THE OLIVET EXPERIENCE

2020–2021 ACADEMIC YEAR

OLIVET NAZARENE UNIVERSITY

Olivet.edu
Our faculty and staff are working hard and are confident that whatever shape the academic programs and social activities take, they will be the excellent, collegial and productive experiences that we all cherish. At the beginning of the summer, seven task forces were assembled to plan for a dynamic start to the fall semester.

In order to reduce overlap between seasonal flu and COVID-19, as well as to decrease the amount of travel during the semester where the virus is more likely to be picked up and brought back to campus, Olivet’s administrative team approved a shift in the school calendar. Classes will begin on Monday, August 17, and the semester will end before the Thanksgiving holiday on Tuesday, November 24, to get as much on-ground coursework in as possible. In order to make this schedule work, there will be no fall break this year. The schedule will include two reading days for students to get ahead or catch up on work in place of a traditional fall break. While these changes will present challenges, adjusting the calendar prioritizes a safe and effective learning environment for students.

Our first and most important priority in crafting this plan was that of safety and wellbeing. Next, we considered our students want and expect an on-campus learning environment. The University wants to maximize on-ground classroom experiences to the extent that adequate classroom space can be found where students are safely meeting social distancing requirements.

Fall classes will fall into one of three categories:

1. Face-to-face classes
2. Hybrid (combines face-to-face and online) classes
3. Fully online classes

The first modality is that of full, in-person classroom experiences for as many courses as possible while adhering to social distancing policies established by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) guidelines. The Office of the Registrar is working to find larger spaces for classes — creatively using additional spaces not typically reserved for classrooms. The University is developing details regarding safety protocols and procedures to ensure proper sanitation across campus, as well as developing ways of accommodating students who may become ill and unable to attend class.

The second modality will be in-person classroom with online components — a hybrid option. A class will only be in this format if the Registrar can’t find a space to safely conduct a full in-person classroom experience.

The third modality will be some limited online offerings. Some Olivet programs have already utilized limited online learning, so this is not entirely new even for on-campus students. These fully online classes will be designed more for upper division courses as the University feels it is especially important for new students to have on-ground classes. These will only be offered if the first two in-person modalities are not sufficient to accommodate all classes.
EDUCATIONAL AND OPERATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

The Fall Planning Steering Committee (made up of the chairs of the seven task forces and a few other individuals) have set the following as priorities for the University:

1. Continue to ensure that the health, safety, and holistic well-being of Olivet’s community is and remains the highest priority.
3. Prepare students, faculty, and staff to revert to remote teaching, learning, and operations in the event that the state of Illinois provides new mandates to flatten the curve of COVID-19.
4. Develop an essential COVID-19 training plan, called Tiger Pause, for all students and employees in order to promote compliance with COVID-19 related safety measures.

SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

The ability to pivot quickly and smoothly adapt to a changing academic environment will become our new normal. Our mission is to provide high quality academic instruction for the purpose of personal development, career and professional readiness, and the preparation of individuals for lives of service to God and humanity. Now more than ever, we need the entire Olivet community to creatively contribute to make this a successful fall semester on campus. The following steps are recommended:

1. Proactively design academic courses to allow faculty to pivot between face-to-face and online instruction in order to remain responsive to Illinois mandates.
2. Provide faculty with ample training and support for how to successfully implement instruction for any of the three modalities.
3. Explore scheduling options that allow for dedensification of classroom spaces, such as extending instruction earlier and/or later into the day, utilizing nontraditional classroom spaces, and adding the Monday, Wednesday, Friday chapel hour as a class time.
4. Provide ample student support through the Center for Academic Excellence for alternate modes of instruction to students who require Learning Support Services.
5. Provide students with access to supplementary technology resources to adjust to any of the three modalities.
6. Provide medically vulnerable students with additional resources and support to be able to continue their academic progress.
RESTORE ILLINOIS
A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO SAFELY REOPEN OUR STATE

Phase 1
Rapid Spread
Strict stay at home and social distancing guidelines are put in place, and only essential businesses remain open.

Every region has experienced this phase once already and could return to it if mitigation efforts are unsuccessful.

Phase 2
Flattening
Non-essential retail stores reopen for curb-side pickup and delivery.

Illinoisans are directed to wear a face covering when outside the home and can begin enjoying additional outdoor activities like golf, boating and fishing while practicing social distancing.

