



## Plans & Preparations for Lab Courses

(as of 6/30/2020)

- Lab classes are expected to follow the [UND COVID-19 guidelines](#) to ensure a safe environment for all including:
  - Respecting COVID-19 room capacities;
  - Maintaining 6 ft distances between individuals;
  - Disinfecting surfaces; and
  - Wearing face coverings
- The options developed for reduced capacities in classrooms and labs should be used. In the case of labs, these usually take the form:
  - Having a smaller number of students (please refer to the [COVID-19 capacity spreadsheet](#)) attend any one lab
  - Students who are not physically present, will either:
    - do a similar lab by simulation or other computer-based activity ([information about such simulations/activities can be found here](#));
    - view a recording of the lab, but otherwise do all processing of data and other lab activities; or
    - participate in the lab synchronously through a “virtual lab partner” set-up
- Exceptions to the distancing requirements must be for as short as duration as possible, and planning should be used to minimize the necessity for such exceptions. For classrooms, this would correspond to entering and exiting the classroom. For labs, this might look like e.g., a student going to a specific station in the lab and dispensing a chemical before returning to her bench.
- UIT has had several demo sessions for instructors interested in exploring the Virtual Lab Partner option, and there have been several early adopters. Individuals who would like to explore this should contact Dr. Mark Hoffman at mark.hoffmann@und.edu.
- Labs and lab-like courses will generally need additional equipment to maintain the same level of safety for participants than do classrooms. For example, most labs are requiring face shields in addition to a facial covering to be worn by TAs, since a stationary plexiglass station is not an option.
- For labs and lab-like experiences that cannot fit within the standard models (e.g., musical instruments that require use of the mouth), exceptions can be requested. Depending on severity of deviation, these exceptions require approval of the Department Chair, College Dean, Provost and possibly the Pandemic Group. Faculty who are teaching labs should reach out to their Department Chairperson as a first step to request an exemption.
- Travel that is connected with a lab or lab-like experience always requires authorization at least at the Dean level. For lab and lab-like travel, UND Transportation guidelines must be followed (e.g., currently a maximum of 2 people in a passenger car, 4 people in a large van).
- Procedures for upper division and graduate labs, which are more discipline specific, build upon protocols worked out for research labs. These require approval at the Chair/Dean level, depending on extent of deviation from standard UND COVID-19 protocol. First and foremost is consideration of the safety of students and instructors,



followed only then by the perceived educational benefit of the activity to student learning and lack of appropriate alternative.

- Because protocols for labs and lab-like experiences are rapidly changing on both institutional and national levels, it is expected that protocols for specific labs will need to change before and during the fall semester. This is particularly notable for disciplines in which corresponding research has been shut down on campus in the spring and summer (e.g., human subjects research). However, at this time, we expect all labs and lab-like courses to have in-person experiences during the fall semester.
- There are a number of faculty discussion groups, including some led out of TTaDA, that discuss strategies for lab and lab-like experiences on an on-going basis. Instructors are encouraged to participate to obtain ideas and to share ideas. For more information contact Instructional Designer, Jonathan Puhl ([jonathan.puhl@und.edu](mailto:jonathan.puhl@und.edu)) and/or see this [resource guide](#).