

From: [John Wilkin](#)
To: libnews-l@lists.illinois.edu
Subject: Fall instruction plans and the Library
Date: Thursday, June 18, 2020 3:32:32 PM

Colleagues,

A short time ago you received an announcement from President Killeen about System Office guidance on plans for instruction in the Fall, and from Chancellor Jones and Provost Cangellaris about our University's plans. Many will be relieved to have a greater degree of certainty and many will have questions about the implications of that decision. Please be assured that the decision continues to be predicated on our ability to offer on-campus instruction safely, and that the University is working industriously to ensure the circumstances will support that.

Each school and college has also been asked to send a version of the following message (see below) to their faculty and students, adapting that message for their circumstances. I am sharing the template of that message with you so that you have a clear sense of what has been communicated to our colleagues around campus.

I believe you'll find all of this consistent with what has been previously articulated by the campus, and that there are no real surprises. You may have questions. For example, does "university space (including that not typically used for academics) should be prioritized for use for additional instructional capacity" mean that Library spaces may be used for instruction? (The answer is: **there are no plans to do so**, but, as an institution, we will need to continue to be creative and resourceful, and so we can't rule this out.)

Our own planning is well-aligned with the campus plans. As we roll out the planned library services in the way we have proposed (see the [Return to On-site Work Plan](#)), we will serve the planned instructional effort well. Chris Prom continues to coordinate our efforts and I am pleased with the continuing developments. I want to thank you for your continued resourcefulness and commitment!

Yours,
John

Dear Faculty and Staff,

Chancellor Jones and Provost Cangellaris have announced that our Fall 2020 semester will be delivered through a blend of in-person and remote instruction. This approach allows the university to deliver on both its obligation to prioritize the health and safety of all members of our community with the enhanced educational opportunities that come from face-to-face engagement.

Much of the design and delivery of these blended offerings will be determined at the college and department levels. And with the announcement of this decision, the rest of our summer must be focused on navigating the operational details of this approach.

We know there are many, many questions now. And just as it has been since the pandemic reached us, answers may not come as quickly as we would like.

The campus administration has provided some more details related to the announcement in the points below. There is also [an initial list of FAQs for additional information here](#) that will be updated throughout

the summer. This [separate massmail message](#) about Fall 2020 instruction will be sent to all students on Wednesday, June 17.

Fall 2020 Instruction Key Decisions

- Fall 2020 will be an on-campus semester with as much in-person instruction and residential occupancy as restrictions of space, health, and safety allow.
- The plan will take place under the assumptions that we have adequate COVID-19 testing in place and we have moved into Phase IV of Gov. J.B. Pritzker's Restore Illinois plan.
- Health and safety will continue to be our top priority, and we will rely on every member of our campus community to behave in a way that protects the safety of the entire community.
- Faculty and graduate students who are unable to return to campus for reasons related to the COVID-19 pandemic will still have opportunities to teach and engage students remotely.
- A resurgence of COVID-19 at any time may cause a change to any of these plans.

Health and Safety

- In order for this return to in-person instruction to succeed, everyone in our University community will be required to follow guidelines by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District (CUPHD). This includes practicing social distancing, wearing face coverings (for those who are able) when you cannot practice social distancing, checking symptoms and adequate hygiene such as frequent handwashing and using hand sanitizer.
- The university is developing capacity to provide all students, faculty and staff free, regular testing administered by the university. You will receive more details on this in a separate message.)
- We are committed to cleaning and sanitizing all university spaces to minimize the ability of the virus to spread. Our Facilities & Services team has developed rigorous sanitation procedures and processes.
- We will continue to closely monitor conditions locally and regionally. We will adapt our plans as needed.

Class Delivery

- We will maximize in-person classes as much as possible, especially for courses that require hands-on, active and peer-to-peer interactions such as labs, performance-based courses, and discussions. Face-to-face instruction will be supplemented by online instruction.
- Classes that meet in-person will be in spaces that allow adequate social distancing between students and faculty. As an added precaution, for the health and safety of all, face coverings will be required in all campus spaces, including classrooms.
- Most large classes are likely to be online or incorporate online components, in accordance with the Restore Illinois plan guidelines on gatherings.
- We will have online options for students who are not able or who prefer not to participate in face-to-face or on-campus instruction.

Logistics and Implementation

- Units and programs will continue to work with the Registrar's Office to consider space restrictions and possibilities for instruction.
- Units will determine, in consultation with the Provost, which classes will be online and which will be in-person. We encourage colleges to be creative with space, time and modality to create opportunities for students to have in-person class time.
- All university space (including that not typically used for academics) should be prioritized for use for additional instructional capacity if possible.
- Instructional faculty who are unable to return to campus for reasons related to the COVID-19 pandemic should still have opportunities to teach and engage students remotely.
- Colleges should plan to communicate with students about modifications to their fall courses and schedules through their Academic Advisors and already established student support networks. The Office of the Provost and the Registrar's Office will provide guidance about those

communications.

- Instructors should consider the Online Teaching Academy, which will be offered in July and again in August, to learn more about preparing to deliver their courses in alternative modalities.

We know this email does not include answer every question. We promise to keep you updated as we finalize more details. Please see this list of FAQs for additional information. We will continue to update it throughout the summer.

Thank you for your patience and thank you in advance for doing your part to keep everyone in our university community safe. We will be in touch with more details in the coming days and weeks.

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