

Cornell University

Office of the University Registrar

A Guide to Spring 2021 Enrollment
Updated December 1, 2020

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1. What is an instruction mode?

Instruction mode refers to the manner in which typical classroom activities involving instructors and students are provided, such as lectures, discussions, and labs. Instruction mode *does not* refer to out-of-class requirements such as homework, reading, studying, writing assignments, or exams.

Instruction mode	Description
In Person	Course is delivered in-person (i.e., face-to-face instruction). All required class meetings occur on campus, during scheduled meeting times.
Online	Course is delivered online, delivered synchronously (live, in real time) during scheduled meeting times. Students are expected to participate synchronously as long as the scheduled meeting time is between 8:00 am and 10:30 pm in their local time zone.
Hybrid – Online & In Person	Course combines in-person instruction during scheduled meeting times with online learning, using a rotational attendance model. Some in-person activity is required. <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Rotational Hybrid: rotational in person attendance to be determined by instructor.○ Split Hybrid: in person attendance supplemented by additional online contact hours.
Distance Learning Asynchronous	All students and instructors interact online. Involves well-designed, pre-recorded content and curated asynchronous interaction. Content is accessed by students at unspecified times.
Directed Research	Research work supervised by an advisor or a faculty member. Delivery varies.
Independent Studies	Coursework supervised by an advisor or a faculty member. Delivery varies.

Points to consider when choosing which instruction mode to select

- Your options for instruction mode will vary based on your location (see the next sections for details):
 - you **will** be in the Ithaca area
 - you **will not** be in the Ithaca area
- Pay close attention to the instruction mode associated with the specific version of the course in which you want to enroll. The same course (Subject + Catalog Number, for example AEM 2700) can have multiple instruction modes, since instruction modes can vary by class section (Lecture 001 could have a different mode of instruction than Lecture 002).

Instruction modes for Ithaca-based students

If you are participating in Spring 2021 courses from the Ithaca area, you may enroll in any instruction mode.

Keep in mind that faculty have the option of giving in-person exams (prelims and/or finals) for Ithaca-based students enrolled in *any* course, regardless of its instruction mode (i.e., Online and Distance Learning Asynchronous courses). A list of courses that will be giving in-person prelims and/or final exams will be available at registrar.cornell.edu once the semester begins.

Ithaca-based students who have health-related concerns about taking in-person exams during the Spring 2021 semester should contact [Student Disability Services](#) as soon as possible. You will be asked to complete a Disability Self-Disclosure Form and then be assigned an SDS counselor who will work with you to determine reasonable accommodations.

Instruction mode for Ithaca-based students	Eligible to enroll in?
In Person	YES ✓
Hybrid – Online & In Person	YES ✓
Online	YES ✓
Distance Learning Asynchronous	YES ✓
Directed Research	YES ✓
Independent Studies	YES ✓

Instruction modes for students who will not be in Ithaca

If you will not be in the Ithaca to participate in Spring 2021 courses, you may only enroll in courses with **Online, Distance Learning Asynchronous, Directed Research, or Independent Studies** instruction modes. If you don't see an **Online** or **Distance Learning Asynchronous** version of the course you're interested in, choose a different course. Not all courses will offer an online section.

If your time zone differs significantly from the Eastern time zone, keep in mind how the scheduled meeting time of a proposed course may affect your ability to participate in the course synchronously.

Instruction mode for students who will NOT be in Ithaca	Eligible to enroll in?
In Person	NO ✗
Hybrid – Online & In Person	NO ✗
Online	YES ✓
Distance Learning Asynchronous	YES ✓
Directed Research	YES ✓
Independent Studies	YES ✓

2. Enrollment: When and how?

As in previous semesters, all courses, regardless of instruction mode, have enrollment caps. Specific enrollment restrictions may be enforced at the discretion of faculty or departments.

Starting Thursday, December 3, review information in [Student Center](#); double check enrollment appointment time details (your start and end time for pre-enrollment activity) in the *Enrollment Dates* section on the right-side navigation. You may review your maximum enrollment credits in this area too. Follow the link for *Open Enrollment Dates* to confirm your enrollment appointment.

The undergraduate colleges have specific policies pertaining to permissible maximum credit hours per semester. Please note, though, that course overloads are a significant source of mental health stress for Cornell students and several features of the 2020 spring semester could introduce new sources of stress. Accordingly, you are strongly urged to limit your credits in the spring semester to 18; if you wish to enroll in additional credits, we encourage you to discuss your intentions with your faculty advisor or college advising office.