Phase 3
Recovery
Manufacturing, offices, retail, barbershops and salons can reopen to the public with capacity and other limits and safety precautions.

Gatherings of 10 people or fewer are allowed.

Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.

Phase 4
Revitalization
Gatherings of 50 people or fewer are allowed, restaurants reopen, travel resumes, child care and schools reopen under guidance from the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Face coverings and social distancing are the norm.

Phase 5
Illinois Restored
The economy fully reopens with safety precautions continuing.

Conventions, festivals and large events are permitted, and all businesses, schools and places of recreation can open with new safety guidance and procedures.

CAMPUS COMMUNITY’S SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

Medical and public health community experts advise limiting the spread of COVID-19 by following thorough hygiene and social distancing practices. These include expanded cleaning protocols, use of face-coverings, social distancing, testing, rapid contact tracing, and quarantining and/or isolating impacted individuals. The following practices are proposed as the campus community returns for the fall semester, with the understanding that modified and additional efforts may be implemented.

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING PRACTICES

1. Require each member of the University community to self-report and isolate at home if diagnosed with COVID-19, or if a household member is diagnosed with COVID-19.

2. Require employees and students to regularly monitor their personal health, and stay at home if they are ill with COVID-like symptoms. Reasonable accommodations and leave options will be available that reflect the most current guidance.
3. Develop and update protocols to identify and isolate those who test positive for the virus, as well as quarantine individuals who had close contact.

4. Normalize face coverings on campus.

5. Configure campus areas to facilitate social distancing (e.g., offices, common areas, meeting/gathering spaces, classrooms/labs, dining venues, elevators, etc.).

6. Maintain appropriate social distancing between people and within learning and work areas, regardless of face coverings.

7. Provide signage, barriers, floor markings, and other measures where appropriate.

8. Ensure ready access to personal-protective equipment to employees as required.

9. Continue to provide telehealth, teletherapy and limited in-person health and wellness services.

10. Provide students, faculty, and staff with resources and information that promotes emotional wellness.

11. Deactivate water fountains and only enable touchless water bottle filling stations.

CLEANING PRACTICES

Building Services employees will continue to perform routine cleaning of designated buildings, including high-traffic areas (classrooms, restrooms, lobbies, lounges, hallways, stairwells, etc.), on a regularly scheduled basis. New cleaning technology, such as ultra-fine particle sprayers are being added to the cleaning procedures. The campus community will be responsible for keeping personal workspace clean throughout the day, including using disinfectant spray on shared surfaces and objects (e.g., desk, chair, phone, keyboard, cabinet/file drawer handles, etc.) to help reduce the spread of germs on campus. The following steps are recommended.

1. Keep the building hand sanitizer stations located in the main entry of buildings filled to the extent product sourcing allows. Hand sanitizer is at least 60 percent alcohol as recommended by the CDC.

2. Provide sanitizer and additional safety items to departments to the extent the product sourcing allows.
TESTING AND CONTACT TRACING

Members of the Health Services Team will collaborate with Kankakee County public health officials, area health care providers, and testing facilities to develop capabilities to provide screening, testing, and contact tracing. The following guidelines will be followed:

1. Emphasize the need for all students, faculty and staff to self monitor, report and stay home if they aren’t feeling well.
2. Make plans for on campus and local testing procedures for the COVID-19 virus that are accurate, cost-effective and provide rapid results.
3. Partner closely with local public health authorities to notify individuals at risk for infection and mitigate spread, likely through a combination of manual and app-based approaches.
4. Protect individual privacy so that positive test results are shared only with the user, and local public health departments based on required local, state and federal regulations.
5. Encourage flu shots for all students, faculty and staff to lessen the possibility of dual outbreaks when traditional flu season begins.

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

As usual, the Office of Student Development will provide necessary services to create a rich and diverse residential living experience. Measures will be implemented to follow public health guidance and minimize risks to students’ health, safety, and wellness. The following guidelines will be put into practice:

1. Occupy residence halls and University apartment buildings, while being prepared to implement creative occupancy strategies.
2. Limit guests in the residence halls and apartment buildings.
3. Extend move-in over more days to limit congestion and follow social distancing guidelines.
4. Enhance cleaning in community spaces, floor lounges, high-traffic areas such as hallways and stairwells, and restrooms within residential living areas.
5. Offer housing, dining, and support services to students who are quarantined or isolated on-campus.

