

Guidance for Faculty: Student Noncompliance of COVID-19 Protocols

Aug. 23, 2021

Dear KU Faculty,

The university acknowledges the unique, unprecedented situation of recovering from a global pandemic while delivering educational services to students in its wake. Although it is essential that the university address noncompliance with important safety requirements, it also understands the need to take an educational and measured approach to noncompliance. The safety of all members of the community and the education of students should be the focus of responding to those who fail to comply with university-approved pandemic regulations.

Students are expected to adhere to official health and safety directives, policies or procedures issued by the university. Students are also expected to comply with directions of university officials, including faculty, or law enforcement officers acting in the reasonable performance of their duties (per [Student Code of Conduct](#), Page 10, Expectations of Cooperation).

Faculty experiencing noncompliance of the university's COVID-19 protocols by a student should utilize the following steps for remediation. The following example pertains to a student noncomplying with the university's current mask mandate:

1. Ask: "Do you have your mask?"
 - a. If yes, ask the student to please wear their mask.
 - b. If no, please ask student to get one and return to class (all university offices and departments have been recommended to maintain a supply of disposable masks).
2. If student remains noncompliant with request to get or wear a mask:
 - a. Request the student to leave the class.
 - i. If noncompliant (student does not leave class), instructor can choose to either continue with class or dismiss class.
 1. Instructor should complete an online student conduct [incident report](#) form and **inform student a report will be filed**. Student is responsible to follow up with the course instructor and/or classmates to obtain missed course content.
 - ii. If the situation escalates (e.g., verbal confrontation), seek de-escalation by walking away. If there's a potential threat of harm to self or others, please contact Public Safety at 610-683-4001.
 1. Instructor should complete an online student conduct [incident report](#) form documenting this situation and **inform student a report will be filed**. Student is responsible to follow up with the course instructor and/or classmates to obtain missed course content.

If a faculty member reports an incident, appropriate updates can be provided as the case is addressed/resolved. Faculty questions regarding noncompliance in the classroom can be directed to the Office of University Relations at ur@kutztown.edu.

Syllabus Language for Professors

The academic subgroup of the university's Emergency Management Team has provided language for professors to use in their syllabi/first-day handouts. Thank you for your support.

"Students should take reasonable actions to reduce the possibility of transmission of communicable illnesses. Proactive actions include washing hands frequently, using wipes to clean personal classroom seating area, covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or elbow, not sharing eating utensils and staying home when feeling ill. It is appropriate to contact the instructor (before class when possible) and to ask a classmate for notes when missing class due to illness. In the event of a medical emergency and/or hospitalization that prevents a student from attending class or being on campus for five days or more, including a positive COVID test, Health and Wellness/Clinical Services should be contacted at 610-683-4082.

Beginning Monday, Aug. 9, masks are required inside all university buildings for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status.

- Individuals are required to wear masks indoors, including in all classrooms, meeting rooms, common areas in residence halls and indoor events.
- Masks are not required outdoors. CDC recommends that people who are not fully vaccinated wear a mask in crowded outdoor settings. The university supports all members of the campus community who choose to wear a mask outdoors.
- Masks must cover the nose and mouth.

Masks will remain required while the CDC advises that they be worn in our area. Should the situation improve, the university will adjust its protocols to align with current CDC guidance, and all individuals will be strongly encouraged to wear a mask while indoors."