



University of Pittsburgh COVID-19 Standards and Guidelines: Off-campus Academic Experiences

I. Purpose

This document details the University of Pittsburgh's (University) Standards and Guidelines on Off-campus Academic Experiences. These Standards and Guidelines are applied to each of the University's COVID-19 operational postures (High Risk, Elevated Risk and Guarded Risk). More information on these operational postures and their gating criteria can be accessed at the following website: <https://www.coronavirus.pitt.edu/operational-postures>.

The Standards and Guidelines outlined below are subject to change as deemed necessary by the Provost and Senior Vice Chancellor's recommendation to the Senior Leadership Team and approval of the chancellor. Communication about the University's current Standards and Guidelines will be announced and posted on the following website: <https://coronavirus.pitt.edu/>.

The University will always operate in compliance with federal, state, and local health standards and restrictions, including [Pennsylvania Department of Health guidance](#). The University reserves the right to implement additional health standards and restrictions that reflect the needs of the University and the health, safety and well-being of its community.

As conditions and circumstances change, this set of Standards and Guidelines may need to be revised.

II. Scope

The Standards and Guidelines below apply to the entire University, including all University members and campuses.

III. Definitions

- A. **Internships, practicums and community-based experiential learning:** University-sponsored educational experiences that occur outside of a classroom and are intended to enrich and/or extend a student's classroom education. Can be for academic credit, for monetary compensation, both or neither.
- B. **Practical or clinical experiences:** Experiences that are directly related to a student's intended future profession and that are necessary to meet requirements for graduation, licensure and/or accreditation in disciplines such as but not limited to: dental

medicine, education, health and rehabilitation sciences, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, psychology, and social work.

IV. Internships, Practicums and community-based experiential learning

Internships, practicums and community-based experiential learning generally take place at off-campus locations. However, any such experiences that take place on-campus must adhere to the University [Standards and Guidelines](#).

Internships, practicums and community-based experiential learning must meet standards for health and safety outlined in the University's [Health Standards and Guidelines](#). Internships, practicums, and community-based experiential learning should incorporate significant advisor engagement so that Pitt advisors can help ensure that safe practices are in place.

A. High Risk Posture

- Internships, practicums and community-based experiential learning cannot occur in-person.
- Internships, practicums and community-based experiential learning may occur remotely.

B. Elevated Risk Posture

- Internships, practicums and community-based experiential learning can occur in-person, provided the host institution's safety guidelines are equal to or more conservative than University's Health Standards and Guidelines. The program coordinator or instructor must provide an explanation to the dean or regional campus president, or their designee, of how the host institution's safety procedures align with the University's Health Standards and Guidelines.
- Any engagement where the host institution's guidelines are more relaxed than the University's guidelines must be approved by the dean or regional campus president, director of the career center (for applicable undergraduate internships or practicums,) or their designee.
- If possible, remote internships, practicums and community-based experiential learning are encouraged.

C. Guarded Risk Posture

- Internships, practicums and community-based experiential learning can occur in-person, provided the host institution's safety guidelines are equal to or more conservative than University's Health Standards and Guidelines. The program coordinator or instructor must provide an explanation to the dean or regional campus president, or their designee, of how the host institution's safety procedures align with the University's Health Standards and Guidelines.
- Any engagement where the host institution's guidelines are more relaxed than the University's guidelines must be approved by the dean or regional campus president,

- director of the career center (for applicable undergraduate internships or practicums), or their designee.
- If possible, remote internships, practicums and community-based experiential learning are encouraged.

V. Practical or Clinical Experiences

Practical or clinical experiences general take place at off-campus locations. However, any such experiences that take place on-campus must adhere to the University [Standards and Guidelines](#).

Practical or clinical experiences must meet standards for health and safety outlined in the University's [Health Standards and Guidelines](#). Practical or clinical experiences should incorporate significant advisor engagement so that Pitt advisors can help ensure that safe practices are in place.

A. High Risk Posture

- Select practical and clinical experiences can occur when required by specific programs, necessary for academic progress, and approved by the dean or regional campus president. They should follow the host institution health and safety guidelines whenever they are equal to or more conservative than University's Health Standards and Guidelines.
- The program coordinator or instructor must provide an explanation to the dean or regional campus president, or their designee, of how the host institution's safety procedures align with the University's Health Standards and Guidelines.

B. Elevated Risk Posture

- Select practical and clinical experiences can occur, as required by specific programs and approved by the dean or regional campus president (or their designee), and should follow the host institution health and safety guidelines whenever they are equal to or more conservative than University's Health Standards and Guidelines. The program coordinator or instructor must provide an explanation to the dean or regional campus president, or their designee, of how the host institution's safety procedures align with the University's Health Standards and Guidelines.
- Any engagement where the host institution's guidelines are more relaxed than current University practice should be approved by the dean or regional campus president.

C. Guarded Risk Posture

- Practical and clinical experiences can occur and should follow the host institution safety guidelines whenever they are equal to or more conservative than University's Health Standards and Guidelines. The program coordinator or instructor must provide an explanation to the dean or regional campus president, or their designee, of how the host institution's safety procedures align with the University's Health Standards and Guidelines.

- Any engagement where the host institution's guidelines are more relaxed than University's Health Standards and Guidelines in guarded risk posture should be approved by the dean or regional campus president.

VI. Related Authorities, Guidance and Resources

[Schools and Regional Campuses](#)

[University's COVID-19 Operational Postures and Gating Criteria](#)

[University's Health Standards and Guidelines](#)

VII. Contact Information and Public Accessibility

This document is posted on the University of Pittsburgh COVID-19 Standards and Guidelines website and can be found at: <https://www.policy.pitt.edu/university-policies-and-procedures/covid-19-standards-and-guidelines>. For questions related to this document, please contact: Resilience Steering Committee at ResilienceSteeringCommittee@pitt.edu.