

Washington University Fall Planning Town Hall Q&A

Question	Answer
If I share a room with someone, will I have to stay masked all the time?	Details on health and safety in on campus housing, including masking, will be released no later than July 31. Masks are required on campus unless you are alone in an office or your dorm room.
How will social distancing be handled in public spaces like libraries and dining areas?	At a minimum, we will follow density/capacity government guidelines and restrictions, including those from St. Louis City and County. We may implement additional measures based on our own circumstances and the guidance of our medical advisors from the School of Medicine and Habif.
If my home is near campus, will I be allowed to leave campus to go home on weekends?	The university's travel guidelines and restrictions have changed multiple times during the pandemic, and they may continue to change based on local circumstances and other factors. Information on additional travel restrictions will be included in the July 31 communication.
Is there a possibility that campus will not reopen, depending on how other universities fare with earlier openings?	We will have contingency plans in place in case with need to modify our reopening plans at any point based on local conditions or other circumstances.
Will parents be permitted to assist their students with move-in?	Detailed information on move in will be released no later than July 31.
Will all exams be online?	Yes. All final exams will be online, and all exams during the semester will have a remote option.
Will contact tracing be privacy focused? For example using pseudorandom generated numbers and open source code?	We will implement contact tracing in a way that ensures privacy. This issue has been top of mind for our occupational and student health units planning this effort. For contact tracing on the Danforth Campus, we will work in conjunction with the county health department. We will be responsible for reaching WashU affiliated contacts, and the county would be responsible for identifying and contacting non-WashU contacts.
Will move-in be staggered over the course of a couple weeks?	Detailed information on move in will be released no later than July 31. The process will be spread out over a few weeks.
Will support for classes be online?	There will likely be both remote and in-person options for peer-led team learning and recitations, but we are still working through the details.
If my student gets sick from COVID after coming to campus, can she come home and begin anew in 2021 rather than risk a mental health crisis from being behind, sick, and far from home?	We have a Medical Leave of Absence Policy that would apply in this situation.
How will labs work?	It depends on the labs; some will be run in person with social distancing, some that can be done virtually will be done virtually. For some, students will get kits with needed non-hazardous materials to work with wherever they are.
Will extracurriculars be cancelled for the fall, such as club sports which cannot be played in masks or with social distancing?	We are thinking through student activities now, so we don't have yet a complete answer. What we can say is that physical distancing will be a priority and that activities will need to be modified to accommodate it, as well as mask wearing when groups are gathered.
Will Habif health services be available remotely via calls/video calls for students who feel uncomfortable walking into the center?	We have been conducting some sessions via Zoom or phone and will continue to do so as appropriate.
Any plans of having multiple sessions of the same class?	Yes, we are looking at adding sections of some courses and are also looking at adding more lab sessions.
Will student groups be able to meet?	We are thinking through student activities now, so we don't have yet a complete answer. What we can say is that physical distancing will be a priority and that activities will need to be modified to accommodate it, as well as mask wearing when groups are gathered.
How would a shift to alternate operations work? Would students be asked to not return to campus and their belongings stored and shipped by professional movers again?	We are planning for multiple scenarios for fall, including the need to scale back on-campus operations if necessary. More information about the fall semester will be shared by the end of July.
What's the reasoning behind not reducing tuition?	Because students will be able to complete their academic coursework through a combination of in-person and online activities, and will receive credit toward their degree programs, tuition will not be reduced. Students will receive academic instruction from the same faculty members, albeit in a modified environment, for academic credit, and we continue to provide the same academic support services and resources.

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Will we know before arriving to campus how each class will be conducted?	Detailed information on courses and class times will be released no later than July 31. It is likely that this process will be elongated.
Is it possible for my student to take a laboratory component at a later time while taking the lecture component in the fall?	This option is already available for some lab/lecture classes (general physics, general chemistry) and we are looking at adding that option in other courses where the lab component can stand alone. We're offering organic chemistry lab only this year, since many students are taking the lecture course online this summer, and so will likely offer that lab only in the future as well.
I understand the late / staggered start strategy ... however, I assume that your student population in the social work / law programs is relatively much smaller than the rest of the disciplines; so you'll still have the majority of students arriving into campus at the same time in Sep. How does the staggered start help in this case?	Bringing students back to campus gradually instead of all at once gives us a chance to begin the semester with reduced population density. This will allow us to fully implement public health measures and make sure we have strong systems in place to accommodate the rest of our community upon their return.
