



***Thomas Jefferson School of Law and COVID-19  
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)***

***June 2020***

The Law School is preparing for the Fall Semester. As we do so, we are carefully monitoring developments in the COVID-19 pandemic, and paying close attention to the mandates and guidance provided by public health authorities. The Law School is committed to protecting the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff to the best of our ability, while providing an excellent academic experience for all our law students.

Below, we provide answers to some frequently asked questions about the Law School's plans for the remaining Summer Term and upcoming Fall Semester. Some of these questions have been addressed previously, but continue to remain of interest. Because we cannot be certain about the path the pandemic will take, these answers are subject to change (and will be updated as needed). We hope these FAQs will be helpful to you as you prepare for the Fall Semester.

***Questions about Summer 2020***

**Are summer classes and testing online?**

As previously announced, all Summer Term classes are online. As indicated in the Summer Registration materials, midterms and final exams will be conducted remotely. More information will be provided to students enrolled in classes with midterm and final exams for the Summer Term.

**How are summer classes graded?**

Summer classes will be graded based on the standard numerical grading. Certain classes may be graded Honors/Credit/Low Pass/No Credit as indicated in the course description.

**Can students use the library over the summer?**

Not at this time. Per the most recent San Diego County Health Order, institutions of higher education are not yet permitted to open. The Law School is continuously monitoring the situation and when the County believes it is safe to reopen, we will provide an update on our reopening plans. Library services remain available to students. Please contact the Library Director, Professor Leigh Inman (glinman@tjisl.edu), if you need assistance.

## ***Questions about Fall 2020***

### **Will classes be in person or remote for Fall 2020?**

While this ultimately depends on the mandates issued by health authorities and the progress of the pandemic, the Law School anticipates being on campus for the Fall Semester. Health and safety protocols will require changes to our typical in-person classes. The Law School is establishing procedures to ensure appropriate social distancing and cleaning on campus, as well as other health and safety protocols to enable in-person attendance in classes to the extent possible. Courses may be offered as a combination of in-person, blended (combining in-person and remote attendance) and remote classes. Logistics are still being worked out. We will provide the Fall Schedule and information about the delivery method in the coming weeks.

### **If the State or County issues another stay-at-home order, how will the Law School handle this process?**

Should the County or State issue stay-at-home orders, or if otherwise required for the health or safety of the community, the Law School will maintain operations and classes remotely.

### **If I have a health and safety concern, can I attend all classes remotely?**

Yes, students who are unable to attend classes on campus due to health and safety reasons will have options for remote classes, including (where possible) synchronous, real-time remote attendance for the Fall semester. If you are aware of the health and safety concern now, please submit a Request for Remote Attendance as soon as possible by filling out the form and emailing it to Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Anders Kaye.

### **If I am attending remotely for health and safety reasons, will I be required to take exams on campus?**

No, if you have requested all-remote attendance for health and safety reasons for the Fall Semester, you will be given a remote option for exams. Students who are unable to attend classes in person should protect their health and not be on campus for any reason.

### **If I am unable to attend classes in-person due to health and safety concerns, am I still able to participate in clinical programs, externship programs, or competition teams?**

Many externship placements may allow remote participation; please discuss placements with Professor Judybeth Tropp, Director of Externships. Students may be able to participate in clinical programs and competition teams remotely as well; for more information, please contact the faculty supervisor for the program or team you are interested in.

**Will Week One Orientation for Fall term be in person or remote?**

We anticipate that Week One will be offered as a blended program, combining in-person and remote attendance. Students who are unable to attend classes on campus due to health and safety concerns (see above) may attend orientation remotely. Students who participated in the Early Start Program (ESP) will need to participate in only part of Week One. The schedule will be announced for both ESP students and Fall Starters at a later date.

**Will staff services and faculty support continue to be available?**

Yes, all departments are expected to be open on campus, unless that is not possible due to safety concerns or instructions from health authorities. Appointments and meetings, including regular office hours, will typically be done remotely in accordance with social distancing protocols. It may be possible to schedule in-person appointments or meetings, depending on the availability of the faculty or staff member and on health and safety considerations.

**When we are able to return on campus, will precautions be taken to ensure safety?**

Yes, the Law School's COVID-19 Task Force has been working on developing a plan for a safe return to the Law School. The County and State have provided guidelines for the reopening of many businesses, and we anticipate that institutions of higher education will also receive information regarding safe reopening. In preparation, we have developed tentative protocols that will allow us to comply with social distancing, sanitation, and other guidelines. Additional information, including responsibilities of all community members regarding health and safety measures, will be provided once it is finalized.