
From: Lynn Cooley, Dean of the Graduate School <grad.dean@message.yale.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 1:06 PM
Subject: Spring 2022 Teaching Fellow Accommodations

Yale

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

A Message from Dean Cooley

Copied to: DGSs, Chairs, registrars

In this message: How to request exceptions from in-person teaching in Spring 2022 if you or family members sharing a home are at exceptionally high risk of contracting COVID-19.

October 13, 2021

Dear graduate students,

Since the pandemic began, Fall 2021 is the first semester of phasing back into normal teaching practices, and I apologize that the process for requesting exceptions for the fall term was not as clear as it should have been.

As your departments prepare to make Teaching Fellow assignments for Spring 2022, I write to detail that process for students who may be immunocompromised or have other medical issues that could prevent them from safely teaching in the classroom.

[Accommodation requests for TFs with exceptionally high risk of contracting COVID-19](#)

Teaching Fellow policies are generally parallel to faculty policies. During the fall term, the expectation is that all teaching is in-person with very few exceptions. We are hopeful that in-

person teaching will remain in effect for the spring term.

If, however, you are immunocompromised or unable to leave your residence due to a medical condition, you may make a request via [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#) to be exempted from in-person teaching for Spring 2022. Register with the site and contact [SAS Associate Director, Jordan Colbert](#) with questions.

SAS makes decisions regarding accommodations and exceptions in consultation with a student's medical providers, departments, and the Office of Institutional Equity & Accessibility (OIEA) to determine if modifications to in-person teaching are appropriate. GSAS is not involved at the request stage. If SAS concludes that your medical condition qualifies as a disability, SAS will consult with my office to find reasonable alternatives for your teaching assignment.

As is the case for faculty, graduate students who wish to appeal the decision on their request for exemption may simply ask for a reconsideration. There is no formal appeals process.

[Accommodation requests for TFs with family members at exceptionally high risk of COVID-19](#)

If you live with a severely immunocompromised family member who has been advised against travel outside the home by medical providers, you may request teaching modifications by contacting [Dean Pamela Schirmeister](#). You will need to provide your family member's medical information to be reviewed by Yale Health. With this information, Yale Health will work with our office to develop a reasonable alternative as needed.

[Teaching students who are sick, in isolation, in quarantine, or being monitored](#)

Please continue to be as understanding as possible with students who are unable to attend your class in person due to illness. As an instructor, you have license to adapt your courses and assignments as needed. If students are unable to attend class, you might allow them to complete alternative assignments or encourage them to connect with other students in the class. You may also consider recording your lectures for them. Write to askpoorvucenter@yale.edu for tips on addressing these situations.

As always, if you have further questions about your teaching assignment, please contact Dean Pamela Schirmeister.

Wishing you good health and all success,
Lynn Cooley

Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Vice Provost of Postdoctoral Affairs
C.N.H. Long Professor of Genetics
Professor of Cell Biology and of Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology

Copyright © 2021 Yale University • All rights reserved
[Graduate School of Arts and Sciences](#)



This email was sent by: Yale University
P.O. BOX 208109, New Haven, CT, 06745 US