Will Sam Fox have separate guidelines for studio art classes, upperclass studio space, etc. as these types of classes and work are not able to be conducted remotely? When will these guidelines be distributed?	In addition to this centralized fall planning process (the panelists you're hearing from on this town hall), the six schools on the Danforth Campus are doing their own planning. Some modifications will be consistent across all schools, but there will need to be some more localized modifications based on unique needs within each school. Students can expect to hear from their schools how operations will be modified within each school. This information will come out closer to the start of the academic year. If you have more questions, please contact your school.
When will students be able to move in?	Detailed information on move in will be released no later than July 31. The move-in process will be spread over several weeks.
For remote exams will there be any assistance for students who have weak/unreliable internet at home?	Yes, the technology subgroup is working on generating a set of technology requirements for students to participate fully and for a process whereby financial assistance can be obtained for needs. We are also expanding our laptop loan program.
Are big lectures going to have in-person sections or is everything just online now?	It's going to vary-- some will have in person recitations/discussion sections (we're looking to add these to some classes that don't currently have them), some will have a fraction of the class show up in person each session to do more interactive work, some may be fully online. Full details will be released no later than July 31.
Will buildings like the DUC, library, and the AC be open for the semester?	At a minimum, we will follow density/capacity government guidelines and restrictions, including those from St. Louis City and County. We may implement additional measures based on our own circumstances and the guidance of our medical advisors from the School of Medicine and Habif.
Will students dependent on on-campus housing be able to return to university housing at the original August start date?	Detailed information on on campus housing will be released no later than July 31.
How is the committee accounting for the fact that many students will likely attend parties/other gatherings that do not involve social distancing? Is there any effort to prevent these social outlets which many students consider essential?	Every member of our community has the responsibility to mask as required by the city, county and by the University. This will be enforced under the University Student Conduct Code.
Will there be a curfew?	No. There are no plans for a curfew.
How will dining work?	Dining will provide cashless full service options across campus with additional grab and go and mobile ordering for students, faculty and staff. We will put into place social distancing guidelines with protective barriers for safe service in all areas using local, state and federal guidelines. Dining will monitor employee health by daily screening, and require personal protective equipment for all employees at all times. Dining will require face masks for all staff, students and guests when entering dining locations. In the practice of dining hygiene we will clean, sanitize, disinfect and apply disinfectants for all dining locations.
How is WashU going to approach accommodations for disabled students, especially those related to issues made worse by these new restrictions, such as the use of harmful fragranced cleaning products, difficulties due to distance from the front of the classroom or lipreading?	We have a new Disability Resources director on board (Chris Stone)-- he's working hard on fall planning already. I can say we're definitely working through the use of clear face shields and/or masks in classrooms. I'll make sure fragranced cleaning products are on his list of concerns

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How will this affect students living off-campus? Will they go through the same processes?	When on-campus, these students will be expected to follow the university's public health measures (e.g., masking, physical distancing, hand hygiene). They will also be required to complete the daily self-screen if they will be on campus. St. Louis County and City also have implemented their own masking requirements.
What sorts of cleaning procedures will be in place in classrooms between classes? There is concern about staff and faculty touching computers five minutes after another instructor has just finished teaching and students sitting in chairs another student has just touched and sat in	Facilities will be doing 1X/day cleaning of classrooms. This will include tabletops, chair arms & seatbacks, light switches, door handles, trash cans, electronic thermostat controls, disinfectant wipes dispensers, etc. Departments will provide disinfectant wipes for students & instructors to wipe down their work area between classes.
Will the gym be open?	We do plan to open the gym, with greater spacing between machines and significantly lowered capacity, potentially requiring a reservation and in compliance with St. Louis County and City ordinances and orders.
The students who live in apartments or at a distance, how will they manage going from an in person to online class? Will there be ample time, or space to accommodate this?	We are going to be making spaces available-- quiet, with power strips, on campus for students who would not be able to get home in time for an online class.
Will masks be provided?	Yes. Masks will be available to students, faculty, and staff who do not have their own.
Will students be allowed to defer for the semester?	Students may speak with their dean about the process for deferral.
Will outside food deliveries be allowed for students who have dietary restrictions?	We are working closely with the University's dietitian, Rebecca Miller, to ensure that the food delivery program works for all student dietary needs and restrictions. We are still working through the kinds of deliveries that will be available.
Will the grubhub app be expanded to all the other food places on campus, like the duc?	We are finalizing which food app will be widely available, but there will be a mobile ordering app (either grub hub or GET Food) that will be available to the food services places on campus.
