



USC LAW'S INTEGRATED COVID19 RESPONSES

Beginning this first semester of Academic Year 2020-2021, the following new PEDAGOGY, PROCESSES and PROTOCOLS will be observed and implemented in USC Law:

1. Pedagogy

1.1. Adoption of Flexible Learning

Flexible learning is a pedagogical approach that takes into account the learner's level of technology, internet connectivity and digital literacy. Hence, USC Law is ready to deliver instruction both online and on-campus, as the need calls for it. For the first semester of AY 2020-2021, USC Law will migrate into a Blended Learning environment, that is, online until government regulations allow all students from all over the country to be on-campus for face-to-face classes and onsite assessments. Unless rendered difficult by government regulation, all law courses will have synthesis and integration sessions and comprehensive examinations onsite and on-campus before the first semester ends. Arrangements may, however, be made if on-campus presence is difficult for the student concerned.

Classes will begin on August 24, 2020. Instruction, both synchronous and asynchronous, will be delivered through its learning management system (LMS), Schoology. Intensive training has been conducted to capacitate the law faculty as the School transitions to this new learning environment. Orientation will likewise be conducted at the start of the first semester for all the law students.

1.2. Focused Review and Class Schedules

To further mitigate the impact of the pandemic on the learning psyche of the students, USC Law will implement in its lower year classes the focused schedule implemented in the fourth year since 2017. Hence, some courses in the lower years will be taken and finished one at a time in a given semester. For instance, in the first year, students will take up and finish Philosophy of Law in the first few weeks of the first semester before proceeding with another subject like Constitutional Law within the first semester, and so on and so forth.

1.3. Grades

The "no outright failure" policy adopted during the pandemic will be carried over this first semester of AY 2020-2021. This policy, however, shall not apply to the fourth year students. As used in this advisory, this policy shall mean no failing mark will outrightly be entered in the student record. Instead, an INC mark will be given, with expanded learning opportunities for the student to comply with the requirements within one academic year before a final numerical grade is entered.



2. Processes

2.1. Online Processing of Academic Requests

All the academic processes will be accomplished online, with the following details and particulars:

(a) Admission of First Year Students (ongoing until August 14, 2020)

http://www.usc.edu.ph/uploads/News/2020/COL_Admission_Guidelines.AY_2020-2021.pdf

(b) Enrolment of First Year Students (ongoing until August 14, 2020)

http://www.usc.edu.ph/uploads/News/2020/Rev_4_Memo_re_simplified_admissions_and_enrollment_process.pdf

(c) Enrolment of Continuing Students (from August 1 to August 14, 2020) through the student's ismis account

(d) Withdrawal of Courses, Application for Transfer Credentials and Application for Graduation will also be done online with downloadable forms will be available at www.usc.edu.ph after July 18, 2020.

(e) Queries and concerns may be sent to ISMIS and IT help desk

2.2. Infrastructure Support to Students and Faculty

With the adoption of flexible learning and the setting up of Schoology as its LMS, the University extends assistance to its students and faculty in acquiring prepaid internet connection kit by providing them the negotiated prices with the suppliers. Forms are available upon enrolment. USC Law has also doubled its capacity for internet connectivity within its campus in preparation for eventual blended learning environment.

2.3. Financial Assistance

In solidarity with the students and their families in facing the challenges brought about by COVID-19 Pandemic, the University of San Carlos Administration has decided on the following:

(a) There will be no tuition fee increase for AY 2020-2021. USC Law will remain to be among the lowest charging law schools among the top performing law schools in the country.



- (b) Students with outstanding balance in the Second Semester of AY 2019-2020 and Summer 2020 are allowed to enroll in the First Semester of AY 2020-2021. A payment plan has been embedded in ISMIS where the student may signify their plan to pay a certain amount on specific months within the First Semester or until December 2020. This serves as a promissory note duly approved by parent or legal guardian. However, they have to pay a downpayment of Three Thousand (P3,000) for the enrolment in Summer 2020 and in the First Semester of 2020-2021.
- (c) While an LMS fee will be charged at cost, a number of current miscellaneous fees shall be adjusted.
- (d) The students may view their grades even with an outstanding balance.

3. Protocols

Even as classes are taken out of the university premises this first semester, health and safety protocols continue to be put in place in preparation for the eventual transition to blended learning in the future.

In coordination with Lex Circle and other student organizations and departments within the University, the College will also put in place, as part of the curricular offerings, various non-academic activities all throughout the first semester, such as: First Friday Mass, Wellness days and game nights. The aim is to provide to its law students a *holistic flexible learning*. #