

Outdoor Classroom Guidelines during COVID-19

Similar to pre-COVID practices, faculty may decide to have class outdoors to observe or see something of interest or to enjoy the weather. Faculty who choose to take their class outdoors during the 2020-2021 academic year should consider the following safety parameters, protocols, and other university policies.

The university will not set up official outdoor classrooms or provide tables, chairs, tents, technology, or other equipment for outdoor academic classrooms.

Faculty must adhere to the following when teaching outdoors:

1. All students and faculty must wear a face mask or face covering during class, even when meeting outdoors.
2. Physical distancing must be maintained in all outdoor spaces, meaning 10 feet between faculty and students and 6 feet between each student.
3. Faculty must ensure the outdoor classroom is accessible to all students. Faculty must consider mobility, hearing and visual impairments, health conditions, and all other disabilities.
4. Faculty should inform students ahead of time about possible outdoor class meetings and provide an opportunity for students to email faculty about concerns or accommodations needed for outdoor class meetings.
5. Faculty are responsible for any outdoor classroom set up and should be mindful of the potential for noise, inclement weather, insects, or any other conditions that could distract students.