

**The following FAQs are meant to supplement the information provided by the University at: <https://www2.gmu.edu/coronavirus>.**

Please continue to refer to the University's page for the most up to date and comprehensive information regarding return to campus this fall.

**\*\*\* Mandatory Safe Return to Campus Training and Daily Status Check \*\*\***

All students must complete the University's Safe Return to Campus Training prior to coming on campus this fall. The training is available at: <https://www2.gmu.edu/safe-return-campus/communications-and-training>.

There is also a daily status check for students who will be on campus this fall, available at: <https://www2.gmu.edu/mason-covid-health-check>.

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## **What health and safety precautions is the University requiring this fall?**

For full information regarding the University's health and safety requirements, please visit: <https://www2.gmu.edu/coronavirus>.

The University instituted enhanced cleaning protocols at the onset of the outbreak. In advance of the return to classes, the Law School has modified classrooms and open study spaces – including the Law Library - to allow for social distancing. Hand-sanitizing stations are placed throughout the building. Disinfectant wipes will be available in the classrooms.

All members of our community must do their part by:

- Wearing a face covering at all times on campus, including in the classroom;
- Observing physical distance rules;
- Following hygiene guidelines, including frequent hand washing;
- Taking the **Return to Campus Training** prior to coming on campus;
- Completing a daily status check with **Mason COVID Health ✓™**; and
- Informing the University if you test positive for the COVID-19 virus or are self-isolating while awaiting test results.

For your health and safety, as well as that of our community, failure to follow the University's guidelines and precautions means you'll be asked to leave the classroom and/or campus.

Students who violate precautions will be in violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Noncompliance can be referred to the [Office of Student Conduct through their online reporting portal](#).

## **When will the Law School's fall 2020 semester start and end?**

The Law School's fall semester will start on schedule in August, with the first day of classes being Monday, August 24, and will conclude in-person classes prior to Thanksgiving. Fall 2020 final exams will be administered remotely. The full Fall 2020 academic calendar is available online at: <https://www.law.gmu.edu/academics/calendar>.

## **When will the Law School building and Law Library reopen to students?**

Hazel Hall reopened on August 10 for the hours of 7:00 am – 6:00 pm, Monday - Friday. Starting August 24, Hazel Hall will be open from 7:00 am – 11:00 pm.

Classrooms are not available for use except during regularly scheduled classes. Common areas of the law school may be accessed but seating is limited to maintain appropriate social distancing. Student organization offices may be accessed but are limited in most instances to one student in the office at a time (room capacities are posted on the office door). More on common area and student organization office access is provided in subsequent FAQs.

The Law Library hours are posted on the Law School website. Please check the website to ensure you have the most up-to-date information as operating hours are subject to change.

Currently, the Law Library is scheduled to be open as follows at the start of classes:

Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am to 8:30 pm

Fridays, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm

Saturday – Sunday, 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Additional information about the Law Library is available here:

<https://libguides.law.gmu.edu/library-technology-services>.

## **In what format will the Law School offer courses this fall?**

The Law School will offer a mix of in-person, remote, and hybrid courses this fall (hybrid courses being ones that have students attending in-person as well as students attending remotely).

## **How many Law School courses will be offered in-person?**

The Law School is offering as many courses as possible in-person, but faculty and students have the option to teach or learn through online instruction should they need to remain remote for health and safety reasons. In addition, health and safety guidance requires the law school to utilize its space differently, with fewer students on campus at one time and with lower classroom capacities in place to allow for social distancing. As a result, the law school has had to shift to a combination of in-person and remote education to be able to offer the traditional range of course options.

For Fall 2020, the majority of the 1L curriculum will be available in-person (with online available should student circumstances require), as will sections of larger enrollment upper-level electives. Other upper-level courses are scheduled to be taught remotely or in a hybrid format (with some students attending in-person and others attending remotely).

The .PDF course schedule will reflect the format of each course and will be updated regularly.

### **If I elect to take a hybrid class in-person, may I later switch to attend remote-only, or vice versa?**

Your election in a hybrid course is binding for the semester. If you elect to attend in-person, then you will be expected to attend in-person for the duration of the semester (if in-person instruction is offered). If you elect to attend remotely, you will be expected to attend remotely for the semester. You cannot treat the options as fluid, switching back and forth between the two.

Exceptions will be made for students who elect in-person but who subsequently need to attend remotely for health and safety reasons (meaning, if you are feeling ill or believe you need to self-isolate, remote access will be provided for the duration needed). It may also be possible for someone who initially elected remote instruction to later switch to in-person, but that decision will have to be made on a case-by-case basis based on room capacity.

### **If I'm attending a class remotely, where do I start to make sure I have the technology and equipment I'll need?**

The technology students will need may vary based on the electronic platform of the course. For additional technology information, please see the Law School's Technology Services information page: <https://libguides.law.gmu.edu/library-technology-services/technology>. The page contains useful information about Webex, Zoom, and Blackboard; recommended laptop and technology specifications; and additional tips for remote learning (such as how to register and set up your profile in Webex and Zoom).

