



Fall 2021 Campus Opening Plans

1 message

President's Office <pres_office@emu.edu>

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To: all-faculty@emu.edu, all-staff@emu.edu, harrisonburg-students@emu.edu



Greetings EMU campus community in this last week of April, last week of classes. I wish you all a healthy and strong finish to the spring semester! You know the expression: "April showers bring May flowers." I hope to see graduating seniors at our in-person graduation "walking ceremonies" this May 1 – we sure hope to keep showers away!

We are already preparing for fall campus plans that thankfully will look very different from this year. We are excited to announce a return to a vibrant campus life. It can't come soon enough! Given declining trends of the pandemic, advances in vaccine distribution, and careful assessments of preparedness on college campuses in the Commonwealth, EMU is pleased to share with you the following changes for next year:

- **Key Change:** We intend a full return to pre-pandemic normal at Eastern Mennonite University, beginning Fall 2021.
- **Classes:** We will conduct classes in the delivery mode they were accustomed to being offered before the pandemic. That means most undergraduate course offerings will return to in-person instruction only. Some courses, including some graduate and certificate programs, will continue to be offered in the online or hybrid format.
- **Residence Life:** We are planning for a fully residential year for students, anticipating shared rooms to encourage more "normal" community building.
- **Health Protocols:** We will follow all health guidelines and ordinances from the Governor's Office and VDH/CDC for how our classrooms need to be situated and whether or not we need to leave space between seats or wear masks or observe other hygiene measures.
- **Extra-curriculars:** We intend a full return to extra-curricular activities, including athletics, fine arts events, service opportunities, and other student life programming. We also intend to go forward with many cross-cultural offerings, depending on country, region or state of origin and the ongoing pandemic protocols in these locales.
- **Vaccinations:** We highly recommend that all students be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 upon entry to campus in the fall. The closer we get to "herd immunity," the closer we get to a return to college life as we have come to expect it and value it at EMU. As students get fully vaccinated this summer, we request a copy of the vaccination card to update your EMU health record (emailed to covidhotline@emu.edu or <https://emu.medicalconnect.com/>). Pending availability, we hope to provide vaccination opportunities for those who have not yet been vaccinated. EMU notification for those vaccinated or not vaccinated will be required through EMU Health Services prior to the start of Fall classes. Note that some services and activities may be unavailable to unvaccinated students.

As our notice above on "health protocols" indicates, we will follow ordinances from state and health authorities as it relates to the status of the pandemic in Virginia come fall. At this point, it appears that "all systems are go" for a return to normalcy! May it be so!

Warmly,

Susan

--
Susan Schultz Huxman, Ph.D.
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