

DATE: Fall 2026
TO: College Faculty
FROM: Pamela Brown, Provost/VP for Academic Affairs
SUBJECT: Fall 2026 Course Management Memo

Welcome back to fall 2026! This course management memo includes information to ensure you are aware of important policies and procedures to fulfill your teaching and administrative responsibilities, and that you have access to information about resources that are available for you and your students. Please read carefully.

Welcoming Students: Regardless of the modality you are teaching, please include a message about attending the first-class session posted on Brightspace by Wednesday, August 26, the first day back on contract, so that students consistently know where to find this information and will know how to participate from the first day. You may also wish to send a welcome message using Brightspace or Navigate. Remember to activate your class in [Brightspace](#). Classes begin Friday, August 28, 2026

Bookmarked topics include:

1. [\(1\) Brightspace—Welcoming Students](#), [\(2\) Syllabus requirements](#), [\(3\) Accessibility](#), [\(4\) Resources, policies and procedures](#), [\(5\) Class cancellations/changes/relocations](#), [\(6\) Course Modality requirement](#), [\(7\) Camera Use Guidance for Online and Hybrid Courses](#) [\(8\) Field trips](#), [\(9\) Attendance/Grading Policies](#) [\(10\) Medical documentation/Technology issues/Accommodations](#), [\(11\) Accommodations and Policies](#) [\(12\) Bereavement policy](#), and [\(13\) Final Grades](#)

1. **Brightspace:** Brightspace is City Tech's Learning Management System (LMS). The Academic Technology and Online Learning ([AtoL](#)) website provides information and support, including one-on-one appointments, online teaching certifications and extensive training and resources to help you set up your course site, as well as support for students. City Tech is resuming the requirement for periodic online teaching certification/recertification for faculty teaching online courses. As of Spring 2026, asynchronous online instructors were all required to be online teaching certified. Effective Spring 2027, synchronous online instructors must be online teaching certified. Please reach out to AtoL director Jose Diaz (JDiaz@citytech.cuny.edu) to arrange for online teaching certification, which must be renewed every three years. Per USDoE requirements, **instructors teaching online asynchronous sections** must demonstrate "regular and substantive interaction (RSI) between the students and the instructor(s)."

2. **Syllabus requirements:** Please ensure that you distribute the syllabus and any other needed information by the first-class meeting. Comprehensive information will help your students better understand expectations, as well as take advantage of resources that will help them succeed. At a minimum, please include the following in your syllabus:

- Course number, title, section number, course description, credits, pre/corequisites.
- Instructor's name, email address or other way to reach you, and Student Hours (aka office hours) so that students know how and when to contact you. [Navigate can be used to schedule appointments with students \[pdf\]](#).
- Technology requirements and links for where to go for technical support.
- Required text(s) and any other required course materials.
- Instructional objectives that incorporate assessment measures and techniques.
- A schedule of topics to be covered. Include dates and location of in-person classes, dates, of online courses (synchronous modality), all deadlines for asynchronous classes and information on how to access online classes. Dates and times should agree with the information in CUNYfirst (schedule of

classes).

- Required and recommended readings and other major assignments. Include explicit information about due dates and times, or if asynchronous, deadlines for participation as well as deadlines for completion of assignments.
- Details on how to access course materials, discussion boards, etc. and submit assignments. As needed, links to resources such as the [library](#), [tutoring](#), or other [student services](#).
- Clear statements about grading policies and assessment of student work.
- Attendance/class participation policy.
- The university's [academic integrity statement/plagiarism policy](#), addressing AI.
- A link to the [Center for Student Accessibility](#). See #11 that follows for statement.
- Cameras-on policy, as appropriate (see #8).
- Consider adding a statement about your commitment to diversity and inclusive education. Suggestion from DICE (Diversity and Inclusion in the Curriculum & Education) available [here](#).

You should also provide a copy of your syllabus to the department. Please remember that you are responsible for holding all class sessions through the full semester and for the entire scheduled time or a comparable time period for asynchronous sections (per City Tech's [credit hour guidelines](#)).

Conversion Day The [academic calendar](#) for Fall 2026 lists all planned college closure dates and includes one day designated as a "Conversion Day," which is when classes meet on a different day of the week than usual to compensate for holiday closures.

Tuesday, October 13: Classes follow a **Monday** schedule

- Instructors with classes that normally meet on Mondays are responsible for teaching one class period on Tuesday, October 13, (the college is closed on Monday, October 12), and should highlight the change in their syllabuses.
- Instructors with classes that normally meet on Tuesdays in their meeting pattern will NOT meet on October 13, and should highlight that in their syllabuses.

3. Accessibility: Online course materials should be accessible to all students, including students with disabilities. The [Ally widget](#) provides an overall accessibility score for your course and is designed to help you identify meaningful ways to improve access for all students. (1) [Ally Report](#) opens a breakdown of your course materials; (2) [CUNY Guides](#) connect you to EdTech resources with step-by-step support; (3) [CUNY Assistive Technology Services \(CATS\)](#) - On this page, you will find AT software downloads, installation guides, and other related topics; (4) [Pulse App](#)- The Brightspace Pulse app is designed with accessibility in mind, offering support for screen readers like [VoiceOver on iOS](#) and [Talkback on Android](#). The [AtoL team](#) is available to partner with you in creating inclusive, student-centered learning experiences.