DINING

Residential and retail dining, as well as catering services, are being planned with the help of Sodexo. We know that our students and many of our faculty and staff depend on access to high-quality and healthy meals. The current dining options will be evaluated to ensure that students get the value they expect through safe delivery. Service will be offered by adhering to the following guidelines:
1. Arrange seating in dining areas in accordance with public health guidelines and explore alternative seating solutions elsewhere on campus.

2. Install appropriate barriers to reduce contact points between diners and staff.

3. Provide a safe environment that will include cleaning and sanitation efforts in all production, service, and dining spaces.

4. Collaborate with Student Development staff to provide meals to residential students who are quarantined and isolated.

5. Remove self-service and transition to fully served items in all operational areas.

6. Add robust signage and social distancing signage.

7. Add a reusable to-go option in the dining hall to allow students to avoid the crowds.

8. Enhance current dining application to allow for mobile order pay. This can be done in advance or in-store to avoid passing of cash or card back and forth. This app will have board plan payment integration. This will allow for contactless service and interaction. The app will allow students to have on-campus food delivered.

9. Add touchless entry into the dining hall.

10. Prescreen employees prior to starting each shift.

EMPLOYMENT

Supporting the success and safeguarding the well-being of all employees remains a high priority for the University and will be accomplished by doing the following.

1. Provide training on health and safety practices and requirements related to COVID-19.

2. Continue practices that reflect the most current guidance for individuals to request reasonable accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or request a leave of absence from the Office of Human Resources.

3. Offer guidance and support to employees affected by COVID-19.

4. Provide guidance to supervisors who have employees affected by COVID-19.
VARSITY ATHLETICS AND RECREATIONAL SPORTS

Governing bodies including the NAIA, IBHE, and NATA (National Athletic Trainers Association) will provide much of the guidance related to varsity athletics and recreational intramural activities. It is expected that athletic events will likely resume with numerous safety practices in place, however, it remains unclear if fans will be allowed to attend events. The guidelines below will be followed.

1. Conduct athletic contests in accordance with guidance published by governing bodies.
2. Follow fan attendance guidelines published by governing bodies.
3. Continue the Esports program, which can remain active with remote participation.

CAMPUS EVENTS

Gatherings will be limited until our region enters Phase 5 of Restore Illinois. This, of course, impacts campus events, athletic contests, social activities, and music and theatre performances. These recommendations are to support as much interaction as safety allows, as these experiences greatly enrich Life at Olivet.

1. Limit the size of gatherings to follow the guidance of IBHE.
2. Unless approved for instruction, limit activities with prolonged and close contact, such as rehearsals and performances in music and theatre.
3. Open with capacity limits in place at the Perry Student Life and Recreation Center, Kresge Auditorium, Strickler Planetarium, the Webb, Benner Library, etc.
4. Manage line queues at venues to maintain appropriate social distancing.

TRAVEL

University-sponsored travel will be limited and will align with current Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and CDC guidelines.
BRING A MASK
Keep a face covering with you at all times as there will be times and places that campus officials require the use of face coverings.

MAINTAIN DISTANCE
Whenever possible, campus community and individuals should maintain at least 6 feet between one another.

THINK SMALL
Smaller groups are encouraged to help maintain the health and general well-being of all those on campus.

KEEP YOUR PAWS CLEAN
To prevent the spread of illness, Tigers are encouraged to wash their hands or sanitize often.

MONITOR YOUR HEALTH
Students, faculty and staff are asked to monitor their own health daily, exercising good judgement when feeling unwell.

UNWELL? STAY HOME
To protect the health of our community, please do not attend class or work if you have any signs or symptoms of illness.

BE PREPARED
Have supplies ready in case you become ill or may have to stay at home for an extended period.

DISINFECT OFTEN
Take a moment to clean the common surfaces around you before you leave a classroom or work area to prepare it for someone else.

COVER YOUR COUGH AND SNEEZE
When you aren’t wearing a face covering, please use a tissue to cover your mouth and nose if you cough/sneeze, and dispose of it in a trash receptacle.

LIMIT YOUR MOVEMENT OFF CAMPUS
Always wear a face covering in public, and limit your movement in public to reduce exposure to non-family members.

CALL FIRST
If you must seek medical attention, please call your healthcare provider’s office in advance.