



Fall 2020 Semester FAQ's

We are grateful to all of you for your flexibility, patience, and commitment during this time of uncertainty. As we watch the news daily, we are aware that COVID-19 cases in California and San Diego are on the rise. State and local ordinances require a decrease in cases for over 14 days prior to re-opening and we are currently back in shelter-in-place orders. Furthermore, the health and safety of the DI community is paramount and remains our priority.

For these reasons we will almost certainly have to postpone first class meetings or other in-person experiences scheduled for the first several weeks of classes and possibly beyond. We will continue to assess the situation and we want to thank all of you again for the ability to be nimble and adapt as needed. We hope to offer in-person classroom experiences and open student services and campus facilities on a limited basis, and by appointment, as soon as it is safe and we are permitted to do so.

We have prepared a few common FAQs and answers, but please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any additional questions or concerns.

What is DI's Fall plan?

Due to State and Local ordinances DI will be providing classroom instruction virtually until it is safe and we are permitted to open our campus for in-person classes and experiences, student services, and campus facilities.

Can I stay at home and not move to San Diego in order to attend DI?

Yes! Even if we are permitted to offer a hybrid schedule later in the Fall semester, students who prefer to attend the entire Fall semester completely virtually will be given the option to do so.

How will DI support a high-quality academic experience?

We have learned from the Spring and Summer semesters and used our experiences and additional time to further enhance our instruction, learning, and community engagement from a distance. We directed considerable resources into virtual instruction technology, including the implementation of Canvas, and our faculty and staff have been actively collaborating to develop innovative ways to continue to provide a robust and high-quality academic experience for all students.

Your academic experience will be supported by:

- The use of Canvas in all courses.
- The integration of technical and professional skills into the curriculum, such as creating digital materials boards and delivering virtual presentations, which will advance your future career.
- The excellent teaching that DI faculty are known for, including individual feedback and studio critique.

- Personal connections with faculty, staff, and other students.

The devotion to design shared by faculty, staff, and students.

Will there be a tutor for CAD?

Yes! A list of available tutors will be emailed to all students as soon as finalized. DI is committed to supporting all students in all classes during this time even if a tutor has not been assigned for a particular class. Any student who would like support should contact [Tena Moiola](#), Director of Student Services.

Tutors will be available virtually and we hope to have in-person tutoring resume by appointment on campus for the Fall semester when safe to do so and pending local ordinance.

Will the library be fully operational?

Yes! The Library and Student Success Center remain staffed by your librarians, who are here to support you. Curbside pickup of books and other library materials will remain available in the Fall. As conditions allow, we will schedule appointments for anyone who wishes to visit the Library in person. Lisa and Rebecca will remain available by phone, email and Zoom appointment to assist with research and writing.

Online Library resources, including research and course guides and tutorials, will remain available 24/7 through the [Library website](#). Tips on writing, studying, managing time, and staying well will remain available 24/7 through the [Student Success Center website](#), where you can also find information about the [IBH Employee Assistance Program](#) (available to all students and their families; username: DesignISD; password: Institute).

What if I have problems with my internet, computer, Zoom, etc.?

DI is happy to help ensure you have connectivity when attending classes virtually. Please contact support@disd.edu if you are having internet issues, need additional software/hardware, or need to borrow a computer. If you are remaining outside of Southern California and need assistance with acquiring technology to successfully attend classes virtually please reach out to [Jackie Gloria](#), Director of Financial Aid about possible HEERF Grant eligibility.

Please remember, the requirements for attending class virtually are the same as if the class was held on campus. Attendance and participation are required in real time. The recordings can be a useful tool for studying or review; however, viewing the recording of a class will not be allowed as a substitution for attendance.

How will I get course packs and supply kits?

Once you have registered for the Fall semester, you will receive an email detailing the content of each kit and how to schedule an appointment. All supply kits and course packs will need to be paid for prior to pick up.

No-contact appointments for the pick-up (or drop off) of computers, drafting tables, supply kits, course packs, and/or drafting tables will be available for scheduling on **Monday, August 24th from 1:00-4:00 and Tuesday, August 25th from 9:00-12:00.**

If I am remaining outside of Southern California for the semester, how will I get course packs and supply kits?

Please contact [Michelle Dewane](#), Director of Support Services for assistance as soon as possible so that we can mail materials to you.

During the Fall semester, will I be able to come on campus to use the Materials Lab, CAD Labs, student workrooms, Library, and other facilities?

Access to the Materials Lab, CAD Labs, student workrooms, Library and other facilities will be available when it is safe and allowed by local ordinance. Initially we anticipate that this will be by appointment only. We will provide more details when these facilities become available.

What has DI done to ensure students' safety when the campus reopens?

DI has contracted with a cleaning service that will perform all daily cleaning and sanitation of the school, including a comprehensive disinfecting of the entire campus prior to opening, the on-site services of a minimum of two day-porters scheduled throughout the entire day, and a full evening crew. Additionally, any student, faculty, or staff member who plans on coming physically to campus will have to sign a Campus COVID-19 Safety Pledge, self-report before entering campus, and commit to wearing a face covering and practicing social distancing while on campus.

What is DI's plan for the Spring 2021 semester?

DI will continue to closely monitor the latest data of COVID-19 cases locally and nationally, guidance from the CDC and public health experts, and ongoing feedback from the DI community.

Thank you for your understanding during this time. We will continue to share updates throughout the Fall semester.