Questions about Fall 2020 Courses:

When will the Fall 2020 semester take place?

The Fall 2020 semester will begin on Monday, August 17, and the last day of classes will be Friday, November 20. Final exams will begin Monday, November 30 and end Friday, December 11. We expect all final exams will be administered remotely through Blackboard, TWEN, or a combination of both. For further information about the Fall 2020 semester Academic calendar please visit our website.

Will classes be in person or remote?

Subject to physical distancing requirements, we will seek to maximize in-person instruction, while providing students the option to participate remotely in all classes. Many classes will be held in a mixed/hybrid delivery mode, combining in-person and remote teaching. All classes, however delivered, will be recorded.

What about 1L classes?

Our faculty is committed to replicating the formative 1L experience as much as possible given current circumstances. We are seeking to ensure that 1L students will have in-person interactions with each other and with our faculty. Most 1L classes will be held in a mixed/hybrid delivery mode, combining in-person and remote teaching. In some instances, 1L students are likely to be attending classes in person on some days and remotely on others, given physical distancing requirements.

What about upper-division classes?

Because of physical distancing requirements and classroom limitations, we expect that required courses (such as Tax 1 and Professional Responsibility), bar exam subjects (such as Evidence and Corporations) and larger elective courses will need to be taught remotely during the Fall 2020 semester. We are currently planning for most other upper-division classes with smaller enrollments, including clinics, seminars, and
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

experiential classes to be delivered fully in person or hybrid with social distancing and with accommodation for those students who need to participate remotely.

**How will I know how a specific class will be taught?**

Planning is still underway. We will notify you as soon as additional information is available about specific classes.

**I am a continuing student who already signed up for Fall 2020 classes. Will my class schedule for Fall 2020 be changed?**

Classes generally will be offered on the same days and at approximately the same starting times that they were originally scheduled. Some class times will need to be extended. We may also need to start the first class of the day earlier, and other classes may run later, to allow for enough time between classes to clean and sanitize. Your detailed course schedule on MySanDiego will be updated to show changes as they are made.

**What about grading for Fall 2020 semester classes?**

Fall 2020 classes will be graded on the standard letter-graded, pass/fail, or H/P/L/F systems. Refer to the course descriptions for each course’s specific grading designation.

Questions about Summer 2020 Courses

**What will happen to Summer 2020 classes?**

As previously announced, all summer classes will be taught remotely. The schedule for those classes is unchanged. Summer classes will begin Monday, June 1 and end Friday, July 17, with final examinations scheduled for Monday, July 20 and Tuesday, July 21.

**How will summer classes be graded?**

As previously announced, summer classes will be graded on the standard letter-graded, pass/fail, or H/P/L/F systems. Refer to the course descriptions for each course’s specific grading designation.
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Other Questions

When will Orientation take place for 1L students?

We expect 1L Orientation will take place sometime during the week before fall classes begin. 1L Orientation sessions will be available remotely by livestream or recording. Further information will be forthcoming from the Office for Law Student Affairs this summer.

What if I can’t attend USD in person this fall? Can I still take all of my classes?

We recognize that some students may need to self-quarantine or remain at home for some or all of the Fall 2020 Semester for a variety of health or other personal reasons. Subject to ABA guidance, students will be permitted to take their classes remotely and we are working to ensure that you will be able to participate as fully as possible in all class activities. Class attendance, whether in person or remote, will remain mandatory for all law school classes and for all law students.

If I have been admitted for Fall 2020, can I defer attending to USD until Fall 2021? Will I keep my scholarship?

Deferrals of admission will only be granted on a limited basis. If you are seeking a deferral, you should contact the School of Law Admissions Office with any questions about your admission or scholarship award.

Given these changes to the Fall 2020 semester, will there be any reduction to tuition?

Law school tuition is set by the University’s Board of Trustees, and there are no plans for any reduction to tuition. The law school will be offering its regular fall curriculum, students will be able to complete the courses they selected, and all classes will be taught, whether in person or remotely, by the law school’s distinguished faculty. Students will be earning USD School of Law academic credits and remain capable of progressing toward completion of their degree requirements on schedule.
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

I am an international student. How will these changes affect my attendance at USD?

International students who are entering 1Ls should contact the School of Law Admissions Office for guidance. Returning JD students and LLM students should contact the Office of Graduate and International Programs.

If I am a 2L/3L/4L student and choose to take a leave of absence for the Fall 2020 semester, how would this affect my scholarship award?

If you take a leave of absence in the Fall 2020 semester and return for the Spring 2021 semester, 50% of your scholarship award (one semester’s portion) will be paid to you for the spring semester. Your academic eligibility to renew your scholarship for the following year, if applicable, will then be reviewed based on your cumulative GPA at the end of the 2020-21 academic year. If you are considering a leave of absence, please contact the Office for Law Student Affairs.

Will the Office of Career and Professional Development (OCPD) be holding a Fall Recruiting Program (OCI) this summer/fall?

Recruiting by large, national law firms, as well as small-to-midsize firms seeking to interview 2L/3P students (Class of 2022) for 2021 summer associates/law clerk positions, has been postponed and rescheduled to January 2021. OCPD is consulting with law firms to determine specific dates when OCI will occur.

OCPD’s outreach efforts will identify employers seeking law clerks and interns for Fall 2020 or Spring 2021. Those employers will have the opportunity to recruit USD Law students later this summer or early fall, and OCPD will assist them with resume collection, virtual interviewing, and other remote recruiting methods. In addition, the job board on #HireUSDLaw remains open and available for employers to post positions at any time.

Although social distancing requirements will not permit us to hold our annual Careers in the Law event in November, OCPD will offer law firms and public sector employers opportunities to host smaller networking events and/or virtual receptions to connect with our students. A schedule of these events will be available this fall.
Questions Concerning Health and Safety

How will physical distancing in classes be managed?

USD is working with San Diego County health officials to ensure that classrooms and other spaces are safe. We will reduce the number of students in most classrooms to allow physical distancing as recommended by government officials. We expect that people will wear face masks in common areas at a minimum and comply with all other County guidelines. Other institutional guidelines will be shared with you as they are developed.

What if the pandemic dissipates over the summer only to return in the fall? How will classes be impacted?

Government health officials caution that a resurgence of the coronavirus is possible during the flu season. In California, flu season generally occurs later than in the rest of the country. The revised schedule with an early start and completion of classes before Thanksgiving is intended to minimize the impact of flu season. In the event we are required to end in-person teaching on campus at any time during the Fall 2020 semester, we will transition to fully remote teaching as we did during the Spring 2020 semester, providing a short break for those students who may need to relocate.

What if an on-campus member of the University community tests positive for COVID-19 or has the symptoms of COVID-19? What steps will USD take to reduce the risk of a community member contracting COVID-19?

We will follow State, County and other appropriate health guidelines on how to deal with such outbreaks.