not offer an optimum learning experience. This means if you need to miss class during the semester, the normal attendance policy applies and you should work, as usual, with each of your instructors to make sure you are doing everything you need to stay on track with progress in your courses.
- The vast majority of traditionally in-person courses will be offered in person this fall. While a small number of courses remain online, those should primarily be asynchronous, which means you will not have the same challenges you did last year with back-to-back classes in different modalities.
- In-person classrooms will be set at normal room capacities, without social distancing. We currently do have a mask requirement indoors, and this includes in our classrooms and other learning spaces. To support robust Contact Tracing this fall, we also have asked instructors to keep track of where students are sitting in classrooms.
  - This means your instructors may ask you to fill out a sheet periodically or every class period indicating who you’re sitting near; to sit in the same seat all semester; to jot down the names of other students sitting near you; or something else that allows them to be prepared to share seating arrangements with Contact Tracers should the need

arise. I appreciate your cooperation to ensure Contact Tracers have all the tools they need to keep our campus safe this fall.

It is important to remember that all of these decisions came from recommendations made by faculty, student, and staff working groups.

I am excited that in-person instruction will look much more normal this fall, and I am grateful for the commitment you showed to making this happen by getting vaccinated.

Sincerely,

Mike Lewis, Ph.D.  
Provost