

Education Participation During COVID-19

During the COVID-19 pandemic, all necessary precautions are being taken to mitigate risk and keep students safe, including requirements for social distancing and wearing masks as instructed inside buildings and outdoors.

- Phase 1 curriculum will primarily be virtual/online with the exception of necessary in-person experiences. Several principles underpin the approach:
 - Content that requires physical presence, such as anatomy lab and POCUS, will be completed by the end of October, so that if there is another surge or flu season begins, the rest of the content can be completed online/virtually if necessary.
 - Given the requirements for social distancing, all large group sessions will be presented virtually.
 - The committee approved small group sessions for FCP to meet in person, with proper distancing and PPE, to enhance class dynamics and engagement, subject to change based on safety issues. Other small groups are planned via Zoom.
- The study of medicine is full time and involves significant amount of face to face patient interactions following a standard, undifferentiated curriculum that every individual must complete in order to be successful. All students must meet the technical standards for admission and retention with or without a reasonable accommodation. Students with disabilities or medical conditions that may interfere with their ability to progress or successfully complete the curriculum and who need accommodations (potentially including temporary medical leaves of absence) should submit their requests to the Assistant Dean for Academic Advising (aklemsz@iu.edu or 317-274-1963) as soon as practical.
- The Indiana University School of Medicine Disabilities Accommodations Committee (DAC) determines the following: (a) whether or not a student is to be considered “disabled” at IUSM under the Americans with Disabilities Act; (b) whether or not the student seems otherwise qualified for medical school, based on the Technical Standards for Medical School Admission and Retention; (c) whether or not the student is entitled to accommodation, based on documentation; and (d) what specific accommodations, if any, are most reasonable. The committee approves policy revisions related to disability issues as necessary. To maximize confidentiality, only members of the DAC have access to students’ full diagnostic information.
- The committee reviews all requests for accommodations. Its members are the assistant dean for academic advising; the learning specialist, a representative from the clinical faculty; a neuropsychologist; the IUPUI director of adaptive educational services; and legal counsel.
- The committee will work with students to determine if reasonable accommodations that do not fundamentally alter the curriculum can be implemented. Due to illness or immunocompromised states, students may need to take a short-term leave of absence (LOA). Please contact the Assistant Dean for Academic Advising as above for assistance.