



**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER**  
**COVID-19 SPECIAL POLICY ON DISTANCE EDUCATION**  
**Policy Number 1-501**

<b>Responsible Unit:</b> Southern University Law Center	<b>Effective Date:</b> August 11, 2020
<b>Responsible Official:</b> Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs	<b>Last Reviewed Date:</b> N/A
<b>Policy Classification:</b> Academic Affairs	<b>Origination Date:</b> October 21, 2020

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**I. POLICY OVERVIEW**

The purpose of this policy is to articulate the temporary rules governing Distance Education during the COVID-19 pandemic. This policy is to be in effect during the time period under which SULC is operating under variances to granted by the American Bar Association (ABA) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) allowing the delivery of courses remotely during the 2020-2021 academic year. This policy will remain in effect until such time that the COVID-19 pandemic has ended to the extent that neither the ABA nor SACSCOC are willing to grant continued variances allowing SULC to deliver its courses remotely that are usually taught in-person.

**II. POLICY SCOPE**

This policy applies to all students at the SULC.

**III. POLICY COMPLIANCE**

This policy impacts the mode and method of delivery of courses in SULC's program of education and should be followed to the extent necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the faculty, students, and staff of the SULC.

**IV. DEFINITION**

Distance education is a formal educational process in which the instruction (interaction between

students and instructors and among students) in a given course occurs when the students and the instructor are not in the same physical space.

a) Interactivity may be synchronous or asynchronous. Distance education includes courses offered principally by means of:

1. technological transmission, including Internet, open broadcast, closed circuit, cable, microwave, satellite, broadband lines, fiber optics, wireless, or other means of transmission;
2. audio or computer conferencing;
3. video cassettes or DVDs and CD-ROMs; or
4. correspondence.

b) A course is considered a distance education course if one-third or more of the course instruction consists of distance education. If less than one-third of the course instruction consists of distance education, the requirements set forth below shall not be required, but are advisable and are beneficial to the extent the course includes a substantial distance education component.

#### V. Policy Development and Implementation Procedure

The policy was created in accordance with and pursuant to the variances granted by the ABA and SACSCOC. The policy was developed by the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs and approved by faculty vote on October 21, 2020, and effective retroactive to August 11, 2020, which is the start date of the 2020-2021 academic year. The Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs is charged with implementing and enforcing this policy.

#### VI. Policy and Applicable Procedures

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the variance granted by the ABA and SACSCOC, SULC may offer credit toward the Juris Doctor (“JD”) degree for study offered through distance education in the number and to the extent necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the faculty, students, and staff of SULC. Such distance education courses shall be consistent with the provisions of SULC’s Policy on Distance Education. Credit shall be awarded only if the academic content, the method of course delivery, and the methods of evaluating student performance are approved as part of SULC’s regular curriculum approval process. The substantive content of distance learning courses, as well as the staffing of those courses, is the responsibility of the Chancellor and the faculty of SULC, who have primary responsibility for maintaining the quality and integrity of all instruction regardless of the course format or method of delivery. No credit may be given toward the JD degree for any distance education course unless that course is approved and executed in accordance with this Policy. Moreover, any distance education course for which credit is given toward the JD degree must comply with the Standards set forth in Paragraph VII of SULC’s Policy on Distance Education.

#### VII. Policy History and Review

This policy was created in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The policy became


effective on August 11, 2020. The policy is temporary and, as such, not subject to a review cycle.

VIII. Publication of Policy.

This policy is published on the SULC website at [www.sulc.edu](http://www.sulc.edu).

IX. Policy Approval

This policy was approved by a Faculty vote on October 21, 2020.

  
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John K. Pierre  
Chancellor, Southern University Law Center

October 21, 2020  
Date