

FAQ for students - updated July 27, 2021

What are the vaccination requirements?

- Please review the [University vaccination FAQ](#) to ensure that you are in compliance and ready to succeed in the fall. We understand that some students have run into barriers to vaccination, and this FAQ contains information on resources to help you get vaccinated.
- All students are subject to the [student vaccination requirement](#). Students claiming a qualified vaccination exemption will be required to be tested weekly and wear a mask while indoors.

Where can I upload my proof of vaccination?

- Students can go into their Cowell Center "My Student Health Portal" and upload any immunization data, using the tab called "Immunization Upload."
- Students who have previously uploaded their vaccination status via Vax Verify or the Cowell Center | My Student Health Portal need not do so again

When must I supply my proof of vaccination?

- The University requires all faculty, students, and staff to submit proof of vaccination by August 1, 2021.
- Students who are actively in the vaccination process by Aug 1, 2021 will be allowed to attend class, but will be required to test weekly and wear a mask while indoors. Students will also be required to fill out their vaccination status [HERE](#) until they are fully vaccinated (3 weeks after their final vaccine) and can upload their documents.

Will I need to wear a mask?

- Masks (and regular testing) will continue to be required by people who are not vaccinated. There is no mask mandate imposed by the County or University as of today. And, Santa Clara County has [recommended](#) that people wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status. All vaccinated individuals are welcome to wear masks as they may deem appropriate and safe.

How will classes run?

- Given the recent procedures from the University, guidance from the County, and ABA accreditation requirements, we are returning to almost entirely in-person classes. The few exceptions will be expressly noted on the [fall 2021 course schedule](#).
- Santa Clara University and Santa Clara Law were both designed to be in-person educational experiences. The pandemic temporarily interfered with that, and now with the safety measures available, we will shift back to in-person learning to best connect the community. Most other law schools are also returning to in-person instruction.
- Students who cannot attend classes in person due to illness or medical disability may follow the established university procedures to apply for possible accommodations through the [Office of Accessible Education](#).

Has the school considered a hybrid system where some students are allowed in the classroom and others are allowed to attend class online?

- Yes, we have considered this carefully. This is an option that some schools explored before widespread vaccination when social distancing requirements limited the number of students who could be in a classroom at one time. With high vaccination rates, we do not expect that such measures will be required. We will be returning to in-person instruction and discontinuing most remote learning for reasons related to ABA accreditation rules, pedagogical lessons learned from other law schools, and equity concerns.
 - ABA Standards: We are bound by ABA Standards, which limit our ability to offer a curriculum that is considered distance education. The ABA has recently issued guidance that courses that operate online for reasons unrelated to medical disability will count as distance education for all students enrolled in that class. This would interfere with our ability to certify students to graduate.
 - Pedagogical lessons: Some law schools attempted a hybrid model during the pandemic. From their experiences, we have learned that the best pedagogical practice is in-person learning. It is more efficient, promotes higher engagement, and avoids equity concerns.

- Equity concerns: Returning to a single mode of instruction offers the same educational experience for all students.

How will exams run?

- Exams for fall 2021 classes will return to in-person, proctored exams on campus as they did before the pandemic. When you register for classes, you can see the exam time and date.
- If ordered by the County or University to return to online classes, exams will shift to online.

What about student organization events, ASP sessions, office hours, networking events, and other social opportunities?

- We expect that all these opportunities will return to fully in-person, consistent with how classes will run. All Santa Clara University activities are subject to the vaccination and safety requirements.
- Some organizations and offices may prefer to hold some events virtually or outdoors. You will receive detailed information for each event.
- The Student Bar Association (SBA) is currently planning indoor and outdoor events, and we are grateful for their involvement in making these plans to return to campus.

What can I expect from Student Services? The Office of Academic and Bar Success? The Office of Career Management (OCM)? Financial Aid?

- These offices will return to offering services in person and on campus. Some offices might continue to offer remote appointments.
- For information about the virtual on-campus interview processes, please visit [here](#).

This is not going to work for me. I will not return to campus this fall. What are my options?

- If you are unable to return to campus for reasons that are not related to an approved medical disability, we understand. This situation may not be ideal for you for various reasons. You may take a leave of absence from the law school

for fall semester, and please do so by completing the leave of absence form [here](#). We do not plan to return to online instruction unless public health demands it.