Novel Coronavirus Community Updates

Frequently Asked Questions

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Resources and updates

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Updated FAQs, April 23

Published: April 23, 2020

UMS launches Maine Welcome degree completion program, April 23

Published: April 23, 2020

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

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

Published: April 14, 2020

UMaine ongoing campus life and events

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 15, 2020.

Are we having Maine Day this year?

With all coursework now being offered remotely in response to the coronavirus pandemic, Maine Day 2020 on Wednesday, April 29 is an instructional day for classes and labs. UMaine faculty are encouraged to consider some recognition of the tenets of the UMaine tradition in labs and classes held that day. Those include service and engagement, community inclusion and solidarity, environmental sustainability and institutional history. Note, too, this year's theme: Out of this World. The Division of Student Life, 207.581.1406, coordinates the annual Maine Day events.

I am a graduating senior and I have many friends who are graduating. We all plan to walk in the 2020 Commencement, whenever that happens, but we all want to know when/where we are supposed to buy our caps and gowns now that the Grad Fair did not happen.

Caps and gowns can be purchased online from University Bookstore. Any shipping charge indicated during online check out will be waived before the payment is processed.

Is _____ open?

Information regarding UMaine campus services for students and employees has been moved to a FAQ page focused on the topic.

Will UMaine and UMM have in-person Commencement ceremonies in May?

All University of Maine System universities and the Law School will be awarding degrees on schedule and recognizing the academic achievements of our graduating students. While traditional in-person commencement exercises are not possible during the pandemic, each university will determine an appropriate alternative celebration that balances the need to protect public health with the joyful recognition of our students' academic aspirations and achievements.

Traditionally, this point in the spring semester is a time of great hope and anticipation for graduating students. Despite the coronavirus pandemic, our graduating students must remain hopeful and anticipate their bright futures. The University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias understand and share the disappointment of our graduating students and their thousands of family members, friends, colleagues and other supporters at not being able to have the traditional in-person commencement at this time. **The University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias will hold in-person Commencement celebrations for our 2020 graduates, and will announce dates for those events, hopefully to be held this fall, based on health and safety guidance from the federal and state Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.** The Commencement Planning Committee will be reaching out to graduating students. We will be creative and responsive to help ensure that our 2020 graduating students receive the recognition and celebration of their achievements they so deserve.

Is there a possibility for a postponed graduation?

The University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias will hold in-person Commencement celebrations for our 2020 graduates, and will announce dates for those events, hopefully to be held this fall, based on health and safety guidance from the federal and state Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In the event that the virus continues to proliferate and we are unable to offer a Commencement in calendar year 2020, students who applied to participate in the May 2020 Commencement will be able to participate in the May 2021 Commencement exercises, upon request.

Could the university display our names on the football field display board?

The scoreboard displays the names of all August and December 2019 graduates who indicated they were attending the 2020 ceremony, as well as ALL students who applied for either May, August or December 2020 graduation. Students with confidentiality holds or those who indicated they do not want to be included will not have their names displayed. We are in the process of making a video of the scrolling names of the scoreboard.

Is it possible to still buy a gown so I can have personal photos made?

Students may purchase undergraduate and master's academic regalia on the University Bookstore website. Any shipping charge indicated during online check out will be waived before the payment is processed.

Faculty have outstanding orders for equipment and supplies scheduled to be delivered to their offices and labs on campus. How will deliveries be handled on campus during this period?

UPS and FedEx have been notified that UMaine Mailing Services can take delivery of packages. Those items will then be delivered to buildings via campus mail. Members of the university community who want to drop off mail at Keyo Building will need to call ahead: 207.581.3760.

How do I know if a University of Maine Cooperative Extension event is happening in the state?

Check the UMaine Extension cancellations webpage or connect with the contact person for the event.

Are undergraduate and graduate students who work on campus, including work study students, allowed to continue employment?

At this time, yes. Those student employees are those living off campus or have received exemptions to remain living in residence halls. Student employees should report to work at the direction of their supervisors.

Are UMaine museums, art galleries and Emera Astronomy Center open?

Our museums are closed to the public as of noon, March 13 until further notice. Lord Hall Gallery and Emera Astronomy Center also are closed. All on-site public programming is canceled through April 30. Updates will be made as information becomes available. The University of Maine Museum of Art, Hudson Museum, and Page Farm and Home Museum each has online content, and continue to explore ways to provide other online engagement with their collections.

UMaine faculty and staff, including those with emeritus status, are welcome to visit the UMMA by appointment, Tuesday–Friday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

What is the status of summer camps and other events?

Decisions are forthcoming.

What happens if students have packages coming in to the campus Postal Center after March 22?

Student mail and packages will be forwarded to the address listed in MaineStreet. Students also can make special arrangements with the Postal Center if the package is already en route.

What about UMaine spring sports?

All athletics for the spring season at UMaine have been canceled.

Will UMaine Accepted Student Days occur?

Due to the public health concerns associated with COVID-19, the University of Maine is providing virtual Accepted Student Day programs this spring. The University of Maine Office of Admissions is committed to ensuring our students have the information needed to make their college decision, and will continue to remain fully engaged with prospective students and families as they navigate the college selection process. Please contact the Office of Admissions with any questions: 207.581.1561; umaineadmissions@maine.edu.