Class Year	Date/Time Begin (Eastern Standard Time)	Date/Time End (Eastern Standard Time)
Graduate/Professional	December 8 at 9 am	December 9 at 11:59 pm
UG and Vet Med Seniors	December 9 at 9 am	December 10 at 11:59 pm
UG and Vet Med Juniors	December 10 at 9 am	December 11 at 11:59 pm
UG and Vet Med Sophomores	December 14 at 9 am	December 15 at 11:59 pm
UG and Vet Med First-Years	December 15 at 9 am	December 16 at 11:59 pm

Tips for successful course enrollment:

- Keep in mind that course offerings are subject to change.
- In the spring semester, standard meeting patterns were adjusted to avoid five minute overlaps in class times. Plan your schedule with no course time conflicts; Student Center will generate an error message if students attempt to enroll in overlapping classes.
- Plan your semester in advance using the [Scheduler tool](#) in [Class Roster](#). Review your proposed schedule with your advisor.
- You may place your enrollment requests into your [Student Center](#) Shopping Cart before your enrollment appointment begins.
- During your enrollment appointment, submit your enrollment requests through [Student Center](#). Avoid logging into Student Center from multiple windows, multiple browsers or multiple devices. Doing so may result in class enrollment requests stuck in “pending” status, and the inability to successfully submit future requests.
- Complete all necessary steps to add your course requests. In "Step 3: View Results," a green check-mark in the "Status" column indicates successful enrollment.
- Your enrollment appointment begins at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Standard Time on the first day and ends at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on the second day. You will have continuous access for the two day period.

Information for First-Year Writing (FWS) Seminar Enrollment

- For Spring 2021, a balloting system will be used in lieu of FWS pre-enrollment. FWS classes will not be available for enrollment during December's pre-enrollment timeframe. Visit www.knight.as.cornell.edu/fws-ballot for updates and details.
- FWS classes will be limited to freshmen, sophomores, and first-semester transfer students.
- During pre-enrollment, students should save at least three credits below their maximum enrollment limit, to leave space for a First-Year Writing Seminar course.
- The ballot process will occur in the second half of January (specific dates TBD). Since pre-enrollment will have concluded in December, students will know which time slots they have open for the FWS ballot.

3. Key academic dates

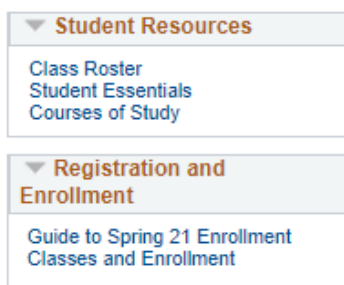
- [Spring 2021 Academic Calendar](#)

4. Who can help you

- [College Advising, Career Services, and Support](#)
- Faculty Advisor
- [College Registrar Directory](#)
- [Office of the University Registrar](#)
- First-Year Writing Seminar (FWS) Donna Newton at dlo1@cornell.edu.

5. Resources

- Student Center studentcenter.cornell.edu/
 - *Student Resources* and *Registration and Enrollment* links on right panel in Student Center



- Class Roster classes.cornell.edu/
- Courses of Study courses.cornell.edu/
- [Classes and Enrollment](#)
 - Help pages to [Add a Class](#) or [Make Changes to Your Class Requests](#)
 - [Classes and Enrollment FAQ](#)
 - [Student Center FAQ](#)
 - Troubleshooting [Common Student Center Enrollment Error Messages](#)

6. Academic Year 2020-2021 Statement Regarding COVID-19

By enrolling in classes during the 2020-2021 academic year, Cornell students understand and acknowledge the following:

1. The format in which and duration for which the courses are anticipated to be offered;
2. Other than when isolating because of COVID-19 infection or quarantining because of possible COVID-19 exposure or related health and safety concerns, students will be expected to participate in each class in which the course is offered;
3. Students may have limited or no access to certain Cornell University-maintained facilities;
4. There may be disruptions or cancellations of campus services, programs, activities, or events for the 2020-2021 academic year;
5. Cornell may change the format or duration of courses based on factors including but not limited to health or safety concerns, the judgement of the instructor, instructor status, pedagogical needs, or student enrollment numbers; and
6. Cornell may be required to shift all classes to an online or virtual format or modify the duration of the semester if Cornell or the government (at the local, state, or federal level) determine that pandemic conditions make continued in-person instruction unsafe during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Finally, Cornell students understand, acknowledge, and agree that in no case will there be a tuition or fee refund. The only eligible tuition and fee refunds are those that take place in accordance with the published schedule of early withdrawal dates for the 2020-2021 academic year.