



COVID-19 FAQs for 2022 Entering Students

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These FAQs will be posted on Southwestern’s [COVID Information and Updates page](#),
[Institutional Policies page](#), and [Entering Students Canvas page](#).

Notice of revisions will be sent to email address on record with the Admissions Office.

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COVID-19 Health and Safety

What is Southwestern’s COVID-19 vaccination and booster policy?

Southwestern requires proof of full and up-to-date vaccination against COVID-19. Please see Southwestern’s [COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Policy](#) for a full explanation of this requirement. Please review the policy in its entirety as it will provide additional important information and details not covered in this FAQ.

What is the deadline for entering students to submit proof of vaccination?

Initial vaccine: May 15, 2022 (SCALE students) or June 30, 2022 (Traditional Day and Part-time students).

First Booster: If eligible, May 15, 2022 (SCALE students) or June 30, 2022 (Traditional Day and Part-time students). If not eligible as of their program start date, within 30 days of becoming eligible.

Students admitted after the above-referenced deadlines will be informed of their specific deadline in their admission offer email.

How do I provide my proof of vaccination?

Entering students must provide proof of vaccination via the Southwestern COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination & Booster Submission Form. The current version of this form, as well as other forms referred to later in this FAQ, may be found on Southwestern's [Institutional Policies](#) page.

Note that to access the Southwestern COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination & Booster Submission Form, you must sign in using your Southwestern email address and password. This information was (or will be) provided to you within a few business days of your admission. Please contact the Admissions Office at admissions@swlaw.edu or (213) 738-6834 if you do not have this information.

Does Southwestern offer any exemptions from the vaccination requirement?

Yes. Southwestern may allow vaccine and booster exemptions when an individual has a documented medical condition that contraindicates a COVID-19 vaccination or booster or when an individual holds a sincere religious belief, practice, or observance that is contrary to receiving a COVID-19 vaccination. Southwestern may also allow a deferral if an individual is pregnant. Please see Southwestern's [COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Policy](#), including for the section on deadlines, for submitting an exemption request or pregnancy deferral request.

Does Southwestern have a COVID testing requirement?

Yes. Please see Section J of Southwestern's [COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Policy](#). As noted in the policy, those who are not fully vaccinated, including the first booster, will be required to test twice per week. Those with mandated testing must have a Southwestern-approved exemption or deferral.

Does the law school conduct contact tracing if someone reports a positive case of COVID19?

Yes. When the law school's COVID Compliance Manager receives a report of a positive case, whether through Nobility Health or a member of the community, they will quickly start a contact-tracing process for positive cases when someone was on campus within 48 hours of a positive result.

Someone just told me they tested positive for COVID-19, or I have interacted with someone on campus who is exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19. What should I do?

It is primarily their responsibility to inform Southwestern, so encourage the individual to do so. You should also feel free to assist someone in making such reports. You can also report concerns to Southwestern Security at 213.738.5793, covidmanager@swlaw.edu, or the Dean of Students Office at deanofstudents@swlaw.edu.

What protocols should I follow if I test positive for COVID-19?

Do not come to campus and monitor for symptoms. Follow LA County rules. On or after Day 5 after testing positive, an individual may return to campus if they receive a negative antigen or PCR test and do not have COVID symptoms (including fever-free without Tylenol, etc.); **return before Day 10 requires the individual to wear a N95, KN95, or KF94 mask on campus (indoors and outdoors) while around others through Day 10.**

What protocols should I follow if I suspect or have been notified by Southwestern that I have been in close contact with someone suffering from COVID-19?

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, do not access campus. Test for COVID-19 immediately at a Nobility location (on- or off-campus), and contact your medical care professional. If you have a rapid test, you can also start with that process and contact covidmanager@swlaw.edu. If you receive a positive test result, follow isolation requirements per [LAC | DPH | COVID-19 Isolation \(lacounty.gov\)](#), and immediately notify covidmanager@swlaw.edu of your positive result.

If you are asymptomatic, unless you have tested positive for COVID-19 using a viral test within 90 days of your current exposure, you are required to do the following: Take a PCR or antigen COVID-19 test with Nobility Health 3 to 5 days following the date of last exposure; refrain from accessing campus until you receive a negative COVID-19 test result. If you test negative and remain asymptomatic, you may return to campus. You must wear an N95, KN95, or KF94 mask around others for 10 days. If symptoms start, test right away and stay home, away from others. If you test positive, follow isolation requirements per [LAC | DPH | COVID-19 Isolation \(lacounty.gov\)](#), and immediately notify covidmanager@swlaw.edu of your positive test result.

If I miss class due to COVID-19, will the absence be excused?

No. Southwestern does not have “excused” absences. It is critical, though, that members of the community who are COVID-19 positive or experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or any other contagious disease not access campus. If you are absent due to COVID or another contagious disease, email deanofstudents@swlaw.edu about your situation and also keep records about your COVID-19 or contagious disease-related absences in case you exceed the 14% absence limit.

Does Southwestern have a masking requirement?

Yes. Southwestern’s Indoor Masking Policy can be found on our [Institutional Policies](#) page. You must read this policy to understand when and where masking is required on campus. These requirements can change based on the current COVID-19 and public health situation. The current phase is posted on the front page of the Southwestern website, www.swlaw.edu and on the entrance to each campus building.

