



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Fall 2020 Remote Semester

### Academics

- How will my fall educational experience be different from my experience in late spring?

Our COVID-19 Academic Task Force and Transition Support Team worked throughout the summer to develop robust support resources for faculty preparation, and we have invested in technological tools for effective remote teaching. We have created multiple training sessions for faculty, to ensure they are as effective in a remote format as they have been in-person. All students will receive the high-quality and focused individual attention for which we are noted: one-on-one interaction with faculty outside the classroom (in office hours or tutorials), extensive feedback on student work, and direct mentorship that provides for success upon graduation.

- Will any courses be taught in person?

All instruction will be delivered remotely, and all courses will prioritize access to professors through synchronous instruction. Class sessions will meet at the published course times, and professors will use Zoom, Moodle, and other digital tools to facilitate class sessions. All students will receive their own Zoom account, to ensure they can connect quickly with any member of the campus community, and students will receive more information in August about how to most effectively learn remotely.

- Will students be able to participate asynchronously?

Students impacted by COVID-19, whether for medical, wellness, financial, geographical, or other reasons, will also be able to opt-in to asynchronous learning at the beginning of term. This process is currently under active development. Student requests to participate asynchronously will be granted if based on COVID-19 impacts; faculty will not be required to confirm the authenticity of such requests.

- Are there any special technology requirements for students to participate in remote classes for the fall?

The technology requirements for fall remain the same as the spring and summer terms. Students need to have access to a computer equipped with a camera and microphone and reliable internet access. A mobile device will not, in most cases, be sufficient to complete coursework. Students should have consistent access to an Internet

connection (WiFi or wired) that is strong enough to participate in video Zoom sessions and stream video recordings. Any concerns about technology requirements should be directed to the Help Desk at [ithelp@lakeforest.edu](mailto:ithelp@lakeforest.edu) so they may work with you to find a solution.

- **What is the academic calendar? Will we be using the old one or the new one?**

The faculty voted to approve a revised [academic calendar](#), which will remain in effect for this academic year. Classes start on Monday, August 24, and Winter Break will last throughout January. The faculty also voted to “stretch” the passing period between each course from 10 to 20 minutes. Given the decision to switch to fully remote instruction, the Curricular Policies Committee will take up the question of whether to retain that stretched period between classes. We will keep the campus updated as this process continues.

- **What academic policy changes will be in effect for Fall 2020?**

To provide flexibility for students, the faculty previously voted to make December 4 the last day for approved withdrawal from a course with an automatic “W” and the last day to register for Pass-Fail option. The last day for permissible change of registration (the “Add/Drop” deadline) has also been extended one week, through September 4th. Given the decision to switch to fully remote instruction, the Curricular Policies Committee will take up the question of whether to make further adjustments, including consideration of default Pass/Fail grades.

## Finances

- **Will there be a tuition discount, and will other charges be reduced?**

We understand that COVID-19, and this change, bring financial uncertainties for you. Students may elect to receive either of the following benefits:

1. A 10% reduction in fall semester costs after gift aid is subtracted from tuition, in the form of a credit on a student’s account. The Office of Financial Aid will send you an email with the amount of your credit by August 7th, so that you can evaluate if this is the best option for you. The value of this choice will be as high as \$2446 but will depend upon the student’s individual financial aid award package.

2. A free one-credit course or academic internship during either a new January term or one of the College's summer terms, to be completed by July 2021. The January Term will be taught remotely, and more information will be coming soon, including a list of courses that will be offered. The cost of a J-Term course – apart from this opportunity – would be \$3300, the same as summer session courses. The free course is only available to continuing undergraduate students.

Room and board charges of \$5805 will be eliminated from your student account if you were previously billed as a resident student.

Mandatory fees for the fall semester will be reduced from \$451 to \$200, and for new students the orientation fee of \$200 will be waived.

You will be provided with a form online to state whether you prefer 1 or 2 above, which will need to be submitted by October 1. Once you have chosen either a free course or a reduction in fall semester costs, you will receive a confirmation email. If you have chosen the reduction in fall semester costs, your student account will be adjusted within the week.

- **How will my financial aid be affected by this decision?**

In almost every case your financial aid will not be affected by this change. Except for some Work-Study changes (see below), you will continue to receive the same amount of grants and/or scholarships as if you were attending classes on-campus and living on campus (if that was your intent). If your financial aid is affected by this change, you will be notified by Monday, August 3.

- **When will Student Accounts update my account?**

Student accounts will be updated by end of day, Friday, July 31. This update will include the removal of room and board charges and the reduction in mandatory fees noted above. Also as stated above, your account will be further updated if you choose the reduction in fall semester costs instead of a free course.

- **What will happen to my Work-Study?**

A limited number of students will be able to continue their Work-Study jobs online. Your Work-Study supervisor will reach out to you if this is the case for you. We expect to return to normal Work-Study operations in the spring.

- **Will some students be allowed to work remotely?**

There will be very limited opportunities for remote campus employment. More information will be available in the coming weeks.

- **Will I still be able to take out a loan?**

Yes, you can still borrow student loans if you need/want them. Student loans can help with off-campus expenses you have.

- **I signed up for the College's health insurance. Am I still covered?**

Yes, you are still covered if you reside in the United States. If you will be outside the United States, you will not be able to use the insurance and you should fill out the waiver form to indicate that you are not eligible.

