

Subject: Welcome (back) to Bren Hall and Fall Quarter safety protocols

Date: Wed, Sep 22, 2021 at 3:10 PM

Dear Bren School Students,

Welcome (back) to Bren Hall! I am thrilled that we can all return to campus after 18 months of remote instruction and work. This fall, we will welcome 84 new MESM students and 10 new PhD students to the Bren School. Twenty-five students in the new Master of Environmental Data Science (MEDS) program recently completed their summer intensive courses and will begin their second quarter of our new 11-month MEDS program. Our new students will join 78 continuing MESM students and 57 continuing PhD students. Our vibrant Bren student community continues to astonish and inspire me with creative innovations and ideas. Building on your commitment and vision, working together, I am confident that we can make progress to address many of the world's environmental challenges.

I recognize we are all here because we worked hard to get through a particularly challenging time in history. The COVID-19 pandemic altered our day-to-day life, in some cases through personal illness or illness or death of a loved one. At the same time, our society is reckoning with centuries of systemic oppression. The impacts of climate change and other environmental problems are readily visible around the world and they fall more on vulnerable communities. This Fall Quarter, please come together with mutual respect, compassion, and kindness, acknowledging the various and differential burdens we have carried. Like many communities in academia, our challenges are rooted in the oppression and discrimination of historically excluded groups. We're working to change how we go forward.

Last year, the Bren administration and faculty collaborated with students and alumni to develop a strategic plan for diversity, equity and inclusion in the Bren School. This year, a top priority for me is to work with our faculty to integrate environmental justice into more Bren School courses and workshops. Furthering our goals, the Bren School and several other participating departments were awarded the competitive opportunity to pursue a cluster hire of four new faculty, including one new faculty member in the Bren School who will focus on environmental justice, as part of a new Mellichamp Chair initiative aimed at promoting and supporting diversity at UCSB. I appreciate the hard work of our faculty, staff, and students as we continue to build a more equitable and inclusive Bren School community.

This Fall Quarter, instruction will be in person. Safety protocols are mandatory to limit the spread of COVID-19 and protect our campus community during the ongoing pandemic. The University of California has mandated that all students, faculty, and staff must be vaccinated against COVID-19 or have an approved exemption on file with Student Health Services. The good news is that, just prior to Fall Quarter, Student Health Services confirmed that 96.6% of

students were already in compliance with the vaccine mandate and many of those who were unable to comply were international students who did not have access to the vaccine in their home countries and will be vaccinated upon arrival.

Every day, prior to coming to campus, all students, faculty, and staff must complete the daily survey from Student Health Services and must receive a badge approving access to campus. When asked by a faculty or staff member, you must be prepared to present your daily badge. All students, faculty, and staff, whether vaccinated or unvaccinated, must wear masks indoors in all buildings on campus, including classrooms, laboratories, meeting rooms, and faculty/staff offices. In addition, the Bren School will host some events outside that will require participants to wear masks. I ask for your compliance with these safety protocols so we can keep our Bren community safe and continue to all meet in person on campus. Additional information about COVID-19 safety protocols is included below.

I look forward to seeing you at our all-community welcome event on Thurs, Sept 23 at 4:30 pm in the Michael J. Connell Memorial Courtyard. We will enjoy catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. To protect our community, masks will be mandatory for all participants and no food or drink will be served. After a long and challenging year and a half of remote events, I am excited to see you in person! It will be wonderful to feel the energy and excitement of being together again in Bren Hall. Good luck with your Fall Quarter courses!

Cheers,
Steve Gaines

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR FALL 2021

Information about UCSB's response to the COVID-19 pandemic is on the UCSB website: <https://www.ucsb.edu/COVID-19-information>. Guidelines for our return to campus are on the UCSB website: <https://www.ucsb.edu/COVID-19-information/return-to-campus-requirements>.

