



ACCESSIBILITY AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER *The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA*

University of Oklahoma: Remote Attendance Considerations

The University of Oklahoma (OU) primarily offers in-person instruction, recognizing the value of direct engagement in the learning process. Although OU utilizes tools like Zoom to enhance learning, remote attendance in lieu of in-person participation is an option only in *very limited circumstances*.

The Accessibility and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) *may approve* remote attendance as an accommodation only when it is determined to be both essential and appropriate to address an environmental barrier to equal access directly related to a student's disability and functional limitations and does not fundamentally alter a course or program. For more information on fundamental alterations, please see: [Fundamental Alternation Policy](#)

Remote attendance signifies a student participating in an on-campus course via Zoom instead of attending physically.

It is important to understand that attending an in-person class remotely via Zoom inherently differs from the on-campus experience. Students participating remotely may miss nuances in instruction, spontaneous in-class interactions, and the full benefits of the learning environment. This typically requires increased individual effort and time commitment to master the course material.

Students requesting consideration of remote attendance as a reasonable accommodation should complete the registration process outlined below as early as possible.

Registration Process:

- Fill out the [Application for Accommodations](#) to self-identify as a student with a disability and submit a letter of support to the Accessibility and Disability Resource Center.
- The **letter of support** must include the following information:
 - The health conditions that rise to the level of a disability
 - The treating provider's relationship with the student on which you are basing the recommendation for remote attendance
 - A statement of support for remote attendance with a return to in-person attendance. **The ADRC approves this accommodation for one semester.** Please explain if you are recommending more than one semester of remote attendance.

- Description of how attending in-person classes creates a significant disability-related barrier to the student's participation in their academics. How and why is virtual learning necessary for equal access?
- What negative impacts will the student face if on campus?
- How does remote attendance ameliorate these negative impacts?
- Once your documentation and registration form have been received, it will be reviewed within 3-5 university business days. Please check your OU email account regularly because this is how we will contact you once your documentation has been reviewed.
- If there is a need for additional documentation, this information will be provided in the email you receive from ADRC.
- When you receive an email from ADRC, please follow the instructions in the email.

When a student requests remote attendance, the ADRC will first engage in a comprehensive discussion to explore all feasible alternative accommodations, academic adjustments, and compensatory strategies that could effectively address the student's needs without necessitating remote attendance. Remote attendance will only be approved if, after careful consideration, these alternatives are deemed insufficient to remove the disability-related barrier preventing in-person class participation.

In situations where a student's disability results in a temporary inability to attend classes in person, remote attendance may be approved as a reasonable accommodation for a ***single semester and so long as there is no fundamental alteration of a course or program.***

Remote attendance parameters:

This accommodation is ***not intended for*** emergency situations, for consecutive semesters, or as a means to convert an in-person academic program into a fully online format. Certain aspects of course design, such as examinations, group projects, experiential learning activities, or other specific requirements, may necessitate in-person student participation.

Remote attendance will be considered on a case by case, course and semester basis.

Students must submit a request for remote attendance each semester they wish to be considered for the accommodation.

Students experiencing a temporary disability-related barrier to attend in-person classes and are requesting remote attendance for less than a full semester should explore other options through the [Graduation and Persistence Support](#) office, seek a course or semester

withdrawal, or an incomplete for the semester. The ADRC strongly encourages students to reach out to their department and/or advisor.

The priority deadline for these requests is the Friday of the final week of regular classes (fall or spring semester) preceding the semester for which the accommodation is requested. Meeting the priority deadline requires both the submission of the healthcare provider's letter of support and registration for all intended courses for the following semester. While requests received after the priority deadline will be considered, course delivery options may be more limited.

Remote attendance is not intended to transform an in-person academic program into a fully online experience. The feasibility of providing this accommodation within a student's academic program may require additional evaluation.

While the ADRC determines potential eligibility for remote attendance in collaboration with applicable faculty members, final approval for each course is contingent upon an assessment of feasibility in collaboration with the relevant faculty member and/or college. If the course design or learning objectives necessitate in-person attendance as an integral component of the class structure, remote attendance will not be approved for that specific course. If the ADRC and applicable faculty disagree regarding whether the accommodation is reasonable and feasible, the [Fundamental Alteration Policy](#) and process shall govern.

Even if remote attendance is approved, certain aspects of a course's design may not be optimally suited for remote participation. This could include requirements for in-person examinations, group work, experiential learning, testing or other activities. Participating in an in-person course remotely is not equivalent to the experience of a course designed for online delivery. Therefore, students utilizing remote attendance are strongly encouraged to actively engage with instructors during office hours and to seek out campus and external resources to support their academic success.