

# The Path to Fall 2020

**i** [IMPORTANT MESSAGE: ORIENTATION AND CLASS WEEK OF 8.17.20 WILL BE ONLINE; DO NOT REPORT TO DINEEN HALL](#)

**i** [SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY COVID-19 DASHBOARD](#)

Use **Cntrl + F** (Command + F for Mac) to search for key terms.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

If you were not able to attend the June 24 conversation with Dean Boise on the Path to Fall 2020, [you can access the recording here](#).

### SBA Questions (July 2 Memo)

These answers address those questions raised in the [Student Bar Association's memorandum](#) to Dean Boise and SUCOL Administration dated July 2, 2020.

### COVID-19

SBA1: With concerns about the spread of COVID-19, what are the plans for maintaining the necessary hygiene standards in public places such as the library, bathrooms, and study rooms? Specifically: who will be cleaning, how often will cleaning occur, and how will the school provide assurance the cleaning measures have been carried out with fidelity?

A: Cleaning and sanitation of Dineen Hall is managed by the University. As indicated in the answers to Questions 14 and 27 on our law preparedness page on [the Path to Fall 2020](#), evening and weekend custodial coverage is planned. Disinfectant wipes will be available in all classrooms and other spaces throughout the building. You should plan to use these wipes to clean your area before class begins.

As to the Law Library, our current plan is that it will be open to law students from 6 am to 12 midnight, so that the University's custodial staff can thoroughly clean the space between midnight and 6 am every day. Cleaning supplies will be available throughout the Law Library for students to wipe down their workspaces before sitting down. We must all work together to keep our spaces clean and sanitized at all times.

SBA2: How will SUCOL deal with or help enforce the 14-day quarantine of students coming from states with high COVID-19 rates? Similarly, what will the enforcement look like for other safety rules such as mask compliance?

A: The University [acknowledges](#) that the degree to which students on and off campus comply with or disregard public health guidance and social distancing requirements will greatly impact the potential transmission of COVID in Syracuse during the fall semester. The University's Code of Student Conduct (the "Code") requires students to follow the directives of University officials and currently designates University public health directives as enforceable requirements that must be followed to remain in good standing. I have asked Director of Student Affairs Sarah Collins and Professor and Honor Code Prosecutor Todd Berger to review our Honor Code to explore supplemental provisions as necessary to follow the [University's guidance](#).

This fall, we all will embrace and adapt to new practices for our living, learning, and working environment. At the core of these practices is protecting the health and safety of every campus community member. We know that as one Orange community we must rise to the occasion and take the necessary steps to keep each other safe, healthy, and well. To do so means abiding by all health and safety directives from federal, state, local, and University officials through the Fall 2020 semester and beyond and encouraging others to do the same. We must each do our part in keeping ourselves and the Orange community healthy and safe. That is why Syracuse University is asking all students to review the [Stay Safe Pledge](#) and commit to doing their part to prevent the spread of COVID-19. By choosing to be on campus at any time this Fall semester, you are automatically accountable for upholding the pledge.

The actions you take over the next few months will determine whether we can be on campus together throughout the fall. Abiding by the practices in the Stay Safe Pledge will be imperative to a successful semester. If you cannot abide by the practices in this pledge, we encourage you to study remotely for the fall semester. For those who return to campus and do not comply with these directives, whether or not you take this pledge, you may face referrals to the University's Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities for [violation of the Code of Student Conduct](#) and subsequent sanctions. The safety of our community is a shared responsibility, and our actions can put ourselves and others at risk.

## TUITION & FEES

SBA3: What resources are available to assist students with terminating their leases early, given the late release of reconfigured course schedules and the change in the delivery of instruction? Students' schedules were modified and released after leases were signed, rendering the need for the lease moot. Assistance with lease terminations prevents the unnecessary financial burden on students with the bulk of coursework now online.

A: The College of Law and the University are not involved in private housing transactions. We are happy to provide you with a letter verifying the timing of our release of the fall course schedule, if that is helpful.

SBA4: If law students go remote, will they still have to pay fees for services that they will not be using? Additionally, will the fees be refunded in whole or in part where facilities remain closed for most of the academic year?

A: As with tuition, the University has not at this time indicated that fees will be refunded. On August 1, the College learned that the University plans to waive the health and wellness fee for all students who are fully remote this fall. [Review health and wellness services here](#). We will keep you posted on any developments on this front.

SBA5: For those under FWS, what are their options for work that they can do on campus given COVID-19? Will they be given priority for positions in assisting with classroom management for the hybrid learning?

A: Please see the answers to Questions 98 and 100 below: the current expectation is that work study arrangements will remain unchanged as much as possible, except that the work will likely be performed remotely. Please check with your professor or supervisor on the details of your arrangement. Furthermore, there will be opportunities for some students to assist with classroom management as classroom aides. We will send a message with the details of these opportunities soon.

## FINAL EXAMS

SBA6: Final Exams posed challenges last semester. In an effort to alleviate the stress of

submission times and delays with uploading documentation, a "grace period" of 7-10 minutes should be built into the system. Finals currently conducted external to Dineen created challenges and distractions not expected, nor preventable. We recommend a weeklong examination period with varying examination times to afford the student flexibility in completion. To ensure academic integrity, please provide guidance for proctoring of exams if conducted remotely. A: We understand the unique nature of exams at this time, and we provided technical support to students who had issues uploading their exams this spring. We also built in flexibility for exams procedures during the spring 2020 semester and will do so as necessary for the summer and fall semesters.

No students were penalized for late exam submissions due to technical issues. As to proctoring, we are in the process of partnering with a third-party vendor to implement remote proctoring. Remote proctoring, which we expect will be in place for the fall 2020 final exam period, will provide a high level of integrity around the exam process and alleviate concerns about cheating.

SBA7: The concern that not every student has the same equality of access and opportunity, that led the College of Law to establish the elective pass/fail for the Spring 2020 semester, has not abated. Students believe these experiences will continue to create disparate learning outcomes which will then be graded on the same curve for a final grade. Students are concerned with the potential differences in grading where one person is online, and the other person is in person. Please speak further about what plan exists to remedy these issues.

A: Please see the answers to Questions 67 and 72 below. Faculty voted to adopt pass/fail grading only for the spring and summer semesters. At this point, you should prepare for the College's normal grading policies to apply. All exams for all students will be administered online this fall, regardless of whether a class was held in person or online.

## CLASS PARTICIPATION

SBA8: Online coursework made asking questions a challenge and often questions went unasked. Recommend all courses end with 5-10 minutes for open questions on the material covered.

A: Faculty have been provided a number of training opportunities this summer to enhance their online teaching. Each faculty member teaching online has also had more time to prepare than was the case this past spring. Providing ample time for student questions and engagement is a concern for all faculty, and it is one of the areas to which training and preparation efforts have been directed. You should feel free to recommend to your professors that they incorporate a Q&A period into class time.

SBA9: Additionally, given the complexity of the online classroom medium, we request students be ensured that participation points are fairly spread out. To adequately address participation points professors could identify who is on call to answer questions just prior to each class preventing the concerns of online participation crowding. Please clarify the specific role/duty of the "student room aid."

A: As stated above, faculty have been provided a number of training opportunities this summer to enhance their online teaching. Engagement of students is one of the areas to which training and preparation efforts have been directed. You should also feel free to ask your professors if they can provide advance notice of Socratic participation. It is, of course, up to each faculty member to decide how best to engage students in the learning of the material. Classroom aides will assist with the conferencing and recording technology in the classroom to facilitate the experience of those attending class remotely. Additional duties will vary depending on the nature of the class and professorial needs. You should consult with your professors to learn more about how they intend to utilize their aides' assistance.

## CAREER SERVICES

SBA10: With the departure of Ms. Wiley and the current legal field impacted by COVID-19 how does the College of Law intend to fill the absence in Career Services and how will Career Services provide for the needs of students, in person and online?

A: The Career Services team led by Interim Director [Samantha Kasmarek](#) continues to work diligently every day on your behalf. The team regularly meets with students, offering one-on-one personalized job search advice. It is incumbent upon you to reach out to [Samantha Kasmarek](#) to take advantage of our Career Services. Be sure to login to [Simplicity](#) and visit the Events page to learn about upcoming events, from informational sessions to networking opportunities. Moreover, the office is in contact with employers to get first-hand information on 2021 recruiting plans, attending numerous virtual conferences and town halls each week to hear what employers and other schools are doing to jumpstart careers, and making plans for programming/ other opportunities to ensure you are well-prepared for the job market ahead.

Moreover, the College of Law has retained Spivey Consulting to assist us in restructuring and reimagining the Career Services office as a much more efficient operation. Our new career placement office will be relentlessly focused on student employment outcomes (across both JD and JD programs) and building the connections with law firms and other legal employers that are necessary to effectively assist in job placement. A key element of the new office will be oversight of our externship and pro bono programs, which are closely related to the achievement of your employment objectives. I will appoint a new head of the career placement function as soon as possible.

## PRO BONO

SBA11: How is SUCOL assisting in students obtaining the required 50 Hours of Pro Bono given the current environment, knowing Syracuse remains in need of pro bono legal service? Additionally, how does the College of Law intend to fill the absence of Kim Wolf-Price given her role in facilitating student Pro Bono work?

