

Fall semester update and "Re-Orientation" program

Dear Returning Students:

I am writing to remind everyone about the modalities of instruction this fall semester, which begins the week of August 30 for all upper level classes.

As set forth in my email of June 3, the ABA and the NYS Court of Appeals issued waivers of strict compliance with their limits on JD and LLM distance education through the fall 2021 semester. However, both the NYS Court of Appeals' and ABA's Order are more limited than they have been in recent semesters. The Court of Appeals emphasized that the waiver is connected to "social distancing requirements, travel restrictions, and individual health concerns." The ABA provided guidance to law schools over the summer indicating that the spirit of the waiver was to address "pandemic-related concerns" and that students could not join classes remotely merely for reasons of convenience.

While of course circumstances may continue to change, and we are ultimately subject to New York State and Westchester County rules, our current expectation is that we will be able to have our classrooms at 100% capacity in the fall.

Therefore, at the Law School, all instruction and examination administration will be **in person** in the classroom in the fall, except for the following categories of students:

1. Students who are not US residents and are unable to travel to the continental United States due to COVID-related travel restrictions;
2. Students with disabilities who obtain accommodations for remote education from the Office of Student Accessibility Services;
3. Students who submit adequate documentation of an individual health concern (such documentation can be submitted to me by email); and
4. Students who do not submit proof of COVID vaccination in accordance with the process described below and who have not received religious or medical exemptions from vaccination. Please note that such unvaccinated students will not be allowed to be physically present on Pace University premises.

Students who qualify for one of the four categories above must join all classes remotely, via Zoom. Of course, this policy does not apply to attendance in courses that are, by design, 100% distance courses regardless of COVID waivers. For the fall semester, this includes Advanced Analytical Skills, MBE Strategies, Mental Disability Law, Natural Resources, and Cannabis Law. In addition, any student who fails the Pace Safe App on a particular day should not attend class in person, and can participate remotely that day. Professors should be uploading their syllabi with Zoom login information to CLASSES or TWEN as it gets closer to late August.

One final item: We will be holding a "Re-Orientation" for returning students, since so many of you have not been on campus in many, many months, if at all. The program, scheduled for Friday afternoon, September 10, will address graduation requirements, student services, academic success and bar preparation resources and timelines, wellness resources, career reminders, hiring deadlines, access to justice and the growth mindset, among other topics. Attendance is strongly encouraged and 2 PD credits will be awarded. More information about this program, which will also have a Zoom option, will be circulated in the coming weeks.

We very much look forward to seeing you at the end of August. Enjoy the remaining few weeks of your summer.

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