Regardless of the current masking requirement in effect at a particular point in time, we require all members of the Southwestern campus to carry an approved mask (N95, KN95, or KF94) with them in case the need to mask in a certain situation arises. Note that faculty and staff may

request that individuals visiting their office or workspace wear a mask in that space, even if masking would not ordinarily be required under the Masking Policy. We will provide entering students with a limited number of KN95 masks.

Southwestern welcomes and encourages voluntary masking, especially if an individual has not been fully vaccinated or is at higher risk of a serious negative outcome if they contract COVID-19. No one should be marginalized or made to feel unwelcome because they choose to wear a mask.

If I have been approved for remote attendance, may I come to campus for other reasons?

We cannot develop and track individual plans for each student. Therefore, we have developed the following parameters, which we believe are consistent with the reasons we granted semester-long remote options. We want remote students to feel like they are members of the law school community, because they are. We encourage those with a remote option to wear a mask if they are indoors and on campus.

- Library and study rooms: Yes
- Outdoor school events on or off campus: Yes (subject to restrictions for individual events, which may be limited to individuals who have been vaccinated and boosted)
- Class sessions on campus: No
- Professor office hours: Attend remote hours
- Student services (e.g., Financial Aid, CSO): Remote
- Bookstore: Use online shipping or curbside pickup
- Print shop: Use online shipping or curbside pickup
- Writing Center: Participate remotely
- Dean's Fellows appointments: Participate remotely
- TA sessions: Participate remotely
- Student organization meetings (inside): Participate remotely
- Indoor campus events: Participate remotely or watch recording
- Indoor off-campus events: Do not attend
- Fitness center: Cannot use
- School travel (e.g., Honors Programs): No

Will Southwestern's Tea Room (cafeteria) be open?

Yes. We anticipate that the Tea Room will be open and that individuals may eat in the Tea Room. Outside eating areas will also be available.

Will the Fitness Center be open?

Yes. We anticipated that the Fitness Center will be open, with no mask requirement. However, we will limit the number of individuals in that area at any given time and require full vaccination and booster.

2022-2023 Academic Year Instruction and Modality of Attendance

Will instruction for the 2022–2023 academic year be in person and on campus?

Yes. Barring a COVID surge or some other currently unanticipated event, instruction for the entire academic year will be in person and on campus, with the following exceptions: (1) SCALE Period 1 will be fully remote, and (2) a limited number of courses or portions of courses, including in Southwestern’s hybrid evening program, announced in advance, will be remote.

Will SCALE I students be able to use the campus during Period 1?

Yes. All students, including SCALE I students, will have full access to and use of the campus during Period 1. Further, even if a class is remote, it will have a designated classroom that can be used for students who would like to participate as a group from campus. You can also participate in class from off campus or from any other quiet place on campus where you can speak without disturbing others (e.g., a study room in the Library). To participate in a remote class on campus, you will need your laptop and headphones; based on experience, we encourage students to use wired and not wireless headphones.

If my classes are not remote, will the school have an option for students to participate remotely?

Remote attendance will be an option in very limited circumstances. Please see section B.2.b of Southwestern’s [COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Policy](#), including for important remote request deadlines.

If I am approved for remote attendance, how will I participate in classes?

Remote attendance may be approved on a very limited basis, following an individualized, interactive process. This interactive process will include case-by-case determination of the most appropriate class participation modality.

Will classes be recorded?

Yes. With the exception of a small number of classes (or portions of a class) where recording is not feasible due to confidentiality or other compelling reasons (e.g., the nature of exercises in an experiential course), classes will be audio recorded and posted on the Canvas page for the course. A student is not deemed to have attended a class simply by reviewing the recording. Southwestern’s plan to record classes is not a guarantee of a successful or an entirely audible recording. Recordings may be limited by available technology, by equipment or technology failure, or by human error. Students who miss a class are encouraged to seek notes from classmates and visit the professor during office hours if they have questions about concepts they missed. Students who attend class in real time may later access the recording; accessing the recording in this situation will not impact your attendance for the class.

Exams

How will midterm and final exams be administered?

SCALE Period 1 midterm and final examinations will be administered remotely. However, we will have limited on-campus space for students who need to take their examinations in person.

We anticipate that all other midterm and final examinations—starting with SCALE Period 2 and the Fall 2022 semester—will be in person and on-campus. We will be prepared to pivot to remote administration of exams in case of a surge. We will also work with those approved for remote attendance to provide appropriate on-campus testing space.

Will exams be open-book or closed-book?

With a small number of exceptions, midterm and final exams will be closed-book. Unless an exam is specifically approved for open-book administration, it will be administered in a closed-book format.

Additional Questions

If I have additional questions, to whom should I direct those questions?

If you have reviewed the above FAQs and Southwestern's [COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Policy](#) and your questions are not answered, please contact one of the following administrators.

- **Vice Deans Anahid Gharakhanian and Dov Waisman**—general policies; academics. Email: agharakhanian@swlaw.edu; dwaisman@swlaw.edu
- **Harriet Rolnick, Associate Dean of SCALE**—SCALE-specific questions. Email: hrolnick@swlaw.edu
- **Lisa Gear, Dean of Admissions**—admissions related questions. Email: lgear@swlaw.edu
- **Nydia Duenez, Dean of Students and Diversity Affairs**—ADA accommodations; attendance policy. Email: nduenez@swlaw.edu
- **COVID-19 Compliance Manager**—questions related to vaccination policy, exemptions, pregnancy deferrals, testing, and remote attendance requests based on caregiver categories described in Southwestern's [COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Policy](#). Email: covidmanager@swlaw.edu