

FIELDWORK POLICY

Attallah College of Educational Studies at Chapman University, in collaboration with our local schools and districts, continues to follow state and local mandates for the operation of safe school and community fieldwork settings. Our shared goal is to support the health and safety of our professional candidates, faculty members, and fieldwork supervisors while working in inclusive and authentic settings that support the candidate's opportunity to observe, learn, and demonstrate a full range of professional skills.

As a college, we must respond to individual sites' requirements and will support our candidates throughout the coming months. As determined by the accreditors of each program, fieldwork may include virtual and/or in-person experiences.

As of January 2021, and in part due to the availability of the COVID vaccine, the majority of our K-12 and community fieldwork, internship, and practicum placement sites already are or are planning to include in-person and/or hybrid components during interterm and/or spring semesters. As fieldwork sites physically reopen and/or require in-person fieldwork, our professional programs will assist our candidates and help them navigate their return.

In-Person versus Remote Fieldwork

For all types of fieldwork and internships, a fieldwork site determines whether our candidates are expected to be on site to carry out their Chapman course-related activity. Each site has a formal fieldwork agreement with Chapman. This agreement stipulates that the conditions of fieldwork assignments (placement locations, days/hours of operation, and types of work [virtual, in-person, hybrid]) are determined by the fieldwork site, not by Chapman University.

If a fieldwork site requires that our candidates be on site to carry out their Chapman course-related activities, the candidates will need to return to in-person fieldwork to fulfill their credential requirements. Chapman candidates may continue to perform their duties 100% remotely *only if* the fieldwork site allows it and those duties fulfill all the credential requirements.

COVID Vaccination

K-12 educators are in California's [Phase 1B](#) of vaccine eligibility. Most counties in California are now vaccinating educators. Current information indicates that an employee ID or letter from the employer is necessary for educators to receive the vaccine. Chapman is providing a letter to all its candidates working on-site in K-12 schools as documentation of their assignment as a student teacher/intern at their fieldwork site. It is anticipated that this letter will be sufficient for the candidate to be eligible to receive the vaccine the same as a K-12 employee. Proof of vaccination will have to be submitted to Chapman and/or the K-12 site if the site requires it. More information will be provided to all candidates as it becomes available.

COVID vaccines require either one or two doses for immunity. The Pfizer vaccine requires two doses that are given no less than 21 days apart, the Moderna vaccine requires two doses that are given no less than 28 days apart, and the Johnson & Johnson vaccine requires one dose. Once candidates complete the required number of doses, they should update their COVID-19 vaccine record via the [Chapman COVID-19 Vaccine Registration form](#).

Mandatory COVID Testing

Beginning in January 2021, Chapman University is requiring weekly COVID testing through Chapman for all candidates who are conducting in-person fieldwork and have not yet received the required number of COVID vaccine doses.

Candidates must be tested weekly at Chapman's Student Health Center on the Orange campus or Rinker Health Science Campus in Irvine. Candidates must bring their Chapman student ID card. No appointment is required; see the [CU Safely Back website](#) for operating hours and locations.

Candidates must also complete a daily electronic COVID screening and symptom reporting questionnaire. For additional information about testing, including testing locations, visit the [CU Safely Back website](#).

Post-Vaccine Testing Requirements

Two weeks after candidates have received the required number of COVID vaccine doses, they are only required to continue weekly Chapman testing and the daily health screening if they will be accessing the Chapman campus. However, candidates must continue to follow the guidelines of their fieldwork site.

Accessing the Chapman Campus

If candidates need to access the Chapman campus for in-person instruction or any other reason (student employment, library use, etc.), the university requires they continue weekly testing and the daily health screening after vaccination (on days they access campus or exhibit symptoms).

Fieldwork Campus Access Only

If candidates do not need access to Chapman's campus, they may stop weekly COVID testing two weeks after receiving the required number of vaccine doses. The candidate's status will change to "pending" in the monitoring system for the Attallah College's ongoing fieldwork reports, and the daily health screening will stop.

