Novel Coronavirus Community Updates

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UMS forms Fall 2020 Safe Return Planning Committee
Published: April 21, 2020

UMaine System Planning to Welcome Students to Campus For Fall of 2020
Published: April 21, 2020

Updated FAQs, April 17
Published: April 17, 2020

UMS announcement on CARES Act distribution and fee adjustment policies, April 14
Published: April 14, 2020

UMS work and pay guidance, April 5
Published: April 08, 2020

Other academic questions

Note: These UMaine/UMM FAQs are subject to change at any time. Please check this site regularly for the latest information as it becomes available. The most recent additions and changes are at the top of this page.
Last modified April 13, 2020.

UMAINE PASS/FAIL QUESTIONS | UMM PASS/FAIL QUESTIONS | OTHER ACADEMIC QUESTIONS

Other Academic questions

What is the UMS policy regarding summer 2020 study abroad/travel programming?

Summer 2020 Study Abroad/Travel Programming:

RECOMMENDATION: Given the ever-evolving situation regarding COVID-19, we believe it would be beneficial to have a System decision made at this time to cancel all summer study abroad/travel programming (including both international and domestic faculty-led travel courses). Our reasons for this include:

- Preparations for a study away experience begin months in advance of departure. Given the current DOS Global Health Level 4 Travel Advisory advising all individuals "Do Not Travel," we do not believe it is appropriate to have students committing resources in preparation for programming that is in direct contradiction to this advisory.
- Students are better equipped to plan for program completion with an accurate understanding of the opportunities available to them. Waiting to cancel summer study abroad could result in missed opportunities to fulfill requirements in alternate ways.
- Our offices are still supporting students in returning to the U.S. from spring study away programming after the recall of all study abroad students. Since the situation is ever changing, it's too early to understand what conditions will be like on the ground months from now and we believe we must be confident in our assessment of the safety of locations prior to preparing to send students back out.
- Many of our trusted partners in the field have cancelled summer study abroad programming, including: USAC (cancelled all Summer Session I and single summer session programs that begin in late May/early June), API (cancelled many Summer Session I programs as well as certain internships with a start date earlier than June 15), ISA (cancelled all programs with a May start date), CISabroad (cancelled many of their summer programs). From the university side: Harvard Business School (cancelled all international field work programs for summer), Universite de Sherbrooke in Quebec (cancelled all incoming programming through end of August), Louisiana State University, Morgan State University, and University of Maryland, College Park (cancelled all summer study abroad). Boston University and Northeastern University are also discussing cancelling summer study abroad programming.
- The CDC has recommended the cancellation of all gatherings over 50 people through at least mid-May. The nature of study away often requires that students are exposed to groups greater than 50 people through transportation, community connections, orientation, and other activities. Even if this recommendation is not extended, mid-May puts us at, or very close to, departure dates.
- USM's Summer Session I has already been moved to online courses only, signifying that even on campuses in Maine, we are not confident we will be able to support in-person interaction. Sending students abroad for in-person interaction during this time presents an entire new set of risk considerations.
- Many of our community partners, both domestic and international, are experiencing dramatic impacts in their operations. We would like to avoid making commitments now, potentially burdening their resources, until we have a better understanding of the longer-term impacts.

By making a System ruling to cancel summer 2020 study abroad/travel programming, we show clear, proactive leadership in protecting our students from navigating unnecessary stress in regards to unknown plans and we demonstrate our commitment to applying CDC and DOS recommendations. Insights from esteemed partners in this field were considered to guide our decision making in order to protect the safety and wellbeing of our students. Connecting students with the world is our passion, and we truly cannot wait for the day we are able to confidently send students out in the world again, but we believe that will not happen this summer. We would like to revisit the status of study abroad/travel programming for early fall in May, to allow appropriate time for planning.

Will summer courses that were to be held on campus still be available? Or will they also be online?

Due to COVID-19 and current CDC recommendations, summer courses starting in May, June, and July will be moved to a remote teaching and learning environment.

Please note:

- All existing online courses will be offered as scheduled, subject to regular cancellation policy (e.g. low enrollment).
- Students will be notified by email of any course cancellations.
- Up-to-date course information is available on the Summer University website.

If you have further questions, please contact the Summer University staff at 207.581.3143 or summeruniversity@maine.edu.

What are the current plans for course delivery in the fall semester? Will we have in-person classes? What is your advice to faculty planning classes and students who are wondering if they should sign off-campus housing leases now to get lower rates?

The University of Maine continues its planning for summer and fall classes in accordance with the state of Maine and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance. As of now, though, we do not have enough definitive guidance regarding the delivery of fall classes. Our plan and hope is to proceed, but like everyone, we stand by to see how things develop. When we confirm the modality, we will communicate it to students and the rest of the UMaine community.

I will not be able to effectively participate in the online classes because I do not have a computer or stable internet connection at home state. What should I do?

Please call the COVID-19 information line, 207.581.2681.

You also can contact UMaine Dean of Students Robert Dana, rdana@maine.edu; and UMM Dean of Students Marnie Kaler, marnie.kaler@maine.edu.

I purchased two CLEP exams that I will take on campus. Will I still be able to take these proctored exams?

Please contact the department administering the exam for guidance.

How will students with projects in the field complete their work?

Faculty will be working with students to complete coursework, including field work, using a variety of options.

How do students complete their classes if they do not have computer access?

Students without computers and/or internet access should contact their instructors regarding alternative course work completion options. UMaine students can also contact the Dean of Students Office, 207.581.1406. UMaine and UMM libraries also have computer loan programs. Information is online.

What happens with credits for classes that are not able to be completed online?

Our plan is to make it possible so that all courses can be completed in varied pedagogically appropriate ways, including online and virtually.

What should we do if we have rented textbooks, but still need them for the rest of the semester and, therefore, cannot return them before the deadline?

If you rented textbooks from University Bookstore, you will be advised on how best to return them at the end of the semester.

If classes will be shifting over to an online format, how will the lab component be handled?

Faculty members will advise students of appropriate completion solutions.

Is there the possibility that class meetings will resume this semester?

In-person classes will not resume this semester.

What should students do when they have senior capstone experiences, including field work, required for degree and licensure completion?

Faculty members will advise students of appropriate completion solutions.