A: Oversight of our pro bono program has shifted to the Career Services office and, as noted in the previous answer, will be incorporated in our new career placement function being developed this summer. [Samantha Kasmarek](#) will continue to work in partnership with this year's Pro Bono Fellow to lead the Pro Bono Advisory Committee and to generate and promote opportunities for you. Director Kasmarek will serve as an advisor to the committee.

NY State broadly defines what work can satisfy the 50-hour pro bono requirement for admission (for example, most public sector externship placements and clinic placements can be used to satisfy the requirement). To track your hours and/or confirm a placement or experience meets the NY State 50-hour pro bono admission requirement, please visit the [state's pro bono website](#) and comprehensive [FAQ page](#). You can also contact [Samantha Kasmarek](#) with any questions or concerns about satisfying the NY State Pro Bono requirement.

## LIBRARY & FACILITIES

SBA12: For students who commute to Dineen, what measures are being put into place to provide an adequate and safe social distancing space while waiting for additional classes to start? We recommend that Melanie Gray Ceremonial Courtroom be utilized as a silent study hall for students to safely social distance and be able to study.

A: During the Fall 2020 semester, the following protocols are in effect in Dineen Hall regarding both active learning and quiet study for students:

- Active Learning—Students who have back-to-back in person and online classes will find spaces in which to attend their on-line classes.
- Quiet Study—Rooms for quiet study have been identified and marked accordingly throughout Dineen Hall. Students are invited to use these spaces for study between classes.
  - Review the [Dineen Hall Quiet Study & Active Learning Rooms List](#)
- Law Library—The library will be open for research and study from 7 a.m. to midnight every day. Group study rooms in Dineen Hall are now individual study rooms. Students may [reserve these](#) for up to 4 hours per day.

SBA13: How will the Library be utilized? What measures if any have been planned to clean all areas after student use, and what method or system is planned to ensure all students have equal access to this critical resource (Reservation system, first come first serve, by first letter of last name...)?

A: Please refer to your first question above and to the Law Library section below. As you can imagine, due to social distancing requirements, the Law Library will have fewer seats available than in a normal year. Students will choose (2Ls and 3Ls) or be assigned (1Ls) permanent library seats during the first week of classes, in blocks that coordinate with class schedules. This assigned seating system will maximize access to the library while limiting the number of people who use the same workspace during the course of a day. Weekend access will also be according to a block schedule.

SBA14: Students have expressed a strong desire to have access to lockers. Given that they are so close together, students are open to, and requesting, the school develop social distancing protocols and measures to ensure students have access (such as the scheduling system mentioned, or asking students to request access for the semester and to then have administration redistribute them an appropriate distance apart).

A: All 1L students who plan to be in Dineen Hall for instruction this fall will receive their locker assignments during Orientation. Any 2L and 3L student who has requested a locker will receive their locker assignment from Assistant Director of Events and Facilities Sarah Valenti. Please note that students are responsible for their own locks.

By its nature, the locker area is a high-risk area in terms of possible virus transmission. You must wear a mask at all times when in the locker area. Moreover, you should not access your locker if doing so would place you within 6 feet of another individual in the area. You should access your lockers for periods not exceeding a few minutes per visit in deference to your peers.

It is strongly recommended that students use the lockers for daily storage of only that which is necessary to access on any given day. Long term storage of many or voluminous items is discouraged, given the possibility that the presence of COVID cases on campus could result in [mandatory and rapid evacuation](#).

SBA15: The last email sent to students regarding the elevator policy raised concerns that students with disabilities would have to identify themselves in order to use the elevators. Please clarify the elevator policy if this is incorrect.

Elevators are by their nature small spaces; ours will accommodate no more than three persons at a time. Although we must all be conscious of and prioritize the needs of persons with disabilities in using the elevators, there will be no need to register a disability. The service elevator will be designated for faculty and staff use only.

SBA16: With the Neporent Café closed and limited seating, will there be an alternative or designated dining location in Dineen?

A: The café will in fact be open from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. and again from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. for food service and consumption, Monday through Friday. The café will be closed at all other times for cleaning, disinfecting and preparing for the following day's and week's operations. Students can bring their own food and beverages for consumption in the café. The Melanie Gray Ceremonial Courtroom will be the only other place in Dineen Hall where students will be able to eat. As an example, no one will be permitted to eat and drink in the Atrium, where a mask must be worn at all times.

At present, Campus Food Services plans to remove half of the seating in the café, install plexiglass shields where appropriate to safely maximize space, and place social distancing signage reminders as needed. The café will limit "made to order" options, and enhance "grab and go" offerings. The café will be open for students to eat their lunch subject to social distancing guidelines and space availability. First-come, first-serve will apply.

Except in the café and in the Melanie Gray Courtroom, no food will be allowed. Beverage containers with a lid are permitted.

Our plans are subject to change, as COVID-19 guidelines continue to evolve. [Additional food options can be found here.](#)

## LECTURES

SBA17: Students would like to ensure, that class recordings will happen every class and stay up for the duration of the semester. This is important for those in different time zones, students with disabilities, and the complexities of the current pandemic and remote learning.

Please see the answer to Question 99 below. All courses will be recorded and posted to the Blackboard course site. Faculty have been informed that, in order to compensate for connectivity problems, the recording of online classes and of the live stream of in-person classes will be required in fall. Faculty have also been informed that recordings must remain available to you for the duration of the fall semester.

SBA18: Professors utilized different systems as a medium for remote learning. Some students encountered problems and were confused having to switch between these platforms. A unified system for remote learning would prevent those problems from occurring.

A: Remote attendance for all classes this fall will be via Zoom.

SBA19: Prior to beginning a lecture, please have professors test the lecture microphone to ensure their voices can be heard through their required mask by all students, during instruction.

A: Testing microphones will be a part of the start-of-class procedure.

SBA20: For students who have an in-person course back-to-back with an online course, will there be a designated place in the school to stream the course considering they are likely unable to return home in time?

A: We are considering a plan that would designate certain un-used classrooms as places where students in the building would be able to catch an online class on the heels of an in-person class. At present, we anticipate that students who have back to back in-person and on-line classes (or vice versa) will have the opportunity to reserve a study room for the purpose of attending class on-line, for only the duration of the class. As soon as the on-line class ends, the student must vacate the room. Additional information will follow, specifically concerning the reservation of private rooms for the purpose of attending an online class that immediately precedes or follows an in-person class.

SBA21: Will students still be expected to purchase a parking permit at full price given that many will have no in-person classes, but may need parking for other infrequent needs?

A: Please see the answer to Question 112 below. The University does not have the capability to issue permits for specific days and times. However, you may consider parking in the Irving Garage as needed, and paying for parking on a per visit basis, in lieu of purchasing a parking pass. Rates for Irving begin at \$4 for one hour up to \$17 for all day. Please contact [Parking & Transit Services](#) to learn more.

## SCHOOL RESPONSE

SBA21: Students would like to clarify whether it was mandatory to respond to the Dean's Survey sent out on June 30. While there are some students who are able to make that decision now, most students are not, because the school has not clarified many details essential to that decision. Please clarify that add/drop is still scheduled to take place until July 24.

A: As I reminded you in my message to you on July 6, the time is now to inform us of your plans for the fall. The add/drop period has not changed, from 12 pm on July 13 until 11:59 pm on July 24.

We understand that it is difficult to make decisions without all the facts, but we have provided you with all the information we currently have. Your responses to the survey will help us finalize issues that may bear on your decisions. We, too, must make decisions without full information and are doing so on a daily basis. Such are the confusion and uncertainty created by a pandemic. We will continue to be as nimble and flexible as possible but the information you provide is a key factor in our planning efforts.

SBA22: The unavoidable consequence of a lot of these safety measures is a cutdown of socialization that can be crucial in staying healthy during law school. What mental health/social services is SUCOL planning on providing to help combat this.

A: Counseling and psychiatry services are always available to our students via the [Barnes Center at The Arch](#). You may call 315.443.8000 to schedule an appointment or explore virtual resources [via this webpage](#).

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## Logistical & Technical Issues

Q1: Will students be required to be physically present on campus in fall 2020?

A: No. Students can opt to pursue all of their classes in virtual mode. Some classes will be taught fully and only online. Classes that are taught in person in Dineen Hall will be live streamed for students who choose not to be in the physical classroom. Please click on this [link](#) to review the Fall Schedule of all classes and the modality for each of them.

Q2: With the COVID-19 pandemic Centro bus lines have changed their services. Will Centro be servicing the Law School, and if so are their hours changing?

A: Please refer to [this update](#) from the Public Health and Emergency Management Subcommittee of the Fall 2020 Open Working Group. The University is establishing protocols for social distancing on all University-owned and University-sponsored means of group transportation, and it is coordinating with CENTRO. These new protocols include establishing maximum passenger counts for the SU Trolley and other means of University-sponsored group transportation; requiring all operators and passengers to wear a mask; installing hand sanitizer stations on all vehicles; and disinfecting vehicles on an enhanced schedule.

Q3: How will the percentages of students allowed in attendance be determined?

A: The University's goal is to offer a substantial number of fall semester classes in person. The University has not set a goal or limit for the percentage of students who will return to campus and neither has the College of Law.

