Fall 2021 – Requests for Exceptions to In-Person Class Attendance

Some students have requested exceptions for their attendance in in-person classes, based on either medical circumstances or life situations that challenge their ability to be in class.

Students who have COVID-19 or have a close-contact exposure to COVID should not attend class. If this happens to you, you need to contact several people. If you tested at Moffit Health Services or were contacted by them about an exposure, they already have your information. If you tested elsewhere or became aware of an exposure, contact the Dean of Students’ office for guidance (601-266-6028 or dos@usm.edu). Finally, contact your professors to let them know of your need to quarantine and ask them to provide you with work so that you do not get behind. If you are sick and unable to do schoolwork, let them know that as well.

Some students have health conditions that prohibit their attendance in in-person classes, unrelated to a quarantine. In such cases, students should contact the Office for Disability Accommodations. Students should expect to provide documentation of their situation and discuss their needs with professionals in ODA. That office can be reached at 601-266-5024/228-214-3302 or oda@usm.edu.

If a student has extenuating circumstances (rather than a health condition) impacting their ability to attend class, they should contact the Office of Student Outreach and Support to provide information and documentation and receive guidance. This office acts as a liaison between students, faculty, and other university areas, particularly in cases where students miss class. They do not give permission to be absent, but they can help with gathering documentation and communicating with a faculty member about possible adjustments. Ultimately, the faculty member makes his or her own attendance policies and the Office of Student Outreach and Support does not determine whether an absence will be excused. Students who wish to discuss their situation should contact the office at 601-266-6028/228-214-3302 or dos@usm.edu.