

Fall 2021 Frequently Asked Questions for Students Seeking Remote Attendance as a Disability Accommodation

What is the current plan for Fall 2021?

Information about Fall 2021 instruction can be found [here](#). We will continue to monitor the pandemic closely and will follow public health guidance issued by federal and state health officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”).

Will all Fall 2021 courses be taught remotely?

No. With limited exceptions, the default instructional mode for Fall 2021 will be in-person. A limited number of key courses in which the department or program has designated as “Remote Only” (REO) or “In-Person + Remote” (IPR) on the [Schedule of Classes](#). All other courses will meet primarily in person, and physical attendance on campus is expected. Because only a fraction of courses will be taught remotely, students should anticipate that they will not be able to take a full course load remotely and recognize that remote course options will be limited.

Which courses will be taught remotely?

Fall 2021 courses being taught remotely will be indicated as such on the [Schedule of Classes](#).

Will I be required to attend my Fall 2021 classes in person?

Yes. When courses are offered in-person, students are generally expected to attend those courses in person.

I have a medical condition that puts me at a higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19. How do I request a COVID-19-related accommodation?

Requests for a COVID-19-related disability accommodation should be submitted using the Office of Disability Resources’s (ODR) existing process for student accommodations, which can be found [here](#). ODR professional staff will work directly with each student to assess their individual needs and develop an appropriate accommodation plan.

I have a medical condition that puts me at a higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19. Can I get a full load of remote courses as a reasonable accommodation?

The design of courses conducted in-person is substantially different from the design of courses with remote-only options, including key activities such as in-class group work, hands-on labs, or in-class discussions. Because remote attendance would fundamentally alter an essential

component of the vast majority of the University's courses, a full load of remote courses will not be a reasonable accommodation for most students.

What is the Office of Disability Resources specific process for determining whether attending any classes remotely is a reasonable accommodation?

The Office of Disability Resources will work with the student, their treating medical professional, and relevant faculty and staff via an interactive process. This will involve gathering detailed information on the student's medical condition and the design and requirements of the course(s) the student is requesting to attend remotely. A number of accommodations and adjustments will be explored, if supported by appropriate medical documentation, to develop the best approach for the student.

I am an international student. Can I take Fall 2021 classes remotely?

International students who are able to travel to the United States are expected to attend courses in person. International students who may not be able to attend in-person classes in Fall 2021 because of travel restrictions related to COVID-19 should consult with their academic advisor and the [Office of International Education \(OIE\)](#) to evaluate their options.

Will I need to be vaccinated for COVID-19 before returning to campus for Fall 2021?

Consistent with scientific evidence on the importance of vaccine adoption to control spread of the virus, to the extent permissible by law, Carnegie Mellon University will require all enrolled students to be vaccinated for COVID-19, effective this fall semester. This policy will apply to all undergraduate and graduate students in U.S.-based programs. CMU will consider medical or religious exemptions to the vaccine requirement for students. Details on the process to request an exemption will be announced this summer. The University's latest message to campus about COVID-19 vaccinations can be found [here](#).

What if I do not feel safe returning to campus for Fall 2021?

The University is following guidance provided by the CDC and other authorities and putting best practices into place to ensure a safe resumption of in-person instruction. However, students must decide what is right for them based on their circumstances, preferences, goals, and personal judgments of risk. We encourage all students to speak with their academic advisor before making this decision.