

COVID-19 Safety Policy – Fall 2020

Revised August 24, 2020

For many, life is changing on a daily basis as we react to COVID-19. For this reason, SUVA has developed a highly flexible plan for the 2020 fall semester, accounting for a wide range of possibilities as the situation evolves. Our priority is to keep our learning community safe while providing a superior learning environment for our students.

One of the benefits SUVA provides is the individualized attention our students receive. Our small class sizes have an additional benefit, as we are able to socially distance in our classrooms.

As such, we intend to host on-campus classes at the start of the fall semester, as long as state and local governments allow, and leading experts deem it safe to gather with social distancing measures in place.

Following Best Practice Guidelines

SUVA continues to employ best practices recommended by CDC, AZDHS, and other government agencies.

All students, faculty, and staff are required to consistently practice social distancing.

- Face coverings must be worn at all times while in the building, unless eating. Bandanas, neck gaiters, mesh, hose, and lace masks are not allowed, as they do not sufficiently mitigate droplet transmission. If you can blow out a candle through your mask, it's not good enough.
- Individuals must remain at least six feet apart whenever possible.
- Students and faculty are required to submit daily health questionnaires certifying that they are symptom-free prior to entering the building.
- Everyone who enters the building must use hand sanitizer provided prior to entry.

Sanitation

SUVA employs a professional cleaning crew that disinfects offices and classroom spaces daily. Additionally, we are employing the following measures to minimize the risk of infection:

- Frequently touched surfaces (desks, computer keyboards, etc.) are scrubbed with disinfectant wipes (provided by SUVA) at the end of each class meeting.
- Classrooms and common areas will have air purifiers with UV sanitizers.
- Hand sanitizer stations have been dispersed throughout the building

The HVAC in our fancy new building was designed to pull air from outside, so we won't be breathing recycled air.

Fall 2020 Class Schedule

SUVA is implementing a block schedule for the fall semester, where the term is split into two, 8-week sections. Under the block schedule, full-time students take 2-3 classes at a time for a total of 4-5 classes throughout the semester. The block schedule will reduce the total number of students on campus at any given time and the modified schedule will also reduce the disruption to students' learning if it is deemed unsafe for classes to be held on campus at any point during the semester. The block schedule will not increase the time required to complete a degree.

We have designed the fall schedule to promote social distancing. As such, classrooms will be configured to serve one student per 100 square feet of learning space. Class times will be staggered to minimize the number of students gathering in the halls and, whenever possible, students will be required to be on campus only 2-3 days per week.

Students will have limited access to classrooms outside of class time to ensure social distancing practices are followed. Students wishing to use classrooms to work outside of class must schedule their time slot 24-48 hours in advance. More information on classroom space reservations will be shared prior to the start of the semester.

Course Delivery

To address the many possibilities of how COVID-19 will impact our delivery of course content, the University will utilize a variety of learning delivery. These formats were designed to maximize student and faculty safety while maintaining SUVA's standards for student learning.

Recognizing that face-to-face instruction is preferred for drawing and art/design courses, most studio classes will be scheduled for delivery in the classroom. Contingency plans have been developed to facilitate a quick transition to online delivery in the event of a shelter in place order from the government. Studio class periods have been reduced to two hours each to minimize interpersonal exposure.

Some classes will be taught using a "blended" format, in which students will be scheduled for face-to-face classroom time with faculty on campus and additional coursework will be completed online. Other courses, such as those in the General Education program, will be delivered entirely online. All students will have access to classroom-based and online instruction.

We recognize that it is possible that students and/or faculty may need to self-quarantine at some point in the semester. All classes will be set up to facilitate continued learning under these circumstances, using online technologies.

We are happy to work with all students to develop solutions during this time of uncertainty. Recognizing that some students will not be ready to come on to campus due to their own personal health concerns, SUVA will provide the option to complete all coursework online. Students pursuing this option must obtain prior approval from the Chief Academic Officer (chardy@suva.edu).

Self-Reporting and Absences

Students, faculty, and staff are strongly encouraged to report possible exposure and/or confirmed cases to the SUVA administration so we can take necessary steps to keep everyone safe without disrupting student learning. Students and employees are urged to stay home and get tested if they are ill or showing COVID-19 symptoms. Please contact the Dean of Students at czufelt@suva.edu to report COVID related issues.