The College of Law will offer a range of fall classes that will provide the great majority of our students with an opportunity for in-person instruction. The in-person courses will accommodate all law students who are enrolled in them. At the same time, there is no requirement that a student enrolled in an in-person class attend that class in person. Every in-person class will be live-streamed.

Q4: How will you enforce social distancing and ensuring everyone is wearing a mask at all times?

A: There will be signage throughout Dineen Hall to remind all students of their obligations to wear their mask and observe social distancing measures. Please refer to [this FAQ](#) from the University's [Fall 2020 Open website](#), the official source of information about Syracuse University's plans and important health and safety precautions for the fall semester (managed by the [Fall 2020 Open Working Group](#)).

In short, the University will require face masks or face coverings for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors while on campus, in the presence of others, and in public settings where social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Full recommendations on social distancing in classrooms and lecture hall will be forthcoming.

Students will be required to sign a social contract agreeing to abide by these protocols and other safety precautions established by the University.

Q5: What accommodations will be made for students who commute a significant distance? For instance what if a student has in-person classes in the morning and evening and an online class in the middle of the day. Will that student need to drive back and forth twice in a day?

A: Between classes, students can be and study in the public areas of Dineen Hall, including the Library, subject to social distancing parameters. During the Fall 2020 semester, the following protocols are in effect in Dineen Hall regarding both active learning and quiet study for students:

- Active Learning—Students who have back-to-back in person and online classes will find spaces in which to attend their on-line classes.
- Quiet Study—Rooms for quiet study have been identified and marked accordingly throughout Dineen Hall. Students are invited to use these spaces for study between classes.
  - Review the [Dineen Hall Quiet Study & Active Learning Rooms List](#)
- Law Library—The library will be open for research and study from 7 a.m. to midnight every day. Group study rooms in Dineen Hall are now individual study rooms. Students may [reserve these](#) for up to 4 hours per day.

Q6: What is the procedure for students who are unable to return to campus? Who is the point of contact for these concerns?

A: By now, you have received from Dean Boise requesting that you complete this [survey](#) on or before July 10. That is process is the way for you to let us know your plans for the fall.

Q7: Will the number of students allowed in a class be limited to accommodate social distancing measures?

A: Yes.

Q8: Will masks be provided by the school?

A: Every student will receive a mask. It is the student's responsibility to keep their mask or replace it as needed. Students must wear masks at all times while in Dineen Hall.

Q9: How will the school handle a positive case of COVID-19, if that occurs?

A: Please refer to [this update](#) from the Public Health and Emergency Management Subcommittee of the Fall 2020 Open Working Group.

If a student tests positive, the University will deploy its response protocol, which prioritizes the health of the student as well as the safety and well-being of the community. The student will be immediately moved via a Syracuse University medical transport to isolation housing. These rooms will be physically separated from other residential student rooms, have a private bathroom, and be stocked with a thermometer, sanitizing wipes, tissues, soap, hand sanitizer and toiletries. Students who test positive will remain in isolation until a negative test is achieved. While isolated, the student will be assigned a case manager to support all academic, health, housing and dining needs. For those students who are ill or asymptotically positive, to the degree reasonably feasible, these isolated students will be encouraged to continue academic activities remotely or be provided with academic accommodations due to illness.

Q10: Does the college of law have any information for international students? If a US Embassy will not resume issuing student visas till the end of this year, what are our academic options?

A: International students should contact Assistant Dean [Denee Page](#) or Assistant Dean [Andrew Horsfall](#) with questions and concerns concerning their plans for the fall semester.

Q11: If we opt to take classes online, will we be able to use Dineen Hall once guidelines have been set for the library, study rooms, etc.?

A: During the Fall 2020 semester, the following protocols are in effect in Dineen Hall regarding both active learning and quiet study for students:

- Active Learning—Students who have back-to-back in person and online classes will find spaces in which to attend their on-line classes.
- Quiet Study—Rooms for quiet study have been identified and marked accordingly throughout Dineen Hall. Students are invited to use these spaces for study between classes.
  - Review the [Dineen Hall Quiet Study & Active Learning Rooms List](#)
- Law Library—The library will be open for research and study from 7 a.m. to midnight every day. Group study rooms in Dineen Hall are now individual study rooms. Students may [reserve these](#) for up to 4 hours per day.

Q12: Can we stay in Dineen Hall between classes?

Between classes, students can be and study in the public areas of Dineen Hall, including the Library, subject to social distancing parameters. During the Fall 2020 semester, the following protocols are in effect in Dineen Hall regarding both active learning and quiet study for students:

- Active Learning—Students who have back-to-back in person and online classes will find spaces in which to attend their on-line classes.
- Quiet Study—Rooms for quiet study have been identified and marked accordingly throughout Dineen Hall. Students are invited to use these spaces for study between classes.
  - Review the [Dineen Hall Quiet Study & Active Learning Rooms List](#)
- Law Library—The library will be open for research and study from 7 a.m. to midnight every day. Group study rooms in Dineen Hall are now individual study rooms. Students may [reserve these](#) for up to 4 hours per day.

Q13: Will there be additional documentation needed for students who wish to do full online instruction (i.e., a doctor's note) or is it just voluntary?

A: No. The decision not to attend class in person is the student's decision to be communicated to us by completing this [survey](#) on or before July 10.

Q14: Is there a plan for regular cleaning of the building?

A: Yes. We have both evening and weekend custodial coverage planned.

Q15: How will Orientation work? Will it be in person or online? If it's online how would student get to socialize?

A: Orientation will take place on Monday, August 17 and Tuesday, August 18, 2020. Most Orientation programming will occur online with a small component occurring in Dineen Hall. Any programming which occurs in Dineen Hall will also be live-streamed. [The Orientation schedule can be reviewed here.](#)

Q16: Can students expect fall 2020 policies and changes to carry over to the spring semester?

A: It is too early to tell what will happen in the fall semester and what, if any, policies will materialize for the spring semester.

Q17: With the news that New York will require people traveling from states with large outbreaks to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival, does that mean that students moving from out of state must travel to Syracuse two weeks prior to the start of classes if they plan to participate in-person?

A: Please refer to [this University update of June 26, 2020](#). Individuals traveling to Central New York from certain states experiencing high infection rates of COVID-19 will be expected to self-quarantine for 14 days. This new restriction applies (as of June 26) to individuals traveling to Syracuse from Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and Utah.

Q18: Will there be required quarantining (and online instruction only) for out-of-state students?

A: We are not aware of any supplemental requirements at this time, beyond state mandated self-isolation and the need to be in quarantine if a student tests positive for COVID-19 at any time on arrival or during the semester.

Q19: What accommodations will be made for students unable to return to campus in fall 2020 due to health or other concerns?

A: The College is planning for residential instruction this fall, [as outlined in this memo](#). We also continue to explore how best to deliver online instruction to accommodate students and faculty not able to be on campus—because they are immunocompromised, in self-quarantine, or ill with COVID-19—while including meaningful residential opportunities based upon our programmatic needs, accreditation requirements, and academic standards.

Q20: How can we store supplies, books, etc. without locker spaces?

A: All 1L students who plan to be in Dineen Hall for instruction this fall will receive their locker assignments during Orientation. Any 2L and 3L student who has requested a locker will receive their locker assignment from Assistant Director of Events and Facilities Sarah Valenti. Please note that students are responsible for their own locks.

By its nature, the locker area is a high-risk area in terms of possible virus transmission. You must wear a mask at all times when in the locker area. Moreover, you should not access your locker if doing so would place you within 6 feet of another individual in the area. You should access your lockers for periods not exceeding a few minutes per visit in deference to your peers.

It is strongly recommended that students use the lockers for daily storage of only that which is necessary to access on any given day. Long term storage of many or voluminous items is discouraged, given the possibility that the presence of COVID cases on campus could result in [mandatory and rapid evacuation](#).

Q21: Why did the College of Law decide to host both online and in-person classes when higher ranked schools have decided to be online only?

A: SU is committed to residential instruction for this fall consistent with the safety and health of students, staff, and faculty. The actual implementation of residential instruction is left to the schools and colleges within the University.

Out of concern for students and their well-being, the College of Law quickly determined that it would be best to give our students the choice between residential and online instruction. As a result, students have the option to come to campus or else pursue their semester fully online.

Q22: If a student is taking a course with in-person instruction until 2:30 pm and a class that is only offered remotely starts at 2:45 pm, will the student be able to participate in the online instruction in Dineen Hall?

A: See the answer to Question #5.

Q23: How will you handle a situation where an overwhelming amount of students in a single section choose to take it in person?

A: We have scheduled the in-person classes in rooms that can accommodate all of the students who are enrolled in them, even accounting for social distancing requirements. In actual practice, any given in-person class is not likely to have all the enrolled students in attendance because some students will choose to take the class online. But even if all enrolled students should choose to attend an in-person class, there will be adequate classroom space for them.

Q24: In live-streamed classes, will students have an opportunity to ask questions and be involved in class discussions?

A: Yes. All in-person classes will be live streamed, and the live stream will be monitored in real time by the professor and/or the professor's classroom aide. The monitoring will ensure that the live stream stays online throughout the class period, and the monitoring will also allow students on the live stream to ask questions of the professor either directly or by using the chat function.

Q25: Will the spring semester start and end early?