### **What should I do if I'm attending in-person but I don't feel well, I am experiencing a symptom associated with COVID-19, or believe I may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus?**

Do not come on campus if you don't feel well, are experiencing any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19, or you believe you may have been exposed to the COVID-19 virus.

For full information about what to do if you're feeling sick, please see the University FAQs here: <https://www2.gmu.edu/coronavirus>. Please also see the University's specific guidance on what

to do to report an illness or positive test results: <https://www2.gmu.edu/safe-return-campus/personal-and-public-health/reporting-illness>

## **What are my options if I have to miss class because of potential COVID-19 illness or potential exposure?**

In terms of having to miss class, you may utilize an absence under the law school's attendance policy (allowing you to miss up to 20% of course sessions), or you may reach out Associate Dean Annamaria Niels ([aniels@gmu.edu](mailto:aniels@gmu.edu)) to request remote access to a course session. If you are requesting remote access, please provide as much notice as possible, as requests close in time to the start of class may not be possible to accommodate. In such instances, we will explore whether alternative arrangements can be made to allow you access to class content missed.

Remote attendance or later access to class content is not available for schedule conflicts or other non-illness or non-COVID-related absences. It is intended as a resource to encourage students to stay home if they are ill or experiencing symptoms that could be COVID-related, or if they need to self-isolate because of a potential COVID-19 exposure.

## **Will there be a different grading policy for Fall 2020 as there was for Spring 2020?**

No. For Fall 2020, the law school will follow its traditional grading policy, with students earning letter grades or CR/NC grades as designated for the course at the outset. Fall 2020 grades will be included in students' cumulative GPAs.

## **What space will be available in Hazel Hall to study or otherwise hang out on campus in between classes?**

Social distancing requirements have greatly reduced our classroom and building capacities. Most furniture has been removed from common areas and the furniture that remains cannot be moved and may be used only by the number of students indicated. The law school atrium now houses a limited number of single-person tables, allowing only a limited number of students to sit in the atrium at any given time, and students must remain socially distanced. The law library has a capacity of approximately sixty (60) students, including library study rooms which can now hold only one student at a time. Even family members, roommates, etc. who would otherwise share space may not elect to do so while on campus (this is because we have no way of knowing each person's situation and must be consistent in our enforcement of social distancing guidelines).

Students may utilize the Law Library and common area space for study. Students may not remain in classrooms to study in between classes (classrooms will be scheduled to be cleaned throughout the day) and may not utilize empty classrooms as study space unless the classroom has been designated as a study room. A list of classrooms designated as study rooms, and the

protocols for using the space, will be sent to students via LawNews at the start of the semester. Any classroom designated as a study room will be clearly marked on the door and list the hours that it is available.

### **May student organization members utilize the student organization office space on campus?**

Students may access student organization office space but must abide by the maximum capacity number posted on the office door. In almost all cases the maximum capacity is one person at a time in the office. Students must use only the unique omnilock code assigned to them at the start of the year to access the office and any student who uses a student organization space is responsible for cleaning the work surfaces used prior to departing. Cleaning supplies will be available in each student organization office for student use and must remain in the office.

### **May in-person events be held this fall?**

Currently, no law school events may be held in-person, whether on or off campus, unless the event organizers seek and obtain an exception from the University's Events Exception Committee. Exceptions will not routinely be given, and all events, workshops, and other gatherings should be planned as online/remote events this fall. To the extent an event exception is provided, event organizers will be responsible for ensuring that all University health and safety requirements and event guidelines and procedures are followed (including participants completing the required online training, the use of face masks, and appropriate social distancing). For more information visit <https://events.gmu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Fall-2020-On-Campus-Events-Guidelines-and-Process-Updated-7.31.20.pdf>

### **Will faculty and staff be on campus or working remotely this fall?**

In keeping with the University's direction to work remotely when possible, many faculty and staff will continue to work remotely this fall (working on campus only as needed) while others will work a rotating schedule of on-campus and remote. All Law School offices will publish information regarding how to contact staff for an appointment or other assistance.

### **Will I still be able to meet with staff, schedule academic advising or career counseling sessions, attend faculty office hours, etc.?**

Meetings, counseling sessions, and office hours with students are being conducted entirely using email, Webex, Zoom, online chat, phone, or other electronic options. If you need to contact a faculty or staff member directly, you can access the full directory of law school faculty and staff here: <https://www.law.gmu.edu/peopfind>.

Additional information regarding virtual University Life Services (including Counseling and Psychological Services and the Student Health Center) is available here:

<https://ularlington.gmu.edu/>.

### **Is COVID-19 testing available to Arlington Campus students?**

Telehealth evaluations will be provided by Student Health Services (SHS) during business hours. SHS will determine if an in-person evaluation is needed and decide with the patient where the best location would be, given the patient's situation. Options would include the SHS location on the Fairfax campus or community locations closer to the Arlington campus.

If the SHS provider determines testing only is needed, the provider will decide with the student where the best local testing site would be. Multiple testing and/or in-person evaluation sites have been identified close to the Arlington Campus (within 2-5 miles). Additional information will be provided to students by SHS should the SHS provider determine testing or an in-person evaluation is needed.