

From: [WMU Faculty Senate](#)
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Senate Snapshot

COVID-19 Syllabus Statement

The Faculty Senate shares the following syllabus statement with our faculty colleagues. We recommend that it be included in every in-person or hybrid class syllabus. We are continuing to collaborate with the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Office of Student Conduct. The Provost will provide a classroom management statement and the Office of Student Conduct will provide a classroom conduct statement. We have all agreed to post our respective statements on our web site and will link to each others statements.

RECOMMENDED COVID-19 SYLLABUS STATEMENT

Due to the current COVID-19 Pandemic, and consistent with the State of Michigan* requirements and the WMU Safe Return plan (<https://wmich.edu/safereturn>), safety requirements are in place to minimize exposure to the Western Michigan University community. These guidelines apply to all in-person or hybrid classes held either inside or outside a WMU building.

Facial coverings (masks), **over both the nose and mouth**, are required for all students while in class, no matter the size of the space. This includes outdoor class settings where social distancing is not possible (i.e., at least six feet of space between individuals). Following this recommendation can minimize the transmission of the virus, which is spread between people interacting in close proximity through speaking, coughing, or sneezing. During specified classes in which facial coverings (masks) would prevent required class elements, students may remove facial coverings (masks) with instructor permission, in accordance with the exceptions in the Facial Covering (mask) Policy** ("such as playing an instrument, acting, singing, etc.").

Facial coverings (masks) must remain in place throughout the class. Any student who removes the mandatory facial covering (mask) during class will be required to leave the classroom immediately.

Facial coverings (masks) are not a substitute for social distancing. Students shall observe

current social distancing guidelines in all instructional spaces, both indoors and outdoors. Students should avoid congregating around instructional space entrances before and after class sessions. Students should exit the instructional space immediately after the end of class to help ensure social distancing and to allow for those attending the next scheduled class session to enter.

Students who are unable to wear a facial covering (mask) for medical reasons must contact Disability Services for Students (<https://wmich.edu/disabilityservices>) before they attend class.

These guidelines are in place to ensure the safety of all students, faculty, and staff during the pandemic. Noncompliance is a violation of the class requirements and the Student Code of Honor (<https://wmich.edu/conduct/expectations-students>).

*For current State of Michigan Executive orders, see:

https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/0,9309,7-387-90499_90705---,00.html

**For the WMU Facial Covering (Mask) Policy, see:

<https://wmich.edu/policies/facial-covering-mask>

Faculty Senate Office
4060 Moore Hall
Western Michigan University
1903 W. Michigan Ave
269-387-3310

faculty-senate@wmich.edu

