

ADVISORY MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 21, 2021

FROM: Mike Claire, Chancellor
Dr. Aaron McVean, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Planning

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Response: Fall 2021 Instructional Modalities

OVERVIEW

The San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD) will continue to offer limited in-person instruction in the Fall 2021 semester. The District is planning to offer courses considered to be in programs that support Essential Workers and are aligned with the [Essential Infrastructure Sectors](#), or have been shown to be Hard to Deliver in the online modality. **The majority of sections districtwide for the Fall 2021 semester will continue to be offered in the online, distance modality, except for those which are further referenced in this memorandum.**

The District and its Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that address controlled access, health screenings, face coverings, social distancing, and sanitization. The District has also implemented signage, notices, and training to: (1) direct student traffic flow in buildings and on campuses, (2) maintain social distancing, (3) reinforce the use of face coverings, and (4) alert students to potential symptoms of COVID-19. Student services, food service, and student gathering spaces are not currently permitted to be open during the operations of the District. However, it is the intent of the District to adjust the availability of services as the operating environment related to the COVID-19 pandemic continues to improve. Access to the campuses will continue to be controlled, with faculty, staff, and students entering any District properties registered and approved to gain access to facilitate the eventual need for contact tracing.

The categories below describe the types of courses that currently are taught in-person and are planned for in-person instruction for the Fall 2021 semester. All courses will continue to be delivered in a hybrid modality, scheduling the minimum number of critical hours in-person to meet requirements with remaining instruction delivered in online.

CATEGORY 1 – HEALTHCARE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COURSES

Courses that are included in Category 1 include those that are part of the [Essential Infrastructure Sectors](#) of [Healthcare](#) and [Emergency Services as defined by the state and federal governments](#). Courses that have required simulation hours, demonstration hours, clinical hours, or other required hands-on instruction per external licensure or accreditation agencies will be prioritized for return as part of Category 1. Additionally, the courses that are included in Category 1 have been determined to be impossible to adequately convert to a fully online or distance education (DE) modality. To the extent possible, all courses will follow a hybrid delivery model where the minimum number of in-person hours will be scheduled to fulfill the requirements

or meet the learning outcomes of the course, with any remaining hours delivered online or otherwise remotely.

During the Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 semesters, the District prioritized programs in “Essential Infrastructure Sectors” of “Healthcare,” “Emergency Services,” and “Transportation” in accordance with State and County health orders. These will continue to be prioritized in the Fall 2021 semester.

External licensing requirements: courses that have been offered are part of a program with external licensing requirements (other than ACCJC & WASC) which mandate face-to-face in-person learning (e.g. nursing, dental assisting, fire technology, medical assisting, emergency medical technician, police, automotive, cosmetology, etc.), and have included:

- a. Nursing (NURS 211, 212, 231, 232, 235, 818)
- b. Radiologic Technology (RADT 408, 410, 435, 438)
- c. Emergency Medical Technician (EMC 410)
- d. Medical Assisting (MEDA 120, 121)
- e. Fire Technology (FIRE 793, 797)
- f. Police Academy (POST) (AJPS 107)
- g. Automotive (AUTO 521/921, 523, 710, 711, 713, 734, 735, 739/839, 751)
- h. Biotechnology (BTES 150)
- i. Engineering (ENGR 680)
- j. Dental Assisting (DENT 721, 740, 763)
- k. Respiratory Care (RPTH 410, 460, 490)
- l. Surgical Technology (SURG 451)
- m. Anesthesiology (ANST 430)

CATEGORY 2 – STEM AND CAREER EDUCATION (CE) COURSES

Courses that are included in Category 2 include STEM labs and career education (CE) courses with required hands-on instruction that lead directly to either transfer, degrees, or certification that align with the Essential Infrastructure Sectors. It is expected that Category 2 courses (1) are delivered in dedicated spaces that are **not** general classrooms or lecture halls, (2) include the use of specialized equipment that cannot practically be accessed nor duplicated in a remote or virtual environment (e.g., organic chemistry labs, automotive technology), and/or (3) include other curricular requirements that would otherwise prevent the course from being delivered in a fully online or DE modality. To the extent possible, courses in Category 2 will follow a hybrid delivery model where the minimum number of in-person hours will be scheduled to fulfill the requirements of the course, with any remaining hours delivered online or otherwise remotely.

Healthcare-related labs: science labs that support the essential healthcare disciplines (e.g. nursing) that have been offered face-to-face per State and County health orders include:

1. Microbiology (BIOL 240)
2. Chemistry (CHEM 220)
3. Organic Chemistry (CHEM 237, 238)

4. Cosmetology (COSM 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 712, 722, 749, 759, 767, 775, 776, 799)

CATEGORY 3 – HARD TO DELIVER ONLINE COURSES

Courses that are included under Category 3 may include specific courses in creative and performing arts, kinesiology, athletics, and dance. It also includes select English as a Second Language (ESL/ESOL) courses and others that serve similar populations, such as accelerated English (i.e., ENGL 105) and first level transfer math courses with co-requisite supports (e.g., MATH 200 + 800). The determination of a course as being “hard to deliver” may be based on factors such as the need to use dedicated equipment that cannot be accessed outside of the campus setting, the nature of the curriculum requiring substantial modification to which faculty or students have not been able to readily adapt, or the circumstances of the specific student population served that makes it impossible or overly burdensome to access the course in the online modality (i.e., due to technology barriers, resource barriers, the need for dedicated quiet spaces, or related factors). The determination of a course as hard to deliver online should be discussed with faculty teaching in the discipline, with approval of the appropriate Dean. All courses scheduled for in-person instruction in Fall 2021 will follow the review process outlined by the Operations Branch of the EOC prior to the end of the Spring 2021 semester. To the extent possible, these courses will be offered in a hybrid modality.

ATHLETIC CONDITIONING/TRAINING AND RETURN TO PLAY

The District continues to provide the opportunity for student athletes to engage in appropriate sport-specific training, conditioning, and other varsity athletic activities in the Spring 2021 semester in order to prepare for Spring I and Spring II sports practice and competitive opportunities sanctioned by the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA). These activities are occurring outdoors and will utilize indoor facilities once feasible and approved by the District EOC and Policy Groups. District athletic programs are following all health and safety protocols based on submitted return-to-play plans reviewed and approved by the EOC. District athletic programs work in close collaboration with each other to make sure all operations are offered with student, faculty and staff success, access, equity, health and well-being in mind. Progression from conditioning and training to competition will continue to be dictated by state and county health orders, with final determination made by the Policy branch of the District EOC.

SUMMARY

Given the above information, the SMCCCD is interested in the perspective of the San Mateo County Health Officer with regard to its plan for limited in-person instruction and athletic conditioning. Comments or questions can be directed to Dr. Aaron McVean, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Planning, mcveana@smccd.edu.