

Upstate Medical University  
 COVID-19 Academic Plan  
 Academic Year 2021-2022

Upstate Medical University’s plans engage five guiding principles:

- Put safety first
- Protect the core academic areas of excellence
- Maintain SUNY’s mission for the broadest possible access to world-class teaching, research and scholarship
- Sustain academic programs and achieve operational efficiencies
- Demonstrate agility in responding rapidly to workforce needs.

As an academic medical center, our plans also embrace Upstate’s mission to improve the health of the communities we serve through education, biomedical research and patient care.

**Safety measures, including classroom population density**

Vaccine Requirement	All students are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19.
Screening for symptoms and fever	Ill students and employees should NOT come to work or school. Screening for symptoms and fever is required of all students, faculty and staff entering all buildings at Upstate, including academic buildings. Those who are unable to meet screening requirements are referred to Student Employee Health.
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for low risk settings: Ear-Loop Masks	At the time of entry each day, when screening occurs, a new ear-loop mask is provided each day to everyone who enters any building on campus. These must be worn all day in all locations other than private offices when no one else is present or you are able to reliably and consistently maintain physical distancing (> 6 feet apart). This applies to all academic, research and clinical sites.
Signage	Signage is posted at entrances, in hallways, in common gathering spaces, and is available for departments and units to order for break rooms and conference rooms. These signs reinforce wearing masks, avoiding congregating in break rooms or sharing utensils and condiments, etc.
Classroom and conference room population density	A limit on classroom population density has been liberalized based on vaccine requirements and continuous mask usage. Guidelines could change based on local epidemiology. All students, faculty and staff must continuously wear ear-loop masks when in classrooms, labs, computer labs and conference rooms.
Environmental Services (Custodial Services)	Environmental services (EVS) has increased the frequency and method of cleaning according to specific needs (e.g., cleaning of manikins and task-trainers in the simulation center, cleaning of keyboards in computer labs). They will deliver cleaning baskets (“Blitz Buckets”) to all offices who want them, to include gloves, wipes and a cleaning agent reputed to be highly effective against COVID. In many classrooms, responsibility will need to be shared between and among faculty, students, and EVS staff for maintaining effective cleaning practices, e.g., when equipment must be cleaned between users and staff are not present.
Extracurricular Activities	Activities, programs and use of recreation facilities have resumed. Numbers of attendees and physical distancing requirements are enforced.