

COVID-19 updates: commencement, return to work, fall classes and more

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To: Maren Walz <mwalz@uwlax.edu>

Colleagues,

There is a wide range of decisions that are coming out from UWL leadership – countless colleagues have been working diligently to determine appropriate adaptations as we approach fall. Communications with this information are sometimes being sent in targeted messages to the groups they affect directly. Here is a run-down to help keep faculty and staff informed.

Commencement – UWL will not have an in-person commencement ceremony in August due to the risks involved with large gatherings. Spring and summer graduating seniors received an email notifying them of this and have been invited to the next in-person commencement, whether in December or later. [More about commencement, diplomas and covers, programs, and regalia.](#)

Remote work – While La Crosse county is in the severe or high risk categories related to COVID-19, [remote work is recommended.](#)

Return to work: mask-wearing, physical distancing, symptom checks – All faculty, staff, students and visitors will be expected to follow our updated “return to work” policies when they do return to campus. These include doing daily symptom self-monitoring before reporting to campus, maintaining physical distancing as recommended, and mandatory mask-wearing in all public spaces. This information has been shared with the faculty and staff who had already returned to campus in May and June. [More about returning to work](#)

Changes to campus spaces – Plexiglass partitions have been installed in most reception or customer service areas. The FPM group has also been working toward adding floor decals to aid physical distancing, and room capacity and other signage throughout campus. Related: [workspace cleaning recommendations, custodial COVID-19 services](#)

Summer session III and fall classes – In a nutshell, more classes will be online or a hybrid of online and in-person. In-person classes will follow these policies:

- We will follow the traditional semester calendar with classes starting September 8 and ending in December
- ~32% of seating capacity in classrooms, 50% in labs and studios (with PPE expectations)
- Mandatory masks for students, and face shield or mask for instructor. Temporary/disposable masks will be available in academic buildings for students who do not have a mask for class at main vending area.
- Floor markings to aid physical distancing will be provided.
- If classroom has two doors, one will be used for entering, and one for exiting (markings/signage will be provided).
- Hand sanitizer will be on each floor of each building.
- [More about fall 2020 courses](#) (There is a *lot* of information available here!)

Fall scheduling – Students will receive their updated fall schedules in late July/early August.

Move-in – Move-in will span a week this fall (rather than 2 days) to help reduce density in the process. Faculty and staff will not be asked this year to help with move-in. [More about Dining, ResLife and Athletics](#)

Travel and purchasing holds – These cost-saving measures are continuing for the time-being in FY21.

Communication – We continue to update the COVID-19 site with current information.

- Please make it a habit, once again, to check that site first if you have questions.
- We will be including important changes in the Monday Campus Connection “Communications Corner” section.
- We (using the icomm@uwlax.edu email) will occasionally send a message like this with a brief of recent decisions and activity.

On behalf of the COVID-19 Response Planning Taskforce,
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