

UC San Diego

PLANNING FOR FUTURE QUARTERS: ATTAINING A NEW ACADEMIC EQUILIBRIUM

EVC SIMMONS

2021-01-28

UC plans for fall 2021 in-person instruction across its 10 campuses

UC Office of the President

Monday, January 11, 2021

The University of California announced today (Jan. 11) that it is planning for a return to primarily in-person instruction systemwide starting fall 2021, enabling prospective and current students as well as their families to understand our goal well in advance amid the uncertainties of the pandemic.

With robust research advancements and COVID-19 vaccines soon becoming available to students, staff and faculty, UC is preparing to welcome students back to all its campuses this fall, while remaining vigilant in all critical prevention efforts and continuing to prioritize the health and well-being of the University community.

“As the University continues to monitor the evolution of the pandemic, we are also carefully planning a safe return to in-person classes,” said President Michael V. Drake, M.D., who made the decision in consultation with the 10 UC chancellors. “Current forecasts give us hope that in the fall our students can enjoy a more normal on-campus experience.”

In spite of dynamic conditions, the University understands the importance of communicating its plans as early as possible, as it stays flexible and nimble, to ensure students and their families have the latest information for decisions on enrollment, housing and other aspects of university life.

Specific plans for resumption of fall classes, including additional safety measures and starting dates, will be announced by individual UC campuses as they continue to coordinate closely with local public health agencies and follow all local and state health guidelines.

President Drake made the decision in consultation with the 10 UC Chancellors

The UC understands the importance of communicating its plans as early as possible

Campuses will make specific plans in close coordination with local public health agencies and follow all local and state health guidelines

OVERVIEW

Over the coming months, faculty, staff, Senate, and Administration of UC San Diego will be partnering to make careful and flexible plans together for the academic quarters that lie ahead.

These plans will be grounded in the latest data and their implementation will be undertaken in accordance with current public health orders. UC San Diego and UC San Diego Health have a close working relationship with the San Diego County Public Health Department.

This slide deck outlines a general timetable and an updated version of the planning framework that was shared back in Fall Quarter 2020. These materials will serve as guidance for the detailed work that each academic unit will be undertaking in its local context and as coordinated by the divisional deans.

The start of Fall Quarter is still 9 months away. We will engage together in ongoing discussion and analysis about all aspects of the transitions that lie ahead.

Planning Principles

Classes

The following slides show projections for academic operations in coming quarters based on current knowledge about the state of the pandemic, including progress on vaccinations. We will use these projections for planning purposes and update them as new information is acquired.

Actual university operations in any given quarter will be subject to the public health orders in place at that time – and will be adjusted in real time, as necessary, if public orders change.

Housing

In Fall 2021, we will fulfill our long-standing plans of returning housing to design capacity (double occupancy), in order to improve the student experience and respond to student feedback.

Everyone residing in campus housing must obey campus rules on testing, masking, social distancing, visitors, and other public health matters

Other

Assume masking is required until the county public health orders state otherwise.

Where hybrid or remote modalities in courses, bridge programs, orientations, and so forth have proven to be beneficial for participants, their continued future use is encouraged. The degree of use in courses must be kept consistent with Senate regulations; questions should be directed to the Educational Policy Committee.

	Winter 2021	Spring 2021
Classes	<p>Remote and outdoor teaching only, until county public health orders allow indoor teaching.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% cap on classroom density – 6ft distancing • Enhanced classroom sanitation <p>Due to the above, only ~2% is now in-person</p>	<p>Remote, outdoor + indoor teaching anticipated (so long as public health orders allow)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% cap on classroom density – 6ft distancing • Enhanced classroom sanitation <p><u>Aim for increased in-person instruction</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage in-person capstone, labs, studio, field courses to catch students up on requirements
Housing	Single occupancy	Single occupancy
Other	<p>No in-person events</p> <p>Senate/Admin Workgroup on Distance Education for Academic Excellence and Institutional Resilience begins working on recommendations for the future of Distance Education at UC San Diego</p>	<p>No in-person events</p> <p>Online assessment of incoming students for placement (between admission and end of term)</p> <p>Senate/Admin Workgroup wrapping up by end of Quarter</p>