Will 4 person suites be available, or will it all be doubles and singles?	Detailed information on residential life will be released no later than July 31.
Are there any safety measures for student transportation around St. Louis, especially with no more Enterprise CarShare?	For transportation between the Danforth Campus and neighborhoods near campus (Delmar Loop, Skinker DeBaliviere, DeBaliviere Place, Wydown Skinker, and DeMun neighborhoods), the WashU Campus Shuttle System (https://parking.wustl.edu/campus-shuttle-system/) provides a safe and convenient option with frequent stops (typically every 15-20 minutes) from 7am to 11pm Monday – Friday and 12pm to 11pm on Saturdays and Sundays. The Campus2Home shuttle also provides transportation from the Danforth Campus to off-campus housing 7 days a week from 7pm to 4am. Masks will be required on WashU shuttles and staff will disinfect shuttles frequently throughout the day with deeper cleaning performed daily. For travel further from campus, students can obtain a Metro Transit U-Pass (https://parking.wustl.edu/items/metro-transit/), which provides them with unlimited access to Metro buses, MetroLink light-rail system, and the Call-A-Ride Paratransit service. Metro also requires customers to wear face masks and they have implemented enhanced cleaning and disinfecting protocols in their vehicles, transit centers, and MetroLink stations. With respect to safety in general, WashU has implemented a new safety app, WashU Safe, which can provide students with a mobile BlueLight, Friend Walk, and quick access to WUPD, WUSM Protective Services, and 911.
Will upperclassmen assigned housing in the village be moved off campus so that the underclassmen can remain on campus?	Detailed information on residential life will be released no later than July 31.
Are doubles going to be split up?	Detailed information on residential life will be released no later than July 31.
If one family has two students who are supposed to move in at different times, will it be allowed for both students to move in at the same time in order to reduce the number of times families come to campus? (I.e. a first year and a junior)	Detailed information on residential life will be released no later than July 31.

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Will those students planning on living with WashU in the fall but off-campus (i.e., UDrive) be able to move in in August? Especially those who have already committed to jobs/graduate school exams in St. Louis in August/early September?	Detailed information on residential life will be released no later than July 31.
When will housing decisions come out?	Detailed information on residential life will be released no later than July 31.
When should RA's return?	You will be contacted by Residential Life with details no later than July 31.
What if I already committed to a group of three for a triple? Will we be split up?	Detailed information on residential life will be released no later than July 31.
Will incoming First Year students definitely have roommates?	Detailed information on residential life will be released no later than July 31.
If meals are grab and go, where do the kids go? Do they have to eat in their dorm rooms?	Detailed information on dining will be released no later than July 31.
If the university has to move online at some point during the semester, will there be discounts for housing and tuition?	If the semester is moved online and requires a move out from residential housing, there will be a housing and dining reimbursement similar to last spring.
Do freshmen still have guaranteed housing?	Detailed information on residential life will be released no later than July 31.
Are convocation and parents weekend cancelled?	No. Convocation and parents weekend will be modified to account for social distancing and other health and safety measures.
Are masks going to be required?	Yes, masks are required on campus and pursuant to St. Louis County and City orders.
Are masks required to be worn on all campuses? Apologies if this has already been clarified.	Yes, masks are required on campus and pursuant to St. Louis County and City orders.
Is there an elevator policy, e.g one person in a single elevator? Thanks!	Guidance about elevator usage is available here: https://hr.wustl.edu/returntocampus/
Will international students who are starting their programs this fall have the option to take courses remotely? Must it be from St. Louis that they take them remotely? Or can they do it from their home countries?	Courses offered online may be taken in the home country.
If remote options are possible for instruction, are traditional attendance policies going to be maintained (i.e. will you be punished for not attending class)?	Attendance policies will reflect the hybrid/online model and will also take into consideration time away for illness or symptoms to keep campus safe.
Can international students watch videos of their classes when it's convenient for them or they must join the classes regardless of the time difference? (like now it's 2 a.m. in China)	That depends on whether it is a course offered asynchronously or synchronously. For asynchronous courses, students could watch whenever convenient. For synchronous courses, students would likely prefer to attend at the time the course is offered but all courses will be recorded and links to the videos posted on Canvas or the course website, so attendance at your convenience would also be possible that way.
Why are different schools operating with different classroom capacity cut-off points for determining in-person vs. remote instruction if all are working from the same standards and recommendations?	There will be density limits that apply to all schools and units consistently.