Candidates are required to follow the guidelines of their fieldwork site regarding any continued COVID testing protocol. For example, a fieldwork site may require testing if a candidate exhibits COVID symptoms. Chapman University's COVID-19 testing will remain available to fieldwork candidates if they need to test at any time in the remaining weeks of spring semester.

Positive COVID Test Result, COVID Exposure, and/or COVID Symptoms

Candidates must follow their placement site's policy regarding self-isolation, reporting, and contact tracing. They also must self-report in the Chapman daily screening questionnaire that they have been exposed or have symptoms on the first day known.

If it is necessary at any point for a candidate to be accommodated due to illness or to self-isolate due to COVID exposure, the candidate should notify their placement site (per site policy) and Attallah College Program Coordinator and program support staff. For additional information, visit the [CU Safely Back website](#).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are Chapman candidates allowed to perform their duties 100% remotely if the site requires in-person fieldwork?

No. If a fieldwork site requires that our candidates be on site for their course-related activities, they will need to return to in-person fieldwork.

What if a Chapman candidate needs an ADA accommodation?

If the candidate must be accommodated due to ADA, which includes active COVID symptoms or the need to self-isolate, they may go through the district's accommodation process unless the district requests the candidate go through the Chapman process. The fieldwork agreement and what the site stipulates to Chapman prevails here. Attallah College's Program Coordinators and Director of Accreditation and Assessment will assist candidates as they navigate this process.

Who has final say over whether a Chapman candidate is allowed to continue to perform their duties remotely if a fieldwork site reopens?

Chapman University does not determine a fieldwork site's expectations. If a fieldwork site determines that our candidates are expected to be on site to carry out their course-related activity, then we are not able to tell a site differently.

What if a Chapman candidate does not qualify for an ADA accommodation and does not feel comfortable with in-person fieldwork?

If a candidate has a concern that precludes their performing in-person fieldwork, and they do not meet the criteria for an ADA accommodation, it may be in their best interest to delay Chapman courses that have a fieldwork component.

Why do I have to be tested for COVID at Chapman, especially if I have gotten one dose of the vaccine?

Current guidance indicates that to be fully protected, the required number of COVID vaccine doses are necessary. For that reason, candidates must continue to be tested weekly for COVID until they have received the required number of COVID vaccine doses. Candidates are requested, if possible, that they be tested at Chapman, as this is the only way for Chapman to monitor its students' COVID status and subsequent campus access permission. If tested elsewhere (such as a personal physician or school site), the result must be sent from the student's Chapman email account to deats@chapman.edu.

Is Chapman requiring me to get the COVID vaccine?

As of January 14, 2021, Chapman is *not* requiring students to get the COVID vaccine. Chapman is requiring all students who access campuses (Chapman or K-12 fieldwork sites) to be tested weekly for COVID unless they have received two doses of the vaccine, due to the increase in COVID transmission rates throughout our region. If a student chooses not to be vaccinated, they will continue to be required to be tested weekly for as long as the university requires it of all students.

Can my fieldwork site require me to get the COVID vaccine?

Yes. The conditions of fieldwork assignments are determined by the fieldwork site, not by Chapman University.

If my fieldwork site requires me to get a COVID test, can I get a test at Chapman?

Yes. Chapman's COVID-19 testing will remain available to fieldwork candidates if they need to test at any time in the remaining weeks of spring semester.

What if I don't have a Chapman ID?

Students who do not have a Chapman ID should bring their Chapman ID number and a photo ID.

Will Chapman provide candidates with PPE (personal protective equipment) for in-person fieldwork?

Chapman distributed PPE to all students during the fall 2020 semester. However, each fieldwork site may have specific criteria regarding PPE, and the Chapman-provided PPE may not meet such criteria. Candidates should contact their respective fieldwork sites for PPE and related requirements. If candidates need additional Chapman masks, please fill out an [online request form](#).