	Summer 2021 (schedule devel. 1/28/2021, enroll. 4/12/2021)	Fall 2021 (schedule devel. 2/4/2021, enroll. 5/21/2021)
Classes	Remote, outdoor + indoor teaching anticipated (so long as public health orders allow) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25% cap on classroom density – 6ft distancing • Enhanced classroom sanitation <u>Maintain high volume of remote classes to meet students’ summer access needs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage in-person capstone, labs, studio, field courses to catch students up on requirements • Summer bridge programs will be hybrid, to provide access; aim for coordination and flexibility 	Senate (EPC) dispensation on remote education expires: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Courses with <50% class time remote are freely allowed • Courses with >50% class time remote require R status • Build on S/A Workgroup recommendations • Seek Senate/WASC partnership to support <u>possible remote classes for new students unable to reach campus</u> for Fall <u>Transition to primarily in-person teaching</u> (indoor + outdoor) so long as public health orders allow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan initially for 100% classroom density; adjust if needed • Orientation and onboarding/bootcamp programs just before Fall Quarter may be indoor, outdoor, hybrid, remote.
Housing	Single/double occupancy	Double occupancy (per design capacity)
Other	No in-person events (reassess June 1) Summer housing open only to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • matriculated and summer bridge students • students unable to go home or new graduates seeking employment in San Diego 	Outdoor classrooms remain in place to provide extra capacity and compensate for H&SS being offline for renovations. Phase in the holding of <u>in-person events</u> , employing indoor and outdoor venues (including the outdoor classrooms).

	Winter 2022 (schedule devel. 6/17/2021, enroll. 11/8/2021)	Spring 2022+ (schedule devel. ~August 2021)
Classes	Teaching reaches a new equilibrium: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily in-person, with no restrictions on classroom density • Likely greater use of digital content, hybrid teaching, and more R-courses (will build upon S/A Workgroup recommendations) 	Continue to develop and maintain long-term campus resilience plans for teaching and learning
Housing	Double occupancy (per design capacity)	Double occupancy (per design capacity)
Other	In-person events reach a new equilibrium, employing indoor and outdoor venues (including the outdoor classrooms) Plan ahead for Summer 2022 teaching in the new equilibrium: significant remote summer teaching (R-courses) to serve students' needs for access and faculty needs for flexibility	Decommission the outdoor classrooms, if they are no longer needed

Revisit Academic Planning Exercise

Part 1: Value/Vision

- Articulate and reflect on joint vision for your programs and your commitment to each other and your students during this pandemic.
- How will you embody those goals and commitments?

Part 2: Inventory & Priorities

- Do an inventory of courses, programs, and initiatives. For each, identify:



- Activities for which in-person delivery is essential
- Activities for which in-person delivery is a high priority
- Activities that can be performed remotely, but where in-person is preferred
- Activities that can continue remote for the longer term (in-person optional)

- For each program/initiative, consider the following questions:
 - What can you do, and what are you doing to support your priorities?
 - Are you aligning teaching assignments with course priorities?
 - Are you redesigning courses to better fit within their assigned teaching modality?
 - Are you modifying service assignments to meet new needs?
 - If you identify misaligned priorities and policies, how will you address these?

Part 3: Scenario planning

Suppose that we are faced with:

Scenario 1: Increased restriction

- Increasing incidents of community spread -> restrict in-person classes to outdoor only, building occupancy to no more than 10%.

Scenario 2: Easing restrictions to 50% occupancy

- Dropping/low & steady community infection rate -> increase classes up to 100 students/class, building occupancy up to 50%

Scenario 3: Vaccine rollout underway

- Rollout of effective vaccine, restrictions on in-person activities lifted, but caution advised until immunization reaches prescribed level.

Scenario 4: Transition to normal operation

- Conditions safe for return to normal as of date X. University enters transition of fixed length before requiring all employees & students to return.

Referring back to your vision/values in part 1 and your priorities from part 2:

- How would you modify current activities to adjust to each situation?
- Who would be tasked with implementing the necessary changes/restrictions?
- Who would be charged with coordinating and communicating these changes/restrictions?
- Are there other scenarios you need to consider?

UC San Diego

Next page

Part 3: Scenario planning - Update

Suppose that we are faced with:

Scenario 1: Increased restriction

- Increasing incidents of community spread -> restrict in-person classes to outdoor only, building occupancy to no more than 10%.

Scenario 2: Easing restrictions to 50% occupancy

- Dropping/low & steady community infection rate -> increase classes up to 100 students/class, building occupancy up to 50%

Scenario 3: Vaccine rollout underway (Spring/Summer 21)

- Rollout of effective vaccine, restrictions on in-person teaching remain. Caution advised until immunization reaches prescribed level.

Scenario 4: Transition to in-person academic operations

- Conditions projected to be safe for return to in-person teaching in **Fall 21**. University announces transition **9 months** before requiring employees & students to return.

Referring back to your vision/values in part 1 and your priorities from part 2:

- How would you modify current activities to adjust to each situation?
- Who would be tasked with implementing the necessary changes/restrictions?
- Who would be charged with coordinating and communicating these changes/restrictions?
- Are there other scenarios you need to consider?

UC San Diego