Similar to the question of elevator use, I'm wondering about other high touch frequency surfaces such as printers. It was said that gloves will not be required but I wonder if gloves can be provided around campus, similar to hand sanitizer stations, so that students can use them to use certain supplies like printers.	Thanks Jacquelyn. Gloves have been discouraged for use by our infectious disease efforts bc those who wear them tend to wash hands less. The better practice is to wash hands before and after using common items.
Is there a possibility for starting the Fall semester in August rather than September ?	Thanks for your question. No, the decision on the fall start date is firm.
When would be a rough date for graduate students to return on campus?	Please see the academic calendar here: https://cpb-us-w2.wpmucdn.com/sites.wustl.edu/dist/9/213/files/2020/06/Academic-Calendar-2020-21-revised-1.pdf
Why are finals being scheduled after the holidays?	The timing of finals was necessitated by number of hours required for accreditation with a later start.

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Can you explain the options for faculty and graduate students who do not want to assume the health risks of teaching in person? Will there be specific policies regarding faculty choice, or will things be decided on a case-by-case basis?	There are over-arching guidelines, but these are ultimately resolved case-by-case depending on the individual and their circumstances, and the nature of their work/responsibilities at the university.
When will grad students be allowed to go back to their offices? In some cases they are shared and reduced spaces. Will there be a protocol for accessing at different times/days?	It is possible that a limited number of grad students may return in Phase 2. Vice Chancellor Jenny Lodge will share more information about this in July.
Can international students watch videos of their classes when it's convenient for them or they must join the online classes regardless of the time difference?	That depends on whether it is a course offered asynchronously or synchronously. For asynchronous courses, students could watch whenever convenient. For synchronous courses, students would likely prefer to attend at the time the course is offered but all courses will be recorded and links to the videos posted on Canvas or the course website, so attendance at your convenience would also be possible that way.
Is it possible the university opens back up for fall but then has to close and go back to alternate operations again? Is there any idea how likely it will be that we will be on campus again in fall?	We are planning for multiple scenarios for fall, including the need to scale back on-campus operations if necessary.
Will the school help students acquire masks?	Yes
Where is Occupational Health located?	4525 Scott Ave Room 3420, St. Louis, MO 63110
Given classroom density issues, has there been any thought to holding classes outside around campus?	Yes, we are considering how to best use outdoor space in our plans.
Are other university buildings (outside Danforth) where we have many staff members going to have seating and workspaces adjusted to meet new density recommendations? Many of the support staff across campus sit very close to each other.	Schools and units have developed and implemented plans to modify their operations and physical spaces to ensure their on-campus personnel can follow university guidelines, including physical distancing requirements. This work started immediately in mid-March and has continued. As we begin to bring more employees and students back to campus, this will be an ongoing effort to ensure that we continue to provide a safe environment
I noticed a sign in the elevator advising against using gloves. Does the same go for all door handles, etc.?	This was an item that was added because our infectious disease experts wanted to discourage those staff who are using gloves as part of their jobs (primarily housekeeping staff) from touching the buttons with the gloves on. Infectious disease doctors have told us that sometimes gloved hands are dirtier than non-gloved hands because they are not washed frequently.
Has the bookstore announced its plans for fall semester? How will they reopen safely?	The bookstore has not announced plans at this time. A plan on bookstore operations will be forthcoming.
Can face shields be worn in lieu of masks?	We are currently working on understanding the suitability of face shields in lieu of masks. Environmental Health and Safety has worked with infectious disease to examine this and provide some guidance on recommendations.
Are masks always required?	Masks must be worn at all times while on campus, unless you are alone in an individual closed office space or are outside and can maintain six feet of physical distance from others.
What exact Fahrenheit degree is defined as having a fever?	100.4
In terms of asymptomatics, how will we prevent them spreading COVID?	We believe our public health measures (masks, physical distance, hand hygiene) will minimize transmission. However, we are exploring random screening (via testing) as another means to address the issue you raise.
Lecture based classes will be very hard to be heard/understood because of masks. Should all lectures be delivered via Zoom then?	We'll increase availability of microphones. If faceshields test out as acceptably protective those are likely to permit much clearer sound.
Have you thought about installing plastic shields to separate student seats in classroom?	Yes, we are certainly reviewing plastic shields in various space across campus.