A: As of today, no changes have been made to the spring semester. We will keep you posted of any changes.

Q26: If we show up to in person classes and then do not feel safe, would we have the option to switch to online instruction?

A: Our top priority is the health and safety of our students, faculty, and staff. We recognize that conditions may change over the course of the semester, and we will work to accommodate student concerns as they arise.

Q27: Is the college increasing the janitorial staff?

A: Yes; custodial coverage will now be provided over the weekend, focusing on the Library and common spaces. We will increase coverage as needs increase.

Q28: Will professors wear masks while they teach?

A: Yes.

Q29: Will Dineen Hall use the sound system in classrooms to ensure everyone can hear each other over masks?

A: Yes. In our lecture halls, professors will use microphones, which will feed into the recording system and be amplified in the room. Smaller seminar spaces will not require amplification; in these spaces, microphones in the ceiling will feed into the recording system. Students in need of special accommodations should consult with Director of Student Affairs [Sarah Collins](#) and the University's [Accessibility and Diversity webpages](#).

Q30: Will textbooks be available online?

A: Not unless they are currently available online.

Q31: What is the attendance policy for fall 2020?

A: The American Bar Association and the College of Law require that classes have attendance policies. The College of Law has historically left the details of each class's attendance policy to the professional discretion of the course professor. Our practice will be the same for the fall semester. Students will be expected to attend class synchronously, regardless of the modality in which instruction is delivered, and to adhere to the attendance policy set forth in the course syllabus.

Q32: If the college of law was able to decide not to do weekend classes (against main campus's decision) why are we not making a decision to go fully online despite main campus's decision to risk the lives of students and faculty?

A: SU is committed to residential instruction for this fall consistent with the safety and health of students, staff and faculty. The actual implementation of residential instruction is left to the schools and colleges, which is why we will not have weekend instruction.

Out of concern for students and their well-being, the College of Law quickly determined that it would be best to give our students the choice between residential and online instruction. As a result, students have the option to come to campus or else pursue their semester fully online.

Q33: How can a student take a rolling bag up four flights of stairs to get to class? Can the College just sort students into groups and allow them to use their lockers at a certain time?

A: All 1L students who plan to be in Dineen Hall for instruction this fall will receive their locker assignments during Orientation. Any 2L and 3L student who has requested a locker will receive their locker assignment from Assistant Director of Events and Facilities Sarah Valenti. Please note that students are responsible for their own locks.

By its nature, the locker area is a high-risk area in terms of possible virus transmission. You must wear a mask at all times when in the locker area. Moreover, you should not access your locker if doing so would place you within 6 feet of another individual in the area. You should access your lockers for periods not exceeding a few minutes per visit in deference to your peers.

It is strongly recommended that students use the lockers for daily storage of only that which is necessary to access on any given day. Long term storage of many or voluminous items is discouraged, given the possibility that the presence of COVID cases on campus could result in [mandatory and rapid evacuation](#).

Q33a: Is there a University Adobe software license for students to use?

A: Acrobat and other University-licensed products remain available to students via the University's remote desktop solution. [Connection information can be found here.](#)

Q33b: What happens if I am subjected to quarantine upon arrival or after my arrival to the College of Law? Can I take my classes on-line even though I had planned to attend in person?

A: We recognize the need to adapt to conditions on the ground. Provision will be made, for example, for students who are unable to complete their full (state-mandated) quarantine in Syracuse prior to the start of class, or become ill with COVID-19 after the start of the class, making it impossible for them to attend in person. In such cases, students will be expected to take their classes remotely until such time as they are able to come to campus.

Q33c: How is the University coordinating with area landlords regarding lease and move-in flexibility for students who must quarantine upon arrival, as well as adherence to health measures enumerated in the Stay Safe Pledge?

A: On July 24, Syracuse University wrote to area landlords with the following requests. First, that landlords afford students who must quarantine the maximum flexibility possible regarding moving into their off-campus housing early (if required) to accommodate the quarantine requirement. Second, landlords have been asked to help set, monitor, and enforce the University's public health and hygiene standards to combat COVID-19, including social distancing, use of personal protective equipment, and participation in non-essential gatherings. [You can read a copy of the University's letter here.](#) For law students the quarantine period could begin as early as August 3, and the College of Law is prepared to provide our students or their landlord with a letter to that effect.

Q33d: In order to be in compliance with quarantine mandates, what documentation needs to be submitted?

A: The University's current guidance concerning evidence of quarantine is as follows: "Students will need to provide documentation that attests their quarantine requirement was met, including dates, address and contact information. For example, a letter from a family/relative/self-attesting to the dates you arrived, where you stayed and affirming your compliance with the quarantine requirement guidelines; documentation you were not living at your primary residence, but in another state not impacted by the travel advisory (e.g. internship employment letter, paystub); hotel or rental receipt with address. A process for submitting documentation will be provided soon."

Q33e: How will new students obtain their student ID cards?

A: Arrangements for delivering SU ID cards to our 1Ls will be made through the College of Law, and they will be available in Dineen Hall.

Q34f: Will Orientation Week and Class still meet in-person during the week of August 17?

A: [Please review this memo.](#) Orientation and class the week of Aug. 17, 2020, will be online only. Students should not report to Dineen Hall.

Dineen Hall will be open to students starting August 24, every day from 7 a.m. until midnight. You will need your swipe card to enter the building. Guests are not permitted.

## **Registration, Calendar, Schedules, Add/Drop**

Q34: How will class registration work for 1Ls? Will we have to register for them now?

A: 1L course registration will proceed as in ordinary conditions: students will be enrolled in classes by the Registrar's Office during the first week of August.

Q35: Will current registrations in larger classes (greater than 30 people) be deleted prior to the new add/drop period.

A: No. Please note that course modality may have changed due to instructor preference or space limitations, however. Nevertheless, a student's current registrations will not change unless the student makes the change during the add/drop period.

Q36: Will registration appointment times be assigned after the 7/6 schedule posting or must we wait until the 7/13 add drop period.

A: Students will have the opportunity to complete add/drop transactions during the July 13 – July 24 add/drop period. Be aware that, as always, any holds on your account will prevent any registration changes. Examples of such holds are bookstore, library, bursar, and parking holds. The Registrar's Office cannot override these holds. They must be resolved prior to any potential registration changes.

Q37: Will the updated schedule display which classes are online and which are in person?

A: Yes. Please consult the [Fall Schedule](#).

Q38: When the finalized course schedule is posted will we have to re-select our classes or will the classes we registered for in the Spring still be on our schedules and not conflict with each other?

A: The courses for which students registered during the Fall 2020 registration period are still active and will remain active unless a student decides to make a change. The schedule of classes will not change, regardless of modality.

Q39: Are previous class selections and enrollment the default?

A: Yes. Please also see the answers to Questions #34 and #35 above.

Q40: Will registering changes for classes be phased in by classes like normally done?

A: No. All upper-class students will engage in add/drop transactions at the same time. This is no different than the add/drop periods in prior terms – the only difference in the process is that the schedule adjustment period has been accelerated to July in order to assist both students, in determining final course enrollments, and the College of Law, in ensuring that classrooms will comply with public health and University protocols.

Starting on Monday, July 13 at 12:00 pm EDT, you will have access to add or drop courses in MySlice. The Fall 2020 schedule of classes has been posted to the College of Law website [at this link](#).



We encourage you to take this opportunity to review the schedule of classes, noting the online and in-building modalities, and adjust your schedule to fit your learning preferences.

If you have a hold on your student account (ie Bursar, Health Office, Parking, etc), you will need to have it cleared by the office/area that set it before you will be able to adjust your schedule. Please note that the College of Law Registrar's Office cannot clear holds on your behalf, so you will need to contact the other office directly. It is in your best interest to have any account holds cleared before the schedule adjustment period ends. You will have access to adjust your Fall 2020 schedule yourself in MySlice until 11:59 pm EDT on Friday, July 24.

Please note that because of the schedule adjustment opportunities in MySlice over the next two weeks, Drop/Add requests submitted via the Student Service Request Form will no longer be accepted, starting today (with the exception of LCR III – see below). If you have been notified regarding a waitlist, please respond to that email directly for assistance.

#### How to Switch LCR III Sections:

- Because LCR III requires administrative access for registration, you will not be able to add or drop LCR III yourself in MySlice
- If you decide that you would like to drop the section of LCR III that you are currently registered for, you will need to submit a Drop/Add request via the Student Service Request form.
- We will review your request, and if the section that you have selected to enroll in is available, we will add it to your schedule, and you will receive a confirmation email.
- If the section of LCR III that you have selected is full/closed, you will be notified to select a different section.

The Schedule Adjustment period for Fall 2020 is Monday, July 13 starting at 12:00 pm EDT through Friday, July 24 at 11:59 pm EDT. We highly recommend using this timeframe to make any changes to your Fall 2020 schedule.

Q41: Will students who choose to opt for classes online have to reduce their course load?

A: No, you may keep the same schedule, regardless of modality.

Q42: Can you explain the additional add/drop period and what that is?

A: There is no additional add/drop period. There is one schedule adjustment period, which has been accelerated to July in order in order to assist both students, in determining final course enrollments, and the College of Law, in ensuring that classrooms will comply with public health and University protocols.

