

COVID Response: On-Campus Face-Mask Accommodation Policies

Coronavirus/COVID19 has changed our community in many ways. Safety measures such as social distancing, stay at home orders, and the wearing of face masks or cloth face coverings are now part of our daily lives. People with chronic health conditions or who are over age 60 are at higher risk of becoming seriously ill from COVID19. This makes such measures vital to the health and wellbeing of our community.

Per Governor Brown's Executive Order No. 20-28 Operation of Higher Education Institutions During Coronavirus Pandemic, face coverings are required for all staff, faculty, and students while on campus.

Wearing a face mask is proven to slow the spread of COVID-19. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend wearing a face mask in public places, especially where it is difficult to stay six feet apart from others.

Wearing a face mask may be difficult for some people with a disability. The American with Disabilities Act (ADA) affords accommodations for individuals with qualifying disabilities.

Students with documented qualifying disabilities who require face-mask accommodations on campus must request such accommodations via the Disability Services office.

Face covering accommodations do not exempt a person from wearing a face covering on campus.

Below are reasonable accommodations approved by the ADA that will be provided to students by Oregon Tech Disability Services:

- Accommodations and arrangements for remote delivery of all Student Services and academic courses. Certain lab requirements are contrary to remote delivery. Special arrangements will be made for students in these courses to attend lab in a socially distant setting on a case-by-case basis.
- Some disabilities will require alternative face coverings. These face coverings must cover the face from the top of the nose to below the chin and be made of solid (nonmesh) material. Full-face shields are approved alternatives. Alternative face coverings can be provided by Disability Services. Alternative coverings provided by the student must be approved by DS staff.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Disability Services: Email: access@oit.edu Klamath Falls: 541-851-5227 Portland-Metro: 503-821-1305