Any thoughts as to University-wide guidelines for seminar series in which (traditionally) visitors are invited to campus (if they are comfortable traveling of course)?	Yes, that's a great question. Visitors are, and will be, expected to follow the university's public health measures. Should it be determined that it is safe to hold any events like this on campus, appropriate modifications and precautions will be taken to ensure attendees can follow the university's public health measures. This also assumes that St. Louis city and county regulations/orders allow for gatherings in the future, depending on current conditions in the region.

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Would the University ever consider closing the campus to outside visitors in order to decrease the risk to students, faculty, and staff?	We continue to evaluate our interim policies and protocols during the pandemic as they relate to visitors. They are required to follow our protocols, and visitor traffic has been much lower than normal during the last three months. Given that we have many different kinds of "visitors" (from contractors to prospective students to guests who are here for meetings, etc.), it's unlikely we would completely close the campus to visitors, but we may limit their access to campus if conditions worsen.
Will faculty be able to work in their offices during the fall semester?	Faculty will be able to work their office, as long they comply with the university mandates regarding physical distancing, masks, and so forth.
What are the plans for study abroad in the Spring?	We have not yet made a decision about study abroad for Spring 2021, though we are hopeful that conditions will improve to allow it to some extent.
If a student does contract COVID-19 how will the student be allowed to make up missed midterms, exams, coursework etc? In the past there have been instances where professors do not care if you are sick or not- coursework is still due, exams still have to be taken.	Absence from class and due to symptoms or sickness will be part of how we support our students through this period of time. It is important that everyone who is symptomatic take care of themselves and others by staying home.
Is the recommendation to wear masks expected to last the full semester, or does it depend on local ordinances? Additionally, are all types of masks acceptable to wear (surgical, cloth, etc)?	Masks are currently required. We expect that requirement will be in place all fall semester, but that may change if conditions improve or professional recommendations suggest otherwise. Cloth masks, and any masks that provide greater protection, are acceptable. More information is available here: https://covid19.wustl.edu/health-safety/
What is the relationship between masks and social distancing? If everyone in an indoor space is wearing a mask, is it necessary to maintain a 6-foot distance?	Yes, social distancing should be practiced even if wearing a mask indoors.
If we are concerned about some possible symptoms should we call EST or contact Habib directly?	Habib during the hours we are open, you can also call Habib off hours to talk with our on call nursing service or EST.
For classes that cannot be help remote (Sam Fox studios, labs, etc) what will happen? For creatives it is important to be in a collaborative environment, how will this happen if they are not in person?	I believe that many studio classes will have an in-person component with social distancing to allow students to work in the shops and studios. Students will be guided by faculty in small groups. Students will also have access to their studios and shops outside of class time. The school is working on a signup system. I know this is not a complete answer, but it does give you a sense of where the school is going.
If I need diagnostic testing, will the cost be covered by the student health plan?	Yes
Is it possible for courses to be cancelled for the semester, and if so how will WashU accommodate students needing to fulfill graduation requirements?	Classes for the fall semester will not be cancelled.
Will there be financial aid/grants for low income students so that they can get the tech (laptop, wifi, etc.) that they need to participate remotely?	Yes, students in these circumstances should contact their Student Financial Services advisor to discuss their needs.
If your course includes a travel during the spring semester, will that still happen?	We have not yet made a decision about university travel for the spring semester. The best course of action would be to contact the instructor shortly before the end of the add/drop period.
Will winter graduation still be December 12th? Even if the semester ends in January?	December graduation has not been rescheduled.
Will undergraduate research be restricted in any way, particularly for students working on the medical campus or for seniors writing an honors thesis?	This will be handled on a case-by-case basis depending on the in-person operations of the department hosting that undergraduate research. Questions about specific undergraduate research opportunities should be directed to the host department. We hope very much that reasearch labs will be up and running for student access for the fall.
Will students still be able to utilize Olin Library as a study space?	This is not yet known. The library staff are hard at work on it, but they are also holding large spaces to decontaminate books. We are also investigating creating some new private spaces for studying on campus and will be in touch on that.
Will you be housing first year students off-campus? Or will all first years be able to live on the south 40?	There are no planning scenarios that involve assigning first year students off campus, or off the South 40.

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Are there/will there be free testing centers provided by city/state near campus?	Our current plan is to partner with BJC HealthCare, the School of Medicine's hospital partner, to put a testing center on the Danforth Campus. BJC already has some test centers that they operate on the Medical Campus and in other locations. St. Louis City and County also offer testing centers.
Is there still going to be an orientation for Freshmen?	Thanks for participating today! Yes, there will be orientation for freshman. You will be hearing more about programming after 7/31.