

Dear OSU College of Engineering Community,

As the start of a new academic year approaches, many of us no doubt are experiencing a combination of anticipation and apprehension. While we are eager to continue supporting the College of Engineering's mission by providing a transformative educational experience for students, the COVID-19 pandemic remains a serious concern and will continue to affect how we operate.

Our top priority at all times is the health, safety, and success of students, faculty, and staff. Toward that end, OSU has committed to a reduced on-campus presence during fall term, as [announced Tuesday by President F. King Alexander and Provost Ed Feser](#). Understandably, there are a lot of questions about what the fall term will look like. This message aims to answer at least some of those questions, and to establish some parameters for how we can keep learning, teaching, and working while taking reasonable precautions to keep our community safe.

- Courses will be delivered within a variety of new modalities (see the definitions of instructional modalities below) with a higher priority for face-to-face experiences given to first-year students, graduating seniors, and graduate students.
- Any student who requests to take a course remotely, regardless of its designated modality, will be accommodated for any course section offered in the College of Engineering. This will be achieved in direct coordination between instructor and student.
- Instructors and graduate assistants — who are scheduled to teach remotely and wish to use a classroom from which to deliver their remote courses — will be afforded access to on-site facilities to be coordinated through the school heads and with the college.
- Instructors and graduate assistants who are no longer able to teach a course that is scheduled for on-campus delivery should contact their respective school head to discuss course reassignments.
- The university and College of Engineering will continue to work under a scalable set of operational levels that will be based upon local public health conditions. For more information on the university's operational and public health policies and plans, please visit COVID-19 website.
- All faculty and staff should familiarize themselves with OSU's safety policies and the guidelines for interacting with students.
- Both university-wide and college-specific teaching modality workshops are now available (see registration links below).
- A fall operational planning guide is under review by the college's leadership and will be provided to faculty and staff once completed.

I encourage you to continue to engage your creativity and engineering skills to find innovative ways to support each other and students. Together, we can meet the unique challenges before us and I know that we will persevere. Please refer frequently to the resources below for the latest information, and do not hesitate to ask questions or to communicate your concerns.

Go Beavs!

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Additional Information and Resources

- [COVID-19 website](#)
- [COVID-19 Safety & Success for Teaching Faculty](#)
- [OSU Safety Policies: Face Covering Policy, Physical Distancing Policy](#)
- [Fall Path 2020 video](#)
- [Registration for university-wide teaching modality workshops](#)
- [Registration for college-specific teaching and course design workshop](#). Select College of Engineering from the drop-down menu. This college-specific workshop will be held on Monday, Aug. 31, 2020, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Definitions of instructional modalities

1. **On-site/In-person:** Instruction is delivered in person at the scheduled time (synchronously^a), primarily in the classroom. There may be some remote attendance.
2. **Blended:** A course format having both on-campus and remote elements. Some components include synchronous learning.
3. **Remote:** Students attend class sessions remotely at scheduled times (synchronously). If other remote work is performed outside scheduled meeting times, it must be done asynchronously^b, so as not to conflict with another class or scheduled event.
4. **Ecampus:** Fully online (asynchronous). Participating via Canvas. No synchronous meetings (optional office hours via Zoom are encouraged).

^a**Synchronous:** Course components for which instructor and students meet on scheduled days and times as a class (meetings may be face-to-face in classrooms, remote using Zoom, or a combination).

^b**Asynchronous:** Course component with no required specific class meeting times. These components are structured around weekly tasks and deadlines, and students interact with instructors and other students using Canvas tools and other technologies.