4. Resources, policies and procedures: [Faculty Commons Resources](#) provides information on administrative responsibilities, academic integrity, information on using CUNYfirst, and other important policies and procedures, including details about the [AcademicAlertsSystem](#). Please take advantage of these valuable resources. Valuable information on pedagogy, helpful tips, and additional resources and policies are also provided on the [Faculty Commons Teaching](#), and [Open Lab Distance Education](#) sites.

I encourage you to promote a culture of active learning from the first class.

5. Class cancellations/changes/relocation: Class meetings are governed by state regulations. If you are unable to teach, arranging for substitute service to avoid canceling the class may be possible, so please notify your chair right away. No class may be cancelled or changed in modality without prior notification of the department chair and, in the case of evening or weekend classes, the Adjunct Workload Management Office as well (718.260.5565 or awmo@citytech.cuny.edu).

Instructors of in-person classes should not relocate classes to a new room without first receiving permission from the Registrar's Office. AWMO conducts routine classroom checks.

6. Course Modality Requirements: Please remember that you may not unilaterally change the modality of

your courses, be it in-person, hybrid, or synchronous/asynchronous online. CUNY policy explicitly requires faculty to meet their classes in the modality listed in the CUNYfirst Schedule of Classes. For hybrid classes, in-person meeting dates should align with the information in the CUNYfirst Schedule of Classes and should also be included in the course syllabus, distributed by the first class. We all understand that situations can develop unexpectedly, including illness. In this case, please reach out to your chairperson, who can consult with the Dean and Provost to help you develop a reasonable solution which best allows your students to keep learning. The Provost's approval is required to change modality.

7. Camera Use Guidance for Online and Hybrid Courses: Faculty may require students to turn on their cameras in online and hybrid courses during class periods or for remote testing purposes. Faculty who intends to require camera use should clearly state it on course syllabi and announce it on the first day of class.

8. Field trips: Please be aware that every off-campus field trip requires an approved field trip form. More information about field trips can be found on the [Faculty Commons Resources](#) website under [Student Travel Overview](#). An ESPARC certificate issued within the most recent 12-month period is required along with the field trip request. For on-campus activities such as trips to the library or the on-campus [Cold Spring Harbor Labs DNA Learning Center](#), you should inform the department in advance and post a sign on the classroom door indicating the temporary location, in case an emergency situation arises.

9. Attendance/grading policies: CUNY meets the federal definition of an institution that is not required to take attendance under Title IV regulation 34 CFR 668.22 (b)(3)(i). As a non-attendance taking institution, daily attendance records are not collected by the College Registrars, and CUNY does not require professors to take attendance. Any attendance records are taken for the professors' own purposes. Recommended purposes for recording student attendance include ensuring that correct grades are assigned (for example, to determine whether a WU or an F is appropriate). Class participation can be used in grading criteria. All grades, and the nature and the weight of each component of the final course grade, as listed in the syllabus, should also be recorded. Students' Brightspace login can be viewed via the Performance Dashboard or by running a course report. Relevant attendance and grading information should be submitted to your department at the end of the semester. To easily document this information, [eClass folder templates](#) are available on the [Faculty Commons Resources](#) page. You can also scroll down and download from the [Adjunct Workload Management Office](#). Attendance records can once again be recorded in Brightspace. Please see the [CUNY Uniform Grade Glossary](#), found on the [Faculty Commons Resources](#) website for questions on grading. **Please note the last day to withdraw for a full or partial tuition refund can be found on the [Academic Calendar](#).**

10. Medical documentation/Technology issues: Sometimes students fail to participate in class, miss assignments, etc., and explain the reason was illness or loss of internet access. Please exercise compassion and common sense when receiving these requests. In many situations, you can choose to grant accommodations without reviewing medical or other documentation. When appropriate, students requesting accommodations due to medical conditions should do so via [CUNY Accommodate](#). Faculty should never review medical documentation from a student.

11. Accommodations: [The Center for Student Accessibility \(CSA\)](#) has implemented [CUNY Accommodate](#), a new platform that streamlines requests for students with disabilities (permanent and temporary) for services and supports. In CUNY Accommodate you can:

- Easily view, print, and sign (optional) accommodation letters for students in your courses each semester.
- View a list of students with accommodation enrolled in your courses.
- Review approved testing accommodations for students taking all forms of tests.

There are [FAQs](#) and the link to the [Disability Defined](#) section to assist you in understanding what is involved in this process. Please contact the Center for Student Accessibility at accessibility@citytech.cuny.edu if you have any questions or concerns.

12. **Bereavement:** please follow the college's [bereavement policy](#) , as appropriate.
13. **Final Grades:** Final grades are submitted electronically via CUNYfirst. Final Grade rosters for **Fall 2026 Semester** will be available beginning **Friday, December 11** and must be submitted no later than **midnight of Monday, December 28th, 2026**.

This memo will be posted on the [AWMO Memos](#) and [Faculty Commons Resources](#) websites.

Best wishes for a successful and rewarding Fall 2026 session.