

College during COVID-19

Policies and terms to be aware of as you navigate your year:

Applying for a housing exemption due to COVID-19

A few institutions are allowing for first and second year students to apply for a housing exemption due to COVID-19. If you were already planning to live on campus but most of your classes have switched to an online format, you may want to consider contacting Residence Life/Housing about this option. This is not offered at every school, and there are deadlines to apply! You may also forfeit your housing deposit and may still be required to live on campus sophomore and junior year.



If all of your classes are online, you feel uncomfortable being on campus this Fall, have health concerns, feel you can manage a fully online courseload, or want to save on housing/meal costs



Home is not a good environment for you, you don't think you'll do well managing your time/workload for online classes, or you want the on-campus experience this Fall



Electing for a grade policy change to pass/fail instead of letter grade

Pass/fail grading can help maintain your GPA and financial aid requirements if you are struggling in a class. Pass/fail grading does not count towards your GPA if you pass. For example, a C would instead be listed as a pass on your transcript and not have a numerical GPA value (thus no difference between achieving an A or C in that class). This could help you focus more on some classes than others if you are only focused on achieving a passing grade. Your academic advisor or professor can help you with this.



If your class is not required for your major (general requirement/elective), and you are struggling



If you would score higher with a letter grade (improving your GPA)



Applying for a grade appeal

If an online semester was difficult, consider applying for a grade appeal. This is especially helpful if certain elements of the class are easier, but you struggle with the online transition or workload--like if you always attend and are an active participant, but have a difficult time managing tests in an online environment. Talk to your academic advisor about this option.



If you did well in class before transitioning online, or have other extenuating circumstance that complicated your success (difficult home situation, mental/physical health illness, loss of income, etc)



If you were scheduled for an online class to begin with, or experienced a circumstance listed above

Other things to consider:



Communicate with your teachers and advisors!

Now more than ever, emailing and reaching out to support resources matters! Online learning can be difficult, and if you are having a hard time, you need to ask for help--there are many resources and people willing to give you support and academic options, like the ones previously.



Know your withdraw and drop dates.

Remember, as long as you stay at or above 12 credits, you can withdraw or drop classes prior to their semester deadlines. Students can typically drop their own classes through their student portal and do not show up on your transcript; withdrawals may need special permission by an advisor and but do show up on your transcript. If you have trouble, reach out to your academic advisor for help.



Take advantage of emergency assistance.

Emergency financial assistance or emergency appeals/procedures may be available. Talk to your academic advisor or another trusted resource about this option.



Consider a leave as a last resort.

If you have experienced a personal or health situation that will impact your ability to be successful long-term, you may be eligible for a personal or medical leave. Leaves hold your place at your university without penalty while you are away for one or more semesters. Contact me and we can walk through your options.