

Fall 2021 FAQs

I just received my first dose of the COVID vaccine, but will not be fully vaccinated by August 16. What should I do if I want to take classes in person or come to campus for events or to study?

You should submit a request for a medical exemption. The exemption would be limited in time until you are fully vaccinated. Plan to upload information about your first dose and the scheduled date for your second dose. Understand that until you are fully vaccinated, you will be required to wear a mask while on campus.

I am enrolled in a hyflex class in the online section. Can I attend class sessions in-person?

Students enrolled in a hyflex class (a class that is taught simultaneously online and in-person) may attend class in the modality in which they are registered but may not switch between the two modalities throughout the course of the semester. Students should enroll in the section in which they intend to participate.

I have enrolled in in-person courses and have applied for an exemption, but my exemption has not yet been approved. What happens if my request for an exemption is denied?

You will be unenrolled in any in-person courses in which you are registered and will need to enroll in online courses in lieu of in-person courses. You will need to complete any enrollment changes within the add/drop period for the fall semester.

What will happen if I contract or am exposed to COVID or if there is a COVID exposure within a classroom? Will I be required to attend in-person classes in-person per the law school's attendance policy?

Students who should quarantine because of an exposure or diagnosis of COVID should do so. While our attendance policy requires that students attend class, faculty will work with students to ensure that they can participate in coursework without endangering the health and safety of themselves or others. This may mean that an in-person class will need to meet online for a period of time if there is an exposure in the classroom.

What will happen if Michigan imposes public health restrictions midway through the semester?

The school will continue to observe public health guidance from national, state, and local authorities. This may mean that there will be changes to teaching modalities, to masking requirements, or to testing requirements during the term, consistent with public health guidance.

Will online curricular options be available in the winter semester?

We have not yet made a decision about the winter term. We expect to make this decision in October, taking into account the state of the pandemic at that time. Currently we are able to offer an online curriculum because the ABA, the accrediting body for American law schools, has allowed law schools to seek and receive a pandemic waiver. We do not yet know if this waiver would be available to law schools in the winter term, nor do we know if we would seek and be eligible for it. We appreciate that students want to make plans for the entire academic year, and would encourage students to consider it a strong possibility that the winter semester will be in-person, with limited elective courses offered online.

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I am taking all my classes online and do not intend to come to campus for any reason in the fall term. Am I required to provide proof of vaccination?

Students who will not be on campus for the fall are encouraged to get vaccinated and upload proof of their vaccination. If you do not intend to get vaccinated and do not intend to come on campus, please complete the exemption request form and indicate that the reason for your request is that you will not be on campus.

I am taking some classes online and some in-person. Will there be a place at the law school where I can participate in my online class?

We will assign every class a classroom so that students who will be accessing an online class from campus will have a regular, reserved space in which to participate in their online class

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I am a leader in a student organization. What will we be able to do on-campus in the fall?

Student organizations will be able to hold meetings and events for Detroit Mercy Law students on campus in the fall. We will not be hosting events for outside guests. Student orgs may also host events and meetings online, as they'd like.