

COVID Response: SOTA specific: Fall 2020

The ongoing pandemic continues to test us. Our personal levels of comfort and anxiety may be fluctuating daily. In our community (SoTA, IWU and Bloomington/Normal) cases of COVID continue to increase. This has caused the faculty and staff to evaluate how successful SoTA can be in these given circumstances.

Protocols at IWU, the Titan Pledge, and protocols within SoTA go a long way in protecting our community. However, two things must be present for the protocols to work:

1. Every member of the SoTA community must strictly adhere to the protocols
2. Every member of SoTA must make decisions outside of SoTA that will not negatively impact the health/safety of SoTA members and will also insure the success of the SoTA curriculum and productions.

It is clear that many individuals within SoTA are doing these things; it is also becoming clear that there are individuals within SoTA who are not following the protocols or the Titan pledge when outside of SoTA. That behavior directly impacts all individuals within SoTA - putting all of us at risk.

It is the priority of the faculty and staff to insure, to the best of our ability, the health and safety of SoTA. With this in mind the full time faculty and staff have decided to use the SoTA Policy on Departmental Probation (p. 46 in the SoTA handbook).

Students who, due to their behavior, put others in SoTA at risk of contracting COVID will be called into the probationary process. This could result in the student being immediately withdrawn from any and all productions this fall 2020 and also being ineligible for casting or design/tech positions in spring 2021.

The probationary process is a closed, private process between the student and the full time tenure line faculty. Confidentiality will be maintained. Due to this necessity, it may appear to those not in the process that little or no action is taking place. Rest assured, the faculty and staff of SoTA are taking the risks associated with COVID very seriously.

Any questions/concerns regarding this or other COVID related issues should be brought to Jean or your degree head.

September 3, 2020