School of Education’s Position on Flexible Learning During COVID-19: Autumn 2021 Quarter
Updated: June 08, 2021 (Endorsed by Dean, Faculty, and Staff)

The School of Education at UW Tacoma recognizes the significant impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our community, nation, and world. Our main priority is ensuring our community’s health, safety, and well-being. This statement describes the endorsed school-wide efforts to best support all faculty, staff, and students during these challenging times. Note: specific academic programs within the School of Education may offer more detailed statements about course delivery and expectations.

Irrespective of course delivery and format, faculty and staff in the School of Education are committed to continue to provide all students with high-quality instruction along with high levels of support. All faculty, staff, and students are expected to be as compassionate and flexible with each other/together as possible as we work through the autumn 2021 quarter and beyond in a flexible learning environment until the pandemic ends.

All instructors are expected to:
1. Communicate information about their course formats to students before the first day of the quarter.
2. Discuss whether they are using asynchronous and/or synchronous learning options, as well as format (i.e., using distance learning/virtual, hybrid, or in-person options).
3. Make synchronous course content accessible to students who are unable to participate in distance-based or in-person course sessions. Instructors may either provide asynchronous options for students to approximate missed class time and/or record live sessions and make the content accessible for a reasonable period of time. Students will not be penalized for missing a synchronous course session.

All students are expected to:
1. Directly contact their course instructor(s) to discuss any extenuating circumstances that may interfere with their ability to fully participate in class(es) with as much lead notice as possible and/or with questions about a specific course(s).
2. Inform their academic advisor of any expected or unexpected delays or interruptions to their program of study to ensure they receive timely guidance on options, resources, and/or support available. Academic advisors are able to direct students to several campus and university resources, including Counseling Services, Emergency Aid, disAbility Resources, Veteran & Military Resource Center, and so forth.
3. Continue adhering to the UW Tacoma Student Code of Conduct in coursework and clinical/fieldwork/practicum, as well as in other interactions, whether in-person or virtually, with other UW Tacoma faculty, staff, and students. Note: some academic programs may have more specific conduct or dispositions policies that enrolled students will also need to follow.

Students may also visit UW Tacoma’s COVID-19 resource page for more information: https://www.tacoma.uw.edu/chancellor/coronaviruscovid-19-facts-resources