In-person instruction: Instruction in Fall Quarter will be in person. Students are expected to attend lectures, discussions, and labs in person. Facilities Management has ensured that HVAC systems, ventilation systems, and/or windows in classrooms, labs, and offices are operating as designed and within the safety guidelines required by the CDC and public health department.

If a student is concerned about returning to in-person instruction, then they should consider taking a leave of absence in Fall Quarter. Instructors are not expected to provide recordings of lectures, although some instructors may individually decide to record and post lectures. If a student would like to consider a leave of absence, they should contact academics@bren.ucsb.edu or a Student Affairs staff member as soon as possible.

Daily survey: Every day, prior to coming to campus, all faculty, staff, and students must complete a daily survey about health and recent potential exposure to COVID-19. The survey may be accessed by logging on to the Student Health Services portal. Approval is required before a faculty or staff member or student may come to campus. When on campus, a faculty or staff member may ask to see a student's daily badge. Students must be prepared to show their daily badge when asked.

Do your part to protect the Bren community: To protect the Bren community, it is imperative that students, faculty, and staff do NOT come to campus or class if they have any symptoms of illness. We expect all members of the Bren community to abide by this expectation.

Masks: All persons approved to be on the UCSB campus must wear a mask indoors, including instructors and students in the classroom. If a student is not wearing a mask in a classroom, then the instructor should ask the student to put on their mask immediately. If the student does not comply, then the instructor may ask the student to leave the class. If the student refuses to leave the class, then the instructor may cancel the class. Instructors also must wear masks while teaching indoors. We appreciate your compliance with the mask mandate. If you do not have a mask, we will have a supply in Bren Hall and will be happy to provide you with a free mask. Extra masks will be stored in classroom podiums and in the Dean's Suite (Bren Hall 2439) and Student Affairs (Bren Hall 2510 and 2512).

What to do if you are exposed to COVID-19:

If you are vaccinated, then you do not need to quarantine after close contact exposure to a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19 unless you develop symptoms of illness. You should monitor your symptoms and obtain a COVID-19 test 3-5 days after exposure.

If you are unvaccinated, then you must quarantine for 10 days after close contact exposure to a person with a known case of COVID-19 and obtain a COVID-19 test 3-5 days after exposure.

Faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to utilize the campus testing for COVID-19, which is available by appointment without charge; see details at

<https://studenthealth.sa.ucsb.edu/home/coronavirus/covid-19-asymptomatic-testing>.

What to do if I get sick: If you develop symptoms of illness, immediately leave campus, inform your instructor or supervisor of the situation, monitor your symptoms, and get a COVID-19 test. Faculty will make accommodations for legitimate reasons and will work with affected students to find ways they can make up missed lectures and coursework.

If you are vaccinated and you feel ill, you should get a COVID-19 test and stay home until your symptoms resolve and you test negative for COVID-19.

If you are unvaccinated, you should get a COVID-19 test and be isolated for 10 days. If your symptoms of illness persist, you should seek guidance from Student Health Services or your doctor.

If you test positive for COVID-19, then you will need to report the case to Student Health Services at ucsb-covid19@ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-3113. Details about what must be reported are on the COVID-19 reporting website: <https://www.ucsb.edu/COVID-19-information/reporting>. In addition, please notify the Bren School's Assistant Dean Satie Airame (airame@bren.ucsb.edu) or Building Manager Sage Davis (sage@bren.ucsb.edu) so they can inform potentially affected individuals as soon as possible. Public notifications regarding a case of COVID-19 in Bren Hall will be confidential and will not include the name of the person who contracted COVID-19; the notification will include only the location(s) in Bren Hall and date(s) when the person was in the building and potentially contagious. Persons with COVID-19 must be isolated for 10 days from the date when they experience symptoms or have a positive COVID-19 test result. They may be approved to return to campus after 10 days and after at least 24 hours without a fever. If symptoms of illness persist, then it is advised to seek guidance from Student Health Services or your doctor. In an emergency, please call 911 (or 9-911 from a campus phone) for immediate medical attention.