

2020-21 School of Law Policy Variances due to COVID-19

The extraordinary circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in governmental regulations, University policies, and physical distancing protocols designed to protect the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff, which have made it impracticable to offer in-person classes in the manner envisioned by School of Law policies. The School of Law has determined the following policy changes and interpretations are necessary to ensure efficient operations starting in the Spring semester of 2020 and continuing until further action of the Faculty based on sufficient institutional assessments reflecting diminishment of the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. Policy Manual I.B.10(a) Concerning the Approval of Distance Courses Generally. Courses from Spring semester 2020 and those for the academic year 2020-21 that meet the definition of Distance Education Courses because they have been modified for reasons attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic are deemed to have been approved as Distance Education Courses. However, for any such deemed-approved courses to continue as Distance Education Courses after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, they must at that time be approved under the process provided in the Policy.
2. Policy Manual I.B.10(b) is temporarily suspended. It is replaced in the interim by the following:
 - “b. Approval of Student Requests to Participate in a Course via Remote Instruction.

A student’s request to utilize remote instruction for portions of a course where the student would otherwise be expected to complete that portion of the course on campus will be approved or disapproved by the Assistant Dean for Student Services in consultation with, and the approval of, the instructor of the course in the instructor’s sound discretion. The student’s request must be based on circumstances (including medical, emotional, family, or other personal circumstances specifically related to the COVID-19 pandemic) that make it burdensome for the student to participate in the course without the use of remote instruction. The burden of persuasion is on the student.”
3. For purposes of Policy Manual I.B.11(b)(5), any course that became a Distance Education Course because of the COVID-19 pandemic will not be deemed a Distance Education Course for purposes of applying the policy language. The Office of Student Life will designate courses that did not become Distance Education Courses for reasons attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. For purposes of Policy Manual I.B.11(a), the obligation to “evaluate all Distance Education Classes” will apply only to those classes that did not become Distance Education Courses for reasons attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic. The same

committee will, however, evaluate generally the implementation of the courses that became Distanced Education courses for reasons attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adopted by the UND School of Law Faculty on August 13, 2020.