

# SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL

L O S      A N G E L E S

## COVID-19 FAQs for Summer Session 2022 (Continuing Students)

*Prepared and originally posted May 2, 2022 (updated May 13, 2022)*

These FAQs will be posted on Southwestern's [COVID Information and Updates page](#) and [Institutional Policies page](#)

*Notice of revisions will be emailed to Southwestern email addresses.*

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### Summer Session 2022 Instruction and Modality of Attendance

#### ***Will instruction during the Summer Session be in person and on campus?***

Yes. Barring a COVID surge or some other currently unanticipated event, instruction for the Summer Session will be in person and on campus, with the exception of a limited number of fully remote courses that are announced in advance.

#### ***What if I'm approved for fully remote attendance for the Spring Semester (or corresponding SCALE Periods)?***

If you're approved for fully remote as of April 4 and expect your COVID-related circumstances to persist during the Summer Session (May 31-July 27), you may request to continue on a fully remote basis during the Summer Session. Please see Southwestern's [COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Policy](#), and be sure to note the important deadline for submitting a request.

***Is fully remote attendance possible under other circumstances than above?***

Southwestern may approve remote attendance for some classes 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.

***Will a COVID-related temporary remote option be available?***

No. 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, contact the Dean of Students Office about your situation and also keep records about your COVID-19- or contagious disease-related absences in case you exceed the 14% absence limit.

***Will classes be recorded? If so, where will the recordings be posted?***

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?***

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.

***Will exams be open-book or closed-book this Summer Session?***

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. For Summer Session exams, the same protocols and security measures will apply as in the Spring 2022 semester.

## COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing

***What is Southwestern's current vaccination policy?***

Southwestern requires proof of full and up-to-date vaccination against COVID-19 (including the first booster). Please see Southwestern's [COVID-19 Vaccine and Booster Policy](#); please note the deadlines for submitting proof of vaccination and booster.

***I have a Southwestern-approved medical or religious exemption. Does that apply to the Summer Session?***

Yes.

***I have not previously sought an exemption from the vaccination requirement, but wish to do so now. May I still request an exemption?***

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 the section on deadlines for submitting an exemption or pregnancy deferral request.

***Will Southwestern have a COVID testing requirement for the Summer Session?***

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.

***Will Southwestern 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 in the Southwestern community 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](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu), or the Dean of Students Office at [deanofstudents@swlaw.edu](mailto: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 when indoors 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](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu). If you receive a positive test result, follow isolation requirements per [LAC | DPH | COVID-19 Isolation \(lacounty.gov\)](https://www.lacounty.gov/health/COVID-19/COVID-19-Isolation), and immediately notify [covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto: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 \(lacounty.gov\)](https://www.lacounty.gov/health/COVID-19/COVID-19-Isolation), and immediately notify [covidmanager@swlaw.edu](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu) of your positive test result.

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

It depends on the reason. 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 will 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 the Tea Room 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 anticipate that the Fitness Center will be open, with no mask requirement. However, we will limit the number of individuals in the area at any given time and require full vaccination and booster.

**Masking**

***Will Southwestern have a masking requirement?***

Southwestern is continuing to monitor the public health situation and will announce the school’s Summer 2022 masking policy by the end of May 2022. We do anticipate relaxing the masking requirement in at least some areas of campus; we are considering whether individuals must wear masks during class or indoor mandatory events.

Regardless of the masking policy to be announced, we require all members of the Southwestern campus to have an approved mask (N95, KN95, or KF94) with them in case the need to mask in a certain situation arises.

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 Southwestern relaxes the masking requirement, faculty and staff may request that individuals visiting their office or workspace wear a mask in that space.

## Additional Questions

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

- **Vice Deans Anahid Gharakhanian and Dov Waisman**—general policies; academics. Email: [agharakhanian@swlaw.edu](mailto:agharakhanian@swlaw.edu); [dwaisman@swlaw.edu](mailto:dwaisman@swlaw.edu)
- **Nydia Duenez, Dean of Students and Diversity Affairs**—ADA accommodations. Email: [nduenez@swlaw.edu](mailto: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](mailto:covidmanager@swlaw.edu)