

School of Law

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To: Incoming 1L Students
From: Brad Parrish, Assistant Dean for Student Services
Date: July 1, 2020
Re: Fall 2020 Schedule Update

I hope you and your families are all staying safe and healthy, and I hope you're enjoying the summer break as much as possible. I am sending this letter to update you on some changes to the Fall 2020 class schedule that we have put in place as part of UND's overall planning for returning to in-person instruction this fall.

In order to provide at least six feet of physical distancing (as both the North Dakota Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention recommend) in classrooms, we have had to make changes to the rooms in which some classes are taught and/or the way some classes are taught (i.e., in-person, online, or hybrid). The revised fall course schedule reflects those changes.

To provide you with an on-campus educational experience that enables you to develop important social support networks with your fellow first-year students, your 1L courses have each been divided into four sections. Each section will have 20-24 students and will meet in the assigned classroom for each class session. Two sections will meet earlier in the day (with classes starting at 8:40am), and two sections will meet later in the day (with classes starting at 1:00pm Monday-Thursday and at 11:30am on Friday). The instructor for each class will split time between each classroom over the course of the semester; during class sessions in which the instructor is not physically present in your classroom, you will participate via distance education technology (for example, Zoom). Your instructor will have course-specific information for you later this summer, but we wanted to get this scheduling information to you as soon as possible so you could plan accordingly.

We realize that many of you may have begun to make plans regarding childcare, employment, and other issues based on the fall schedule we previously provided to you, and we realize that those plans may not be compatible with this new schedule. In order to try and minimize the impacts of this schedule change, we will do our best to accommodate requests for assignment to either an "early" or "late" section. If you need us to consider such a request based on your individual situation, please email me at bradley.parrish@law.und.edu by 5pm on Wednesday, July 8 and let me know. I cannot promise that I'll be able to accommodate every request, but I will do my best.

In addition to physical distancing measures in class, all students, faculty, staff, affiliates, and visitors taking part in UND-sponsored activities on campus will be required to wear a face covering while interacting with others, including in class. You can find more information about this requirement in the "What To Expect In Your Classes During The Fall" document, which is on the UND Provost's website (<https://und.edu/academics/provost/teaching-guide.html>). That website will be updated as new information is available, so please check that site periodically over the summer. Please be mindful that some of that information is directed toward undergraduate students and may not be applicable to graduate/professional students.

We are also in the process of finalizing the Orientation schedule in light of UND's physical distancing and other guidelines, and we will provide that information to you as soon as it is available.

I understand that some of you may feel frustration and/or disappointment at the measures UND is taking to prepare for classes this fall, either because you feel these measures are unnecessary or because you feel these measures are insufficient. I respect that reasonable minds may disagree on these points. Please understand that we have made these decisions in consideration of guidance from the North Dakota University System, UND senior leadership, and local, state, and federal public health officials – and always with the health and well-being of all School of Law community members in mind.

If you have specific questions, comments, or concerns, please let me know.