Q43: Will 1Ls have to register for classes during the add/drop period? Or will they be given their schedules as usual in the beginning of July?

A: 1L students will not register for classes during the add/drop period. All 1L schedules are determined by the College of Law and 1L students will be enrolled in Fall 2020 courses by the Registrar's Office during the first week of August.

Q44: How large a disruption will result in course re-scheduling? Will classes be entirely changed or will there be minor adjustments?

A: The College of Law has worked diligently to analyze the Fall 2020 schedule, course enrollments, faculty teaching preference, and changes to room capacity in order to minimize the disruptive effects of COVID-19. As a result of these efforts, the [Fall Schedule](#) is set, and 100% of 1L students and at least three-quarters of 2Ls and at least three-quarters of 3Ls will have an opportunity for in-person instruction this fall.

Q45: Will students know which classes are only offered online before the add/drop period?

A: Yes. That information is currently available on the [Fall Schedule](#).

Q46: For bar courses that have high enrollment numbers, will some students be shut out of those courses, or will they become a hybrid of in-person and online?

A: Some of the bar courses will be offered in person; other bar courses will be fully online. We have scheduled the in-person classes in rooms that can accommodate all of the students who are currently enrolled in them, even accounting for social distancing requirements.

Q47: How soon should we advise the Registrar of our decision to study remotely?

A: By completing this [survey](#) on or before July 10.

#### **Classes, Grades, Exams, Books**

Q48: What about the students who are taking classes both at the law school and the grad school. How will that work with remote access?

A: Like the College of Law, all other schools and colleges at the University will be offering classes in person and online. The specific choices about course modalities are being made at the level of the individual schools and colleges. Law students taking classes in another unit of the University should check with that unit to learn about the instructional modality of those classes. Please note that all the colleges and schools have worked to maintain the same day /time schedule for their classes as posted during spring registration.

Q49: What does "80% of 3L students will have the opportunity to have in-person classes" mean?

A: We are making every effort to make Dineen Hall accessible to as many of our students as possible, given the social distancing measures and other recommendations of the [Fall 2020 Open Working Group](#). As shared during our webinar, we have prioritized residential instruction for our 1L classes and the upper class required courses and experiential courses. On that basis, we project that 80% of the 3L will have the opportunity to attend at least one class in person.

Q50: What is the criteria for students who are able to opt for only online instruction this fall?

A: The option is entirely the student's choice.

Q51: Will classes be pass/fail?

A: The faculty has not voted on this question yet.

Q52: Will Orange Edge be online, or in person?

A: Orange Edge will be fully online this year in order to accommodate all students and work within quarantine guidelines for out of state students. If Orange Edge were in-person everyone would have to be in NY by July 20, 2020. Please visit [our Orange Edge page](#) for a schedule of events and other details of Orange Edge.

Q53: Are there any classes that were originally planned that are going to be canceled, especially upper-level electives?

A: In advance of every semester, the College of Law cancels low enrollment classes. Low-enrolled classes for the Fall 2020 have been cancelled. All of the students in these classes have been informed of the cancellations and given the opportunity to enroll in other courses. Beyond the cancellation of low enrollment classes, we do not plan to cancel any of the classes listed on the [Fall Schedule](#).

Q54: As a 2L or 3L student, do we have the choice to go to an in-person class or watch the class from home? Can we come in for some in-person classes or watch sometimes?

A: No. The expectation is that students will make a choice and stick with it unless they become ill or their personal conditions change. Other than that, if you choose to attend class in person, you will be expected to show up in class no matter your mood or preference that day.

Q55: How will classes that allow 80 people to enroll decide who is remote and who is in person?

A: Given the constraints of social distancing, no classroom in Dineen Hall can accommodate a class with an enrollment of 80 without requiring cumbersome schemes of alternating attendance that necessarily dilute the in-person educational experience. In order to avoid such cumbersome attendance schemes, no course with an enrollment of 80 will be taught in-person. All classes scheduled for in-person teaching have been located in rooms that will accommodate all of the currently enrolled students.

Q56: If all in person courses will be offered online, will JDi be afforded access to the Fall 2020 JD residential courses?

A: Fall 2020 residential courses that will be taught fully online will be open to JDi students on a case by case basis as space allows. Courses that will be held in-person and live-streamed (hybrid courses) will not be open to JDi students. JDi Students interested in JDr course enrollment must be able to attend each scheduled live class and have permission from the instructor to enroll. Students should request approval for enrollment by completing the add /drop form found on the Student Service Request Form in the Student Affairs area of the College of Law website. Students will be enrolled by Registrar's Office staff pending approval and available space in the class.

Q57: What is the process for students to request to do courses only online? Is there a justification that a student needs to provide?

A: By completing this [survey](#) on or before July 10. There is no need to provide justification for a student's choice. See also the answers to Questions #6, 13 and 46.

Q58: How will exams work online, will they be proctored or open book?

A: The College of Law will be partnering with a remote proctoring service that is compatible with Exam Soft and that will enhance the integrity of the online exam process. The remote proctoring service will allow for the fielding of closed book exams.

Q59: Will the pass/fail system of spring 2020 apply for the fall 2020 semester?

A: The faculty has not voted on this issue yet. We will update this information as soon as possible.

Q60: If a student elects remote instruction, will that be an option in spring 2020 too?

A: It is too early to tell what will happen in spring 2021.

Q61: Will all 1L students have the opportunity to take all classes in person?

A: 100% of the students will have the opportunity to attend class in person at the College of Law. However, not all of the classes will be in person, due to physical constraints and the inability of some faculty members to teach in person.

Q62: Does the live streaming of classes apply to the 1Ls?

A: All classes that are taught in person will be live streamed.

Q63: What dictates which class a 1L student takes online?

A: The availability of faculty and space. Please complete this [survey](#) on or before July 10. Survey responses will be considered in registering 1L for classes, but the constraints of COVID-19 will impact final registrations.

Q64: For 1Ls, approximately how many classes should we expect to be in-person?

A: Currently, most 1L students can expect that a majority of their credit hours of their fall semester will come from courses taught in person. Two of our three Civil Procedure sections will be taught in person, as will eight of our ten LCR I sections. Two of the three Torts sections will be taught in person, and one of our three Contracts sections will be taught in person.

Q65: Does this mean that 2Ls and 3Ls will have the choice to remain 100% online for the fall?

A: Yes.

Q66: Will a one-credit class that was originally scheduled for a Saturday now be completely canceled or will it be changed to a school day?

A: No. Classes that were scheduled to occur on a Saturday will remain on Saturday. Please refer to the [Fall Schedule](#).

Q67: What are the grading policies for the Fall 2020 semester?

A: The faculty has not voted on this issue yet. We will update this information as soon as possible. Students should prepare for the College's normal grading policies to apply.

Q68: Is there a timeline when a student must choose in person or online instruction?

A: Yes. If you have not already done so, please complete this [survey](#) on or before July 10.

Q69: What's the plan for Friday classes?

A: There will be classes on Fridays. Please refer to the [Fall Schedule](#).

Q70: Are only the locations of classes changing or also days/times?

A: Please refer to the [Fall Schedule](#) for class locations, days and times. Days and times have not changed. In some cases, the Dineen Hall classroom has changed or the course modality has been changed from in-person to online.

Q71: Will Midterms be in person or online?

A: The modality of the midterms will depend on the modality of the course and the judgment of the professor.

Q72: What will be the grading policy for 1Ls?

A: The faculty has not voted on this issue yet. We will update this information as soon as possible.

Q73: Will classes be all live-stream or will there be any asynchronous classes?

A: All JD residential classes that are taught in person will be live-streamed.

Q74: Will students afforded more residential instruction be ranked against those who are online?

A: Class ranks are based on grades from all classes that a student takes, regardless of modality.

Q75: One or two classes will be in person—do they generally fall into a specific category (i.e., bar courses)?

A: In person instruction is a function of physical constraints and faculty availability. We have prioritized 1L classes, upper class required courses, and upper class experiential instruction.

Q76: In fall 2020, will a one-credit class originally scheduled for a weekend day now be completely cancelled or will it be changed to a school day?

A: Such a class will be held as scheduled on the weekend, but it will most likely be online. The schedule of all classes in fall 2020, which will be posted on July 6, will list the modality of all courses.

Q77: Can you elect to do one of your classes online but do in person for the rest?

A: By completing this [survey](#) on or before July 10, you will let us know your plans to attend a class in-person (if possible) or else participate online. You do not have to make the same choice for all classes. If you choose to participate in a class online, however, we expect that you will continue to do so throughout the semester.

Q78: If a returning student chooses to take courses remotely in fall 2020, will this affect their admission to the bar?

A: No. The College of Law and other law schools are working to ensure that online learning this fall will not impact bar eligibility. The accreditation standards promulgated by the ABA currently limit the number of credit hours of online instruction that may count toward a student's J.D. degree. The New York Court of Appeals also limits the number of online credit hours for those seeking admission to New York bar. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to move all instruction online, the [New York Court of Appeals](#) has waived these limitations through the Fall 2020 semester and the [ABA](#) is also expected to waive its limitation.

Q79: For hybrid courses, will there be an option for students to tune into the class virtually rather than attending the class in person?

