

NEBRASKA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY REQUEST FOR ATTENDANCE EXEMPTION

NWU is committed to personal attention to students and providing dynamic and engaged on-campus learning opportunities where students have consistent and equitable access to course content. COVID-19 requires us to adopt changes based on the premise that the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff is paramount and central to NWU's efforts this academic year and beyond.

The following information applies to all students, regardless of their program of study, who need an exception from in-person class attendance.

The Nebraska Wesleyan University Spring Semester Academic Model presumes:

- Students will attend in-person weekly gatherings with small groups of students in lieu of full-class meetings with the goal of every student having an in-person classroom experience each week for each course.
- Courses delivered as a combination of in-person on-campus and synchronous remote meetings, and in some cases asynchronous online methods.
- Students must reserve all class meeting times, as stated on their schedules, for each of their classes. Professors may schedule meetings at any of the times assigned to their classes. Even if a student is assigned to a small group that meets only once per week, the instructor may expect that the full class log in synchronously during other assigned times or may change day assignments for each group.

Expectations for Attendance

- Students will adhere to the [“COVID19 \(Coronavirus\) Required Health and Safety Practices for Students”](#) while attending classes on the NWU campus.
- Students are expected to follow the attendance policies published in each syllabus for courses in which they are enrolled.
- A student may seek an exemption from these attendance policies by making an accommodation request. The decision to grant an accommodation will be based on documentation received from the healthcare provider consulted by the student. If approved, an attendance exemption **applies to all courses** for which the student is registered. Once approved, the student is expected to reach out to all course instructors to discuss how, **if allowed**, they will maintain a fully online presence in a particular course.

Accommodation Requests

Nebraska Wesleyan University maintains a supportive academic environment for students with disabilities and/or chronic health condition. To assist us in that effort, Federal law requires that students with disabilities defined by the ADA notify the University, provide documentation, and request reasonable accommodations.

- Are you a person with a disability as defined by the ADA (a person with a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a person who has a history or record of such an impairment, or a person who is perceived by others as having such an impairment)?
- Do you experience a functional limitation due to your ADA-defined disability that impacts your ability to attend class in person for one or more sessions?

If you answer “Yes” to either question, please contact Prof. Sandy McBride, the Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (402-465-2346, smcbride@nebrwesleyan.edu).

If you answer “No” to both questions and wish to request an attendance accommodation due to COVID-19-related vulnerabilities, **please have your healthcare provider fill out and submit the Attendance Exemption Request for Documentation.**

ATTENDANCE EXEMPTION REQUEST FOR DOCUMENTATION

Student's Name: _____

The above-named student has indicated that you, as the student's or household member's healthcare provider, have suggested that in-person attendance in classes places the student or household member at greater risk of contracting COVID-19 or increases severity of symptoms or likelihood of complications. So that we may better evaluate the request for an attendance accommodation, please answer the following questions:

Information About the Student's/Household Member's Diagnosis

What is the nature of the student's/household member's physical health condition?

How long have you been working with this person regarding this diagnosis?

Information About the Effects of Attendance

In your opinion, how important is it for the student's/household member's health that the student be exempt from attending class in person?

What consequences, in terms of symptomology, may result if the exemption is not approved?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this form. If we need additional information, we may contact you at a later date. We recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic can have significant effects on both physical and mental health. Our commitment to providing an honors-quality liberal arts educational experience makes it necessary to carefully consider the impact of the request for an exemption on both the student and the campus community.

The information provided will be used solely for the purpose of evaluating an attendance exemption request and will not be shared with anyone outside of Academic Affairs.

Please provide contact information, sign and date this form **by January 4th**, and return it to:

Jodi Ryter, Ph.D.
Dean of Undergraduate Programs
Nebraska Wesleyan University
5000 Saint Paul Avenue
Lincoln, NE 68504
jryter@nebrwesleyan.edu
402-465-2110 (phone)
402-465-2537 (fax)

Contact information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

FAX and/or Email address: _____

Professional Signature: _____

License #: _____

Date: _____