

Guidance if a Student Requests Remote Participation or Online Course Delivery

As the university moves forward to return to normal operating procedures, COVID will continue to impact our lives. Many students will have concerns about their ability to safely/effectively integrate into the in-person learning environment. The university is no longer engaging in a special consideration process; however, we have the responsibility to share what flexibility and options exist for them to continue their progress toward degree. The following guidance is designed to help you navigate requests from students. Please contact Mark Newmiller, Director of the Disability Resource Office, at 919-513-3768 if you have questions.

Non-Disability Related Concerns

Concerns about taking in person courses:

Students with concerns about taking in person courses should be referred to first work closely with their advisor to identify options already available, such as:

- alternative courses that meet degree requirements that are already offered online
- an alternative schedule of courses that may be out of synchronization
- taking courses approved by the Director of Undergraduate programs or Department Head that are offered online at a different institution
- reducing hours for a semester

Flexibility Within the Current Course Design

Faculty are not expected to redesign an in-person course or create a separate course to afford online participation. However, faculty should consider solutions that are possible within the current course design that may not provide the same experience as in-person students.

Students should work with the Instructor to determine what flexibility exists for any student that has or had special circumstances (e.g. reviewing recorded course lectures when sick with flu/COVID or students missing class for official university business, etc.)

If the flexibility offered by the instructor does not resolve the student's concerns, the student should work through the academic chain (department

head and ultimately college) as they normally would if there are extenuating circumstances (e.g. senior graduating at the end of the current semester).

Students may be referred to the DRO when there is uncertainty regarding the underlying reason for the request. "If you need to request accommodations based on a disability or medical related need, please contact the Disability Resource Office."

Disability Related or Medical Condition Related Concern

For courses that do not have an online option available, a student with a disability or chronic medical concern may initiate a request through the Disability Resource Office (DRO).

If it is substantiated that a student is eligible for this consideration, the DRO will contact the student's instructors to initiate discussion about options available. The DRO will work with each instructor to specify the feasibility and details of remote participation and inform the student of options available.

Should a student be eligible, it is understood that:

- not all courses have options for remote participation (e.g.: heavy discussion/participation based, group work required, some labs, practicums, etc.)
- approval for Fall 2021 does not imply approval for future semesters
- provision of remote participation for an in-person class may look different than Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters, remote participation may not provide the same experience as students receive in the seated course
- modifications may take the form of streamed synchronous access with varying levels of interaction or recorded lectures provided asynchronously

If remote participation is not feasible, the DRO will explore possible alternatives with the department in a good-faith effort towards inclusion. For example, allowing the student to enroll/transfer an online course from another university that is approved by the college, and/or any supporting policy modifications.