A: No. The expectation is that students will make a choice and stick with it unless they become ill or their personal conditions change. Other than that, if you choose to attend class in person, you will be expected to show up in class no matter your mood or preference that day.

Q80: For in-person classes, will professors be coming in to instruct? Or will some professors be instructing in-person classes remotely?

A: In-person classes will be taught by the professor in person, in the physical classroom in Dineen Hall unless that professor is no longer able to teach in person.

Q81: Will those of us doing independent research with professors have the opportunity to do so remotely?

A: Yes. Please consult with your professor.

Q82: How will professors' office hours work?

A: The Public Health and Emergency Management Subcommittee of the Fall 2020 Open Working Group [recommends](#) that faculty not meet physically with students in confined spaces. Instead, faculty will hold office hours either outside of their office (where six feet of distance can be maintained) or by leveraging a technology solution.

Students should make arrangements with their professors to schedule an office visit. Professors may also schedule open office hours in blocks of time. Please plan to consult with your professor.

Q83: What accommodations can be made in the classroom for Deaf and hard of hearing students, especially with masks in use?

A: Students with disabilities who are in need of accommodations can request those via the University's [Accessibility and Diversity webpages](#).

Q84: Could you please tell me how I can get hardcopy or digital textbooks or any information regarding their purchase?

A: The University bookstore is trying to provide digital copies of books wherever possible to accommodate distance learning. Once orders have been placed by professors, the bookstore will load the information into a database that is searchable by semester and by academic unit. The search portal is here. You can purchase your books online and the bookstore will ship them to you. If the books are available as ebooks, you will have instant access to them upon receipt of a RedShelf access code assigned to you upon the completion of your purchase.

Q84a: I am arriving from a state on New York's quarantine list; however, I don't think I can complete my quarantine before classes start. What should I do in this case?

A: Pending University guidelines regarding evidence of compliance with State quarantine requirements, we trust that students will observe quarantine without the need to confirm compliance. As soon as we receive the details of the University's policy on evidence of compliance we will share them with all students. If you are not able to complete the quarantine before classes begin, we will expect you to complete the quarantine from your home in Syracuse, during which time you will be expected to attend classes live on Zoom. Listening to recordings of classes does not constitute mandatory attendance. Until you are able to attend class in person (for classes that are offered in person), you should plan on attending your class live online. Please also see Q31 above for the College's attendance policy.

Q84b: I am a JD residential student. Will my credit hours spent online this Fall semester meet the requirements of the ABA or violate the restrictions on online learning?

A: ABA Standard 306(e) limits distance education credits in two ways: (a) no more than one-third of credit hours for a JD degree may be through distance education courses (29 credits); and (b) no more than 10 of those credits may be earned during the first one-third of a student's legal education. Given the impact of COVID-19, on June 25, 2020, the College of Law sought an emergency variance from the ABA to exempt credits earned in JD residential courses offered through distance education during the COVID-19 emergency from the credit limits on distance education set forth in ABA Standard 306(e). [The ABA has granted the College of Law a variance](#) from the credit limitations of Standard 306(e) for the JD residential 2020-2021 academic year. The variance is limited to the expected duration of the extraordinary circumstances on the basis of which it is granted. Should the COVID-19 pandemic subside prior to the start of the spring 2021 semester, the ABA may terminate this variance. We will continue to advocate for our students as we monitor the impact of the pandemic on our learning environment.

Q84c: Where do I find the location of my online classes or how to join the live stream of in-person classes?

A: Links to live online class sessions and class recordings will be posted on Blackboard for your course. Please contact your instructor with any questions about accessing the live classes and recordings.

Q84d: What are my options for purchasing hard copy textbooks?

A: The Bookstore is limiting the amount of students in its store. It is strongly recommended that students [place a web order](#) for their books and either pick up at the store or the store is offering free delivery to Henry Street and a flat domestic shipping fee of \$6.95.

## Tuition & Fees

Q85: How will the modified in-person and virtual learning structure affect our tuition? Is tuition still slated to increase? Will we all receive a reduced tuition rate in light of these COVID-19-related restrictions on our educational experience?

A: Tuition and fees are set by the Board of Trustees of Syracuse University. If the tuition or fees are changed, the College of Law will inform students as soon as possible. For more information, please consult the [Tuition and Fees Bulletin for 2020-2021](#).

Q86: Has there been discussion with the Board of Trustees concerning a tuition freeze for the 2020-2021 academic year?

A: The College of Law has not discussed reduction of our tuition with the Board of Trustees. We understand the difficult economic circumstances that many students (as well as many of our staff and faculty) face as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those same economic circumstances, including the significant expenses we must incur in order to implement the many COVID-19 related health and safety protocols, are severely impacting Syracuse University and the College of Law. A reduction in tuition as the costs of delivering legal education are substantially increasing is neither feasible nor responsible.

Q87: How is the University justifying an increase in tuition cost when we are having limited access to facilities?

A: Please read [the University's announcement](#).

Q88: Is tuition different if a student chooses remote?

A: No

Q89: Can you elaborate on the rise in the health and wellness fee?

A: A May 12, 2020, Daily Orange article on University tuition ("SU to raise cost of tuition for 2020-21 academic year") contained a factual error with regard to the College of Law's Health and Wellness fee. The article falsely reported a 15% increase, whereas the fee increase is in fact \$15.00, or 2%, for the year and is on par with other schools and colleges. College of Law program fees—the Law Resource Fee and Law Activity Fee—remain flat with no increase. Tuition and fees are set by the Board of Trustees of Syracuse University. If the tuition or fees are changed, the College of Law will inform students as soon as possible. Please contact the [Office of Financial Aid](#) with any questions.

**UPDATE:** On August 1, the College learned that the University plans to waive the health and wellness fee for all students who are fully remote this fall. [Review health and wellness services here.](#)

## Experiential Learning (Externships, Clinics, etc.)

Q90: How are clinics being impacted?

A: For the most part, participation in the clinics will remain an in person experience, subject to social distancing protocols within the office and client needs. Please consult with the Director of the clinic you are interested in for more information.

Q91: Will externships be offered online?

A: Externships will be online or in person at the discretion of the placement. Students who prefer a remote experience should inform [Sam Kasmarek](#).

Q92: Is the school adjusting its graduation requirement for experiential learning credits?

A: We are offering a full range of experiential courses, and many of them will be taught on an in-person basis. Since the Fall 2020 semester will have a menu of experiential options that is comparable to that of any ordinary semester, there are no plans to change requirements for experiential learning.

## Health & Wellness

Q93: Will testing for Covid-19 be easily available to students?

A: Please refer to [this update](#) from the Public Health and Emergency Management Subcommittee of the Fall 2020 Open Working Group. All students will be tested when they return to campus and again two weeks after their return to campus. The University will use pooled saliva testing for this purpose, with subsequent rapid testing of all individuals in a pooled sample that indicates a positive result. Random testing will also occur. More specific details about how these tests will be administered will be shared before students' return to campus.

Q93a: The University has announced that all students must be tested for COVID-19 before they arrive on campus. What is the testing process, what is expected, and how do we submit results?

A: [Please refer to this University memo](#), which includes information on the logistics of testing, the mail-in option, monitoring of the tests, and submitting the tests.

Q93b: I am moving to Syracuse early. Can I get the at-home testing kit shipped to my Syracuse address?

A: Syracuse University is requiring that all students, including those who live off campus, provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test before returning to campus. You may request that your at-home test be sent to your Syracuse address (see Q93d below). Also, walk-up and drive-thru testing is available at Syracuse Community Health Center, 819 South Salina Street, M-F, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Local testing sites are all drive thru so there is no contact with other patients. It is important to note that you not arrive on campus until you have tested negative for COVID-19 and have submitted your test results. Please also [review the details of the University's testing protocols](#).

Q93c: I am arriving in Syracuse early, but if I get tested at my home address away from Syracuse, I would be tested about 18 days before classes begin. Would that test be acceptable or do I have to wait and be tested within that 7-10 day window before classes begin?

A: Syracuse University is requiring that all students, including those who live off campus, provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test before returning to campus. That test must be within a window of 7 to 10 days before your planned arrival on campus. Please therefore review the answer to Q93b to see what your options are. Please also [review the details of the University's testing protocols](#).

Q93d: I want to participate in the University's at-home testing kit option. How do I sign up to receive one of these kits?

A: Syracuse University has engaged LetsGetChecked, a highly reputable provider of at-home testing products, to supply FDA-approved, at-home COVID test kits at a heavily discounted cost to students. While no up-front payment is required to place an order, students who elect to use the mail-in test kit will pay \$49 out of pocket; this charge will be billed to Bursar accounts.

How It Works:

- [Visit the LetsGetChecked COVID testing portal](#).
- Select "Syracuse University" from the portal's drop-down menu and then complete and submit the test request form.
- You must use your SU ID number (nine digits) and Syracuse University email when requesting a kit.
- Upon completing the registration form, LetsGetChecked will send you an at-home test kit.
- Important: When providing LetsGetChecked a mailing address, remember to use the address where you will be during the period when you will need to administer the test.
- Important: Test kits can only be sent to addresses in the United States. International students can request their mail-in kit be mailed to the address where they will be quarantining, or otherwise staying, within the United States.

Q93e: I'm unable to access the Covid home test ordering portal.

