

Email to continuing students about Fall

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What will Fall 2020 courses be like for UWL students?

UWL is working hard preparing for Fall 2020 and is excited to think about having students back on campus. In terms of courses, UWL is planning on a variety of class formats for Fall 2020 that will align with public health recommendations and best educational practices. Unless something changes, masks will be mandatory for students and instructors, ~six-foot physical distancing will be in place, and no single course will exceed ~50 students. Consequently, each of you is likely to have a blend of course types as part of your class schedule. We expect that the format of courses will be changing throughout the July as we better understand the impact of the size limit and physical distancing needs on each classroom's capacity. In early August, we hope to send you the most up-to-date version of your class schedule that will best reflect the final format of your classes for Fall. Students will not be able to change sections or courses until August due to this COVID-19 related flux.

Due to physical distancing needs in the classroom, there will be many classes that cannot be held on campus with the full attendance of every enrolled student at the same time. Therefore, in addition to online and in-person, you may find that some of your classes will be listed as hybrid and we suspect that a hybrid class format may be less well known to you. Hybrid courses (sometimes referred to as blended) have both virtual engagement components (such as online course content) and on-campus meetings. They will show on your schedule as having a classroom with a specific time and place; but, students should plan on not physically attending class as often as you would in an in-person on-campus class. The specific dates you will need to attend will not be known to you until the semester starts and your instructor will let you know the expectations. However, keep that time period free for the class. The hybrid model is different for every class based on the educational goals, but the types of materials you might be expected to complete online are readings, videos, individual assignments, group assignments, quizzes, exams, and discussion boards. For courses to be held on campus, UWL will be prioritizing courses that have hands-on components (such as labs and the visual & performing arts) and classes that first-year students are more likely to take. And, our faculty are preparing for creative ways to make use of the time students can be together to more richly engage with course materials.

How do I prepare for Fall 2020?

As you already know, COVID-19 means unexpected changes that require quick responses. All UWL students, faculty, and staff need to be ready to be flexible if needed. In particular, the need for a class to go online quickly for a short or long period of time is a reality for all students in the country this Fall. Part of being ready and flexible is checking your UWL email daily – email is still the primary way that the university and instructors will be communicating with you. Also – closer to the start of the Fall semester, the university will be providing more information about the availability of co-curricular activities (e.g., the REC, student clubs, etc.) as the details about how to provide these options more safely becomes known.

This summer, UWL instructors in every department are working hard at developing innovative ways to provide course content and applied activities for students that will work in a variety of formats. In addition, by August over 90% of our instructors will have completed intensive training in online and/or hybrid teaching development. We are looking forward to having students back on campus and for learning to take place in a lot of different ways.

Happy to have you back as an Eagle!



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[Instructional FAQs and resources for COVID-19 – Fall 2020](#)