

**From:** Lang, Lisa A. <LISALANG@pitt.edu>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 23, 2021 2:38 PM  
**To:** AS - Voting Faculty <as-votingfaculty@pitt.edu>  
**Cc:** AS - Deans Meetings <as-deansliaisonteam@pitt.edu>  
**Subject:** Message from the Dean - Additional Guidance from the Provost on Classroom Issues

Dear Colleagues,

The Provost has requested that I forward her message below to all faculty in the Dietrich School and College of General Studies. **I ask that department chairs also forward this to Tas, TFs and PTIs in their units.**

\*\*\*\*\*

### **From Provost Ann Cudd:**

As we continue to navigate this semester—and as questions and concerns come to our attention—I want to provide some additional guidance for you regarding classroom attendance and steps instructors should take to ensure that every student is able to maximally benefit from their classes.

Let's first address expectations for students who must miss in-person classes:

- Students are expected to communicate to faculty when they are going to miss in-person classes for illnesses, including those related to COVID-19 (such as a Student Health Services requirement to quarantine or isolate), or if the students feel unwell and suspect possible COVID-19 infection even without a test. In these situations, instructors should recognize the need for confidentiality, as they would for any health or personal concern.
- On a related note: Instructors are expected to work with students who are unable to come to class due to a need to isolate or quarantine, or because they are ill. In my [message](#) to Pittsburgh faculty I noted that, "In light of this reality, the University Center for Teaching and Learning has developed a [series of ideas](#) to help you support students who may be in quarantine or isolation—or accommodate your own absence, should the need arise."

Students should not be asked to provide medical proof of a COVID-19 diagnosis or quarantine order. Students who miss in-person classes due to an illness (or other university-recognized reason, such as a religious observance) and have communicated with faculty about their needs should not be subject to academic penalties, including having to resort to "drop the lowest grade" options or receiving zero class participation points on those days. Whenever possible, make-up activities should be afforded for laboratories and other in-person graded activities.

For instructors, our expectations are that:

- Whenever it is pedagogically reasonable, instructors should record their classes and make those recordings available to their students. In addition, notes or other records of recitation discussions should be made available when possible.
- To accomplish this, instructors may use any class recording technology that they deem appropriate. **HOWEVER**, if they choose to use Zoom (or another technology that permits live streaming) instructors

may, at their discretion, **live stream from the classroom** to benefit any students who miss class due to illness or other excused reasons.

- If the class is being live streamed, instructors should not encourage healthy students to stay home to engage in the live stream rather than attending class in person.
- In addition, instructors who choose to live stream cannot allow the production of the live stream from the classroom to detract from the in-class experience (for example, by teaching to the laptop or similar).
- We encourage instructors to reach out to the [University Center for Teaching and Learning](#) to assist their efforts.

Finally, I want to address enforcement of compliance with health guidelines. All students, faculty, and staff who have not provided [proof of vaccination](#) are required to provide evidence of a [negative COVID-19 test result each week](#).

This past week we began enforcing compliance with these guidelines by removing building access for those serving in an instructional capacity and for students who are engaged in in-person educational activities. This compliance enforcement will continue throughout the semester and will, in fact, expand to apply to all on-campus University personnel this week. Those students who are not compliant are not entitled to the accommodations discussed above, but we are not asking faculty to use class policies to police compliance. Thus, while a non-compliant student is not entitled to a makeup exam, access to remote or recorded lecture materials should not be restricted. The Office of Student Conduct will be responsible for handling issues related to student compliance.

If you become aware of non-compliant individuals gaining building access, please report it to [Pitt Concern Connection](#).

---

Kathleen Blee  
Bettye J. and Ralph E. Bailey Dean  
Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences  
Distinguished Professor of Sociology  
Co-Director, Collaboratory Against Hate - Research & Action Center  
University of Pittsburgh  
[\(412\) 624-6090](tel:(412)624-6090)