

Dear Students:

Welcome back to the winter quarter! I am writing today with an update to our covid-related protocols. The ever-evolving nature of the pandemic, particularly with the current surge in cases, has necessitated some changes.

As Provost Cameron outlined in a communication before the holiday break, all instruction at PAU will be remote for the first two weeks of classes. Our current plan (which may need to be adjusted as the situation evolves) is to resume in-person instruction for those students who are in residential and hyflex classes on Monday, January 24th

Here is the change: all individuals who come to PAU facilities are required to submit proof of full vaccination before they will be permitted on campus. While we strongly encourage all of our community members who qualify to be fully vaccinated, only those who plan to attend in-person educational opportunities (e.g., classes, research labs, meetings with professors, etc.) need to submit proof of vaccination. You can submit your [proof of vaccination here](#). The deadline for submission is January 20, 2022. All students who come to campus should be prepared to provide one of the following upon request by any faculty or staff member: their CDC vaccine card (or a photo of it) or their [digital covid-19 vaccine record](#).

Students who are unable to provide proof of full vaccination status will need to change to fully remote learning options for the winter quarter. If you need to change classes, you must do so before the end of drop/add, which is January 16, 2022. Between January 20 and the resumption of in-person learning on January 24, 2022, we will be dropping students from residential classes who do not meet the full vaccination requirement. If this were to occur, which we hope it will not, it will be after the drop add period. Because of this, students who have been dropped from residential classes will not have the option to enroll in other courses. For these students, there would potentially be significant impacts on financial aid eligibility and

their ability to complete their degree programs on their original schedules. It is critical that all residential and hyflex students submit their proof of vaccination by the January 20th deadline.

A few other notes:

- Individuals who plan to come to campus no longer need to complete the daily health screening survey;
- Everyone must continue to wear masks, both inside and outside, while on campus;
- Everyone should practice social distancing as much as possible;
- [The library](#) will continue to provide curbside service for all. Those who wish to be in-person in the library must show proof of vaccination upon entry to the library.

Finally, if you are an in-person student who tests positive for COVID 19, you will need to wait 10 days from the date of your positive COVID test or the start of symptoms (whichever comes first) before returning to in-person activities. You should notify your professor as soon as possible to discuss how to manage your classwork while you are recovering.

Our goal here is to keep our community as safe as we can during these difficult times. Like most of you, I too am exhausted by COVID as we come up on two full years of mitigation efforts. Hopefully, the pandemic will wind down quickly over the next few months. In the meantime, I send you well wishes for a healthy and successful winter quarter.

Sincerely,

Thom Shepard Mercado, M.Ed.
Dean of Students

At the Forefront of Psychology & Counseling