

Antonin Scalia Law School Answers to Frequently Asked Question (FAQs)

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 the coronavirus, including information about participating in classes and/or activities on campus.

What training or other requirements must I complete if I intend to come on campus at any point this semester?

If you are planning to be on campus this semester and have not previously completed the University's **mandatory** "Safe Return to Campus Training," you must do so. The training is available at: <https://www2.gmu.edu/safe-return-campus/communications-and-training>.

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

What additional health and safety precautions is the University requiring for people on campus?

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. The Law School has also 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 **Safe 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](#).

In what format will the Law School offer courses this semester?

The Law School will offer a mix of in-person, remote, and hybrid courses this semester (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.

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?

If you elect to attend in-person, then you will be expected to attend in-person for the duration of the semester. 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, because we must track student distance education hours, support contract tracing (should it be necessary), and maintain a sustainable balance of students attending in-person and remotely throughout the semester.

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 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 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 in these instances, 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 exposure?

If you need to miss class because of a potential COVID-19 illness or exposure, 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 to your professor (also copying Associate Dean Annamaria Nields (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.

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 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.

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 student organizations hold in-person events?

Currently, no student organization events may be held in-person, whether on or off campus. If there is a perceived need for a student organization event to be held in-person, please contact Associate Dean Annamaria Nields (anields@gmu.edu) to discuss the situation.

How frequently will faculty and staff be on campus?

Many faculty and staff will work remotely one or more days during the week. All Law School offices will publish information regarding how to contact staff for an appointment or other assistance, whether the staff is on campus or working remotely.

Will I 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, 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?

If you have symptoms of COVID or believe you have been exposed to COVID, please contact Student Health Services (SHS). Telehealth evaluations will be provided by SHS during business hours in order to determine if an in-person evaluation is needed and 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.

The University will also conduct random, voluntary, surveillance testing for faculty, students, and staff coming on campus. If selected, you will receive an email at your GMU email address inviting you to participate in voluntary testing in order to help protect against the virus spreading through asymptomatic carriers (i.e., "surveillance testing"). Surveillance testing will be available in multiple Mason locations, including on the Arlington Campus beginning with the spring semester.