A: SU is aware of this issue and working with the portal vendor to resolve it as soon as possible. Please email us [lawpreparedness@Law.syr.edu](mailto:lawpreparedness@Law.syr.edu) if you are experiencing this issue so that we can share your particulars (SU ID and DOB) with SU.

Q94: Will the College of Law enforce observance of social distancing measures and mask-wearing to help stop the spread of coronavirus?

A: Yes. The College will enforce strict observance of these coronavirus mitigation measures by all.

Q95: If someone has an underlying health condition that might put them in a higher-risk category, should they get a doctor's note to allow them to take all courses online?

A: A doctor's note is not required to select virtual instruction. By now, you have received a message from Dean Boise asking you to complete this [survey](#) on or before July 10. This process is the way for you to let us know your plans for the fall.

Q96: If a student becomes severely ill with Covid-19, particularly in the middle of the semester, what policies are in place to ensure that their academic progress is not permanently impeded?

A: Students who become ill should advise Director of Student Affairs [Sarah Collins](#) who will work with affected students on a case by case basis to enable them to continue their studies as much as is possible under the circumstances. A student taking in-person classes, for example, will be able to switch to the live-streamed modality. In addition, all courses will be recorded and posted to the Blackboard course site so that students can view them if they are not able to attend in person due to illness.

In any event, students who fall ill and who will miss classes should notify the Office of Student Affairs or the Registrar's Office so that information regarding potential absences can be communicated to the instructor.

Q97: How will SU track COVID? How will we know if there is an outbreak?

A: Please refer to the [Public Health Framework for Fall 2020](#). Among the policies and actions that will be taken to protect the health and well-being of the campus community, the University will:

- Screen the entire student population for COVID-19 at the start of the semester and implement regular random screening of students, faculty, and staff throughout the fall semester.
- Implement a residence hall wastewater surveillance program to monitor for the presence of COVID-19 across residence halls.
- Require students, faculty, and staff to undergo routine temperature screening.
- Deploy a rapid diagnostic point-of-care testing site, accessible to any student suspected of infection.
- Implement, in coordination with local public health officials, a robust contact tracing program to quickly mitigate potential spread of COVID-19 on campus.
- Establish a residential facility where students who are suspected or confirmed to have been exposed to the virus can be isolated.
- Leverage a comprehensive COVID-19 health promotion and communications effort that will include regular campus notifications.

According to [this update](#) from the Public Health and Emergency Management Subcommittee of the Fall 2020 Open Working Group. Students also will participate in an educational program prior to their return to campus focused on health and wellness issues and, as a condition of returning to campus, students will be required to affirmatively commit to a social compact statement that defines public health expectations.

Q97a: What is the University's plan if individuals test COVID-19 positive while on campus?

A: The College and the University is making every effort to ensure a safe campus for the fall 2020 semester. However, the following [decision framework](#) has been submitted to the New York State Department of Health detailing levels of response if individuals test COVID-19 positive while on campus:

**Level 1:** If a small number of individuals test positive, and contact tracing suggests that exposures are confined to 10 or fewer people, then epidemiology and contact tracing suggests that the situation can be contained, isolated, and remediated. Affected areas will be decontaminated, University medical staff will monitor for possible escalation, and all other campus operations will remain unaffected.

**Level 2:** If the number of infected or exposed people is estimated at between 10 and 100 people, and there remains high confidence in the ability to contain, isolate, and remediate the flare-up, then precise curtailment of operations in specific areas (rooms, floors, buildings, including possibly Dineen Hall) may be required. In addition to decontamination, these areas or programs will remain curtailed for a period of time to prevent ongoing exposures.

**Level 3:** If small outbreak occurs in a defined population (e.g., a certain school/college—including possibly the College of Law/Dineen Hall—or degree program) and the number of potential exposures is greater than 100 and contact tracing and containment become difficult, then curtailment of operations in these select programs or areas may be required. This select response will fall short of a campus-wide response. Select programs—including possibly the College of Law/Dineen Hall—will move into an online-only environment with non-resident students staying off campus, resident students staying in their rooms, and non-essential affected employees working from home.

**Level 4:** If a significant outbreak in excess of approximately 100 infections has occurred, and there is low confidence in the ability to contain the outbreak campus-wide, then the whole campus will come to a full "pause". All programs move to online alternatives, campus access will be restricted, and non-resident students and non-essential employees will work from home and stay away from campus.

**Level 5:** If ongoing campus or community transmission is occurring at a significant rate and there is no realistic strategy to contain or control the situation, the University will shut down on-campus operations completely. Assuming permission from public health officials, a 72-hour move out/shut down process will be initiated:

- Those with the means to travel within 8-10 hours of Syracuse will be asked to leave within 24 hours.
- Those who need to arrange travel to other areas of the United States will be asked to leave within 48 hours.
- Those students who are able to arrange international travel are asked to leave within 72 hours.
- Those unable to leave will appeal to remain on campus. Syracuse University will support any student who, for financial or other hardship reasons, cannot depart campus in response to a shutdown scenario.
- If the scenario is more extreme, students may be asked to evacuate campus immediately with only those items they can carry with them. All other possessions are left behind.

Q97b: Many of the stated COVID-19 safety measures will require less socialization, which can be crucial in staying healthy while in law school. What mental health/social services can help?

A: Counseling and psychiatry services are available to students via the [Barnes Center at The Arch](#). Students may call 315.443.8000 to schedule an appointment or explore virtual resources [via this webpage](#).

### **Student Life (Work Study, Organizations, Clubs, Housing, Parking, etc.)**

Q98: Will there be opportunities for 1Ls to work as hybrid course facilitators? Will those positions be available for work study?

A: There may be opportunities for 1Ls to serve as a classroom aide for federal work study. The College will send a message with the details of these opportunities soon.

Q99: How do we sign up to be an aid to getting recordings accessible for students?

A: We will send a message with the details of these opportunities soon. All courses will be recorded and posted to the Blackboard course site so that students can view them if they are not able to attend class.

Q100: What will happen to students who were offered work study?

A: The current expectation is that these arrangements will remain unchanged as much as possible, except that the work will likely be performed remotely. Please check with your professor or supervisor.

Q101: How will club events work?

A: For the fall 2020 semester, all clubs and organizations should plan to meet via an online collaboration platform (e.g., Zoom). If it is necessary to meet in person, such meetings may be held in person but only between 7 p.m. and midnight, subject to room availability. [Rooms must be reserved in advance via this form](#). In-person meetings shall be subject to the following rules:

- Meeting must start after 7 p.m. and end by midnight
- [Rooms must be reserved in advance](#)
- There can be no food or outside visitors
- Social distancing rules must apply and masks must be worn
- Room must be cleaned before leaving

Violations or any evidence of violation will result in revocation of privilege. Please contact the [Office of Student Affairs](#) for more information. Please also review the [University's policies on in-person events](#), in compliance with recommendations from the Public Health Committee.

Q102: Will there be an online option to participate in clubs?

A: Yes. More information will be provided during Orientation. Moreover, student organizations will share these opportunities early in the fall semester. If you have an interest in a particular student organization, please contact Director of Student Affairs [Sarah Collins](#).

Q103: I had a plan of creating a new club; can I still attempt to set up it up?

A: Sure. Please consult with Director of Student Affairs [Sarah Collins](#).

Q104: For student organizations, will off-campus social events be allowed?

A: The Office of Student Affairs preference is that sanctioned clubs and organizations adhere to meeting guidelines explained in the answers to Q101 above: if meeting before 7 p.m., an online collaboration platform should be used; after 7 p.m., [a room can be reserved](#), subject to Office of Student Affairs guidelines. Please also review the [University's policies on in-person events](#), in compliance with recommendations from the Public Health Committee.

Q105: What is the plan for students who were working on campus—for example, in the library—and who depended on that income?

The current expectation is that these arrangements will remain unchanged as much as possible, except that the work will likely be performed remotely. Please check with your professor or supervisor.

The Law Library currently plans to hire law students to work in person. There may be opportunities for remote work. Please check with your professor or supervisor.

Q106: Should I reserve housing on campus this fall?

A: Students should consider the benefits of housing close to campus, such as access to the Law Library, residential instruction if possible, a good internet connection, quiet space of your own, the ability to participate in experiential opportunities such as client meetings or court appearances as a part of our law clinics, the certainty of having a place in Syracuse when the virus recedes, and your overall financial circumstances and family preferences, too.

Q107: Will limited graduate housing will be offered?

A: A limited number of graduate housing options may be available. Students should reach out to the [Office of Student Housing](#), call 315-443-2721, or visit [this site](#). The [Office of Off-Campus and Commuter Services](#) may also provide assistance with off-campus listings.

Q108: Do you have advice for those moving to Syracuse entering leases with an uncertain future?

A: We understand the uncertainty is unsettling and will affect your plans for the fall, including your decisions concerning housing arrangements. Please work directly with your landlord.

Q109: Will the University offer assistance to students negotiating with apartment complexes (such as Campus West) if they elect for remote instruction this fall?

A: The University does not engage in negotiations with private landlords.

Q110: The café will be closed—does that mean just the food production, the seating area, or both?

A: The café will in fact be open from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. and again from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. for food service and consumption, Monday through Friday. The café will be closed at all other times for cleaning, disinfecting and preparing for the following day's and week's operations. Students can bring their own food and beverages for consumption in the café. The Melanie Gray Ceremonial Courtroom will be the only other place in Dineen Hall where students will be able to eat. As an example, no one will be permitted to eat and drink in the Atrium, where a mask must be worn at all times.

At present, Campus Food Services plans to remove half of the seating in the café, install plexiglass shields where appropriate to safely maximize space, and place social distancing signage reminders as needed. The café will limit “made to order” options, and enhance “grab and go” offerings. Our plans are subject to change, based on guidelines from the government. [Additional food options can be found here.](#)

Q111: How will the café work? We obviously have to take masks off to eat: will the whole café be shut even for students who bring their lunches?

A: The café will be open for students to eat their lunch subject to social distancing guidelines and space availability from 8 am until 9 am and again from 11 am until 1 pm Monday through Friday. First-come, first-serve will apply. The café will be closed at all other times for cleaning, disinfecting and preparing for the following day's and week's operations. Except in the Neporent Café and in the Melanie Gray Courtroom, no food will be allowed. Beverage containers with a lid are permitted. [Additional food options can be found here.](#)

Q112: Are there plans to prorate parking rates for students who will be on campus significantly less due to the revised class schedules?

A: The University does not have the capability to issue permits for specific days and times. However, students could consider parking in the Irving Garage as needed, and paying for parking on a per visit basis, in lieu of purchasing a parking pass. Rates for Irving begin at \$4 for one hour up to \$17 for all day. Contact [Parking & Transit Services](#) to learn more.

Q112a: How do I purchase a parking permits?

A: Students should contact [Parking and Transit Services](#) to ask how to obtain a parking permit.

## Law Library

Q113: If students choose to opt online, will they still be able to access resources, such as the library?

A: Yes. The Law Library will provide complete access to print and electronic collections, and to the full suite of library services, for all students. For useful information on working remotely with the Law Library and utilizing all of our Library resources, please consult our [Research Guide](#).

Q114: Can you elaborate on the use of the Law Library?

A: We are developing a plan for maximizing opportunities to use the Library. We will share this plan as soon as possible.

Q115: Will we have access to the library and group study rooms?

A: The library will be open for research and study from 7 a.m. to midnight every day. The Circulation Desk and Reference Office will be open for in-person services during the day. Group study rooms in Dineen Hall are now individual study rooms. Students may reserve these for up to 4 hours per day.

## Advice for International Students

Q116: The ICE announcement that international student will be removed from the United States if school operates the online-only course in Fall 2020 might seriously damaged international students' rights. Is the College of Law working on a solution for this policy?

A: **UPDATE:** In late July, ICE new guidance specific to new international students. [Please refer to this message from Syracuse University.](#)

Q116a: What steps are the University taking regarding the ICE rule of international students and remote learning?

A: Please read [this July 8, 2020 memo](#) by Interim Vice Chancellor and Provost John Liu.

## Other Academic Continuity FAQs

Q117. Will COVID-19 impact the OCI and Résumé Collect Program this August?

A: Yes. Based on conversations with employer partners, most have postponed their recruitment until January 2021. The likely start date of the On-Campus Interview (OCI) program will be Jan. 25, 2021. However, some employers wish to recruit as scheduled through the Résumé Collect program and will be holding off-site and/or virtual interviews this fall. Opportunities will be listed on [Symlicity](#) under the OCI tab as well as the JOBS tab. Please monitor both tabs (and your email) frequently as employers are registering on a rolling basis.

The OCI and Résumé Collect Programs will offer Summer 2021 recruitment opportunities for students who have, at a minimum, completed the full 1L curriculum by May 2021, and postgraduate opportunities for students who will complete their degree by May 2021. In the meantime, the Office of Career Services continues to be fully operational and in constant contact with employers to maximize opportunities at this time. Please continue to also closely monitor your email for any changes or updates. Timing will vary widely depending on practice setting, region, etc. You are encouraged to reach out to the [Career Services Office](#) at the earliest opportunity to review your individual needs, plans, and ideas.

Q118: Are all College of Law offices and functions open?

A: Yes! All College of Law offices are open during normal business hours. Our teams are ready to support you even as they work remotely, like you. Department points of entry can be [found here](#), and the College's full Directory can be [found here](#).

Q119: Can I still make an appointment with the Office of Career Services?

A: Students can make appointments with Career Services by calling the main phone number (315.443.1941, note that although your call might not be picked up right away, it will be returned). Or students can email the office's main email [career@law.syr.edu](mailto:career@law.syr.edu) or email individual counselors (below). Students also can make appointments in Symlicity under "Counseling Appointment" on your profile screen. Please indicate what type of appointment you would like (i.e., Zoom or phone) regardless of what method is used to schedule it. Be sure if selecting "phone" to include the best number to reach you.

- Sam Kasmarek [kasmarek@law.syr.edu](mailto:kasmarek@law.syr.edu)
- Kelly Capozzi [ktbrant@law.syr.edu](mailto:ktbrant@law.syr.edu)



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## Community Messages Related to Fall 2020

- [Message to Students from Dean Boise \(Orientation and Class Next Week Will be Online; DO NOT REPORT TO DINEEN HALL\)](#) | Aug. 13, 2020
- [Message to Students from Dean Boise \(Are You Still Planning to Come to Dineen Hall Next Week?\)](#) | Aug. 13, 2020
- [Students Asked to Take the Stay Safe Pledge](#) | Aug. 12, 2020
- [Message to Students from Dean Boise \(COVID-19 Testing and Quarantine Requirements\)](#) | Aug. 10, 2020
- [Message to Students from Assistant Director of Events and Facilities Valenti \(What to Expect this Fall\)](#) | Aug. 10, 2020
- [Message to 1L Students from Registrar Greene \(1L Course Schedule Available in MySlice\)](#) | Aug. 7, 2020
- [Message to Students from Dean Boise \(How to Request a Mail-In COVID-19 Test Kit and Submit Results\)](#) | Aug. 6, 2020
- [Message to Students from Dean Boise \(COVID-19 Fall Operating Updates\)](#) | Aug. 6, 2020
- [Message to Student Organization Leaders from Director of Student Affairs Sarah Collins \(Student Organization Meetings this Fall\)](#) | Aug. 3, 2020
- [Coronavirus Update: Planning Progress, Dashboard, Virtual Sessions and More](#) | July 31, 2020
- [Frequently Asked Questions about Student Testing](#) | July 29, 2020
- [Washington, DC, Puerto Rico and Three More States Added to New York Travel Advisory and Quarantine Order](#) | July 28, 2020
- [At-Home COVID Testing Kits Available to Students](#) | July 28, 2020
- [ICE Issues 'New International Student' Guidance](#) | July 24, 2020
- [Message to Students from Dean Boise \(Quarantine Requirements and a Checklist for Start of Fall Semester\)](#) | July 24, 2020
- [10 States Added to New York Travel Advisory and Quarantine Order](#) | July 21, 2020
- [Important Update on Quarantine Requirement and On-Campus Housing Assignments](#) | July 20, 2020
- [Message to International Students from Assistant Dean of International Programs Horsfall \(ICE Regulations Rescinded\)](#) | July 14, 2020
- [ICE Rescinds Directive Affecting International Students](#) | July 14, 2020
- [Message to International J.D. and LL.M. Students from Assistant Dean of International Programs Horsfall \(Compliance with ICE Regulations Regarding Online/Live Learning\)](#) | July 9, 2020
- [Message to Students from Dean Boise \(Impact of ICE Policy on COL International Students\)](#) | July 9, 2020
- [Message to JDi Students from Associate Dean for Online Education O'Connor \(College of Law Response to SBA Memorandum of Questions Dated July 2, 2020\)](#) | July 8, 2020
- [Message to JDr and LL.M. Students from Registrar Greene \(Fall 2020 Schedule Adjustment Information\)](#) | July 8, 2020
- [College of Law Response to SBA Memorandum of Questions Dated July 2, 2020](#) | July 7, 2020
- [Message to 2L and 3L Students from Dean Boise \(Please Act No Later Than July 10: Online Presumption Will Apply\)](#) | July 6, 2020
- [Message to 1L Students from Dean Boise \(Please Act No Later Than July 10: Online Presumption Will Apply\)](#) | July 6, 2020
- [Message to International Students from Assistant Dean of International Programs Horsfall \(Notice of Current Visa Implications for Fall 2020 Plans\)](#) | July 2, 2020
- [Message to 1L Students from Dean Boise \(Your Plans for the Fall: Please Respond On or Before July 10\)](#) | June 30, 2020
- [Message to 2L and 3L Students from Dean Boise \(Your Plans for the Fall: Please Respond On or Before July 10\)](#) | June 30, 2020
- [Message to Students from Dean Boise \(The Path to Fall 2020\)](#) | June 25, 2020

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## Syracuse University Fall 2020 Information

- **[Fall 2020 Open](#)**  
The official source of information about Syracuse University's plans and important health and safety precautions for the Fall Semester 2020.
- **[Graduate Student Fall 2020 Information](#)**
- **[Fall 2020 Weekly Virtual Update Sessions](#)**  
A series of virtual update sessions for University community members, on Fridays starting July 10.
- **[THRIVE! Well-Being & Resilience Series Sessions](#)**