- **Do I still need to fill out the health insurance waiver?**

If you do not intend to enroll in the College's student health insurance, or you are not eligible because you are outside of the United States, yes, you will still need to fill out the health insurance waiver by September 9<sup>th</sup>.

- **How will my payment plan be adjusted?**

Once your full-year statement is ready (with the room and board charges removed and the mandatory fees adjusted) you can recalculate your monthly payments and modify your Forester Payment Plan at [www.afford.com](http://www.afford.com).

- **I am a returning student who is expecting Boomer Bucks to be rolled over this semester. How can I access them?**

Returning students who retained unused Boomer Bucks when the campus closed during the spring semester will see them credited to their student accounts by August 7.

## **Athletics**

- **Will there be any fall semester athletic activities?**

There will be no in-person athletic meetings, practices, or competitions through December 31, 2020. Coaches will still keep in close contact with their teams and arrange for virtual connections via team meetings, skill development, and strength and conditioning coaching, etc. The athletic department will also continue to provide leadership and professional growth opportunities. For the recent Midwest Conference announcement suspending athletic competition please [click here](#), and visit the [Athletics page](#) for the latest information.

- **Will this decision impact athletic eligibility?**

No. For Division III student-athletes, participation in virtual meetings, practices, or workouts during the fall semester will not trigger the use of a season of participation. Additionally, the NCAA recently issued a blanket waiver regarding eligibility related to interruptions due to COVID-19. Visit the NCAA website for the [full announcement](#).

- **When will decisions be made about Spring Semester athletic activities for fall, winter and spring sports?**

Decisions about Spring Semester athletic activity for fall, winter, and spring sport student-athletes will be made later in the fall semester. We will continue to communicate updates as they evolve.

- **Will there be an opportunity for fall and winter sports to have a competitive season in the spring?**

We hope so. The College and our conference colleagues remain committed to building an academic and athletic experience for our student-athletes that is as safe and robust as possible, and we hope to offer opportunities for spring competition.

- **Will there be early return for student-athletes in January?**

Early return dates will depend on final plans for Spring Semester athletic competition and will be announced as soon as possible.

- **If a returning student-athlete chooses to take a leave of absence for the Fall Semester, are they allowed to participate in the athletic activities described above?**

Unfortunately, no, you must be a full-time student to engage with your team in athletic activity.

- **If an incoming first year student-athlete elects to defer their initial full-time enrollment beyond Fall 2020, what are they permitted to do in the interim?**

An incoming student who defers enrollment remains a prospective student-athlete under NCAA rules. They may not participate in any countable athletically-related activities with the institution's team or coaches prior to enrolling full-time at the institution, nor participate in voluntary athletics activities observed by the institution's strength and conditioning coaches.

## Campus Life / Student Engagement

- Can my club, organization, fraternity, or sorority continue to meet and offer programming?

Yes! We encourage student leaders to continue to engage their organization's members virtually, and to offer programming as appropriate. Soon, Student Affairs and the Gates Center will be reaching out to assist in these efforts.

- Can students get Zoom licenses?

We are happy to announce that all students will receive their own Zoom account, to ensure they can easily connect with any member of the campus community. Information will be forthcoming from ITS.

- How can I apply for an exception to live on campus?

Residence halls and dining facilities will be closed. A very limited number of students may be approved to have an exception to live on campus. Eligible students may include: international students who cannot get home, students with housing insecurity, students with vulnerable home circumstances that may impede remote learning, and students who have exhausted all other options for staying with friends and family. Jobs on campus will be very limited, and thus campus employment is not, in itself, justification for an exception. Please use [this form](#) to apply for an exception. Priority deadline for review by Residence Life is Wednesday, August 5 at noon, but the form will stay live until the end of August. Space is extremely limited, so get your application in early. The cost for living on campus is still being decided.

- Will any dining facilities be open?

No, dining facilities will be closed, and full meal plans will not be offered. For the small number of students who may be approved to remain on campus, arrangements are being made to offer food provisions through other means, and students will be housed in residence halls with kitchen access. More information about food and grocery shuttles will be provided to the impacted students in the days ahead.

- What services will still be offered at Health & Wellness?

Your well-being, both physically and emotionally, is our top concern. Consultation and crisis care is available to all students regardless of their location, and staff can assist with referrals and/or other resources. In addition, all students can continue to benefit from education and outreach from our Health & Wellness Center staff through virtual programming.

For your health needs, our Nurse Practitioner will continue to be available for phone/video consultation and will be in direct contact with any students personally affected by COVID-19 no matter where they are living. However, state law requires that the Nurse Practitioner can only provide actual medical care to those living in Illinois, so most students should plan to seek medical care from their local health care providers to ensure continuity of care.

For your mental health needs, our mental health therapists will continue to be available through phone/video consultation. However, state law requires that individual therapy services are only available to students living in Illinois. Some virtual support group seats will be available to out-of-state students, while others will be restricted to those residing in Illinois. Students can refer to information in advertisements that will come out in the Fall.

- **Will New Student Orientation and First Connection still happen?**

Yes! Both of these programs for new students will still happen virtually in August. The Gates Center and Intercultural Relations, respectively, will provide a new schedule and instructions directly to relevant students in the coming days. We're also planning for an in-person experience for first-years in January.

- **What should I do with my items at Mail Services?**

Please contact Mail Services if you need to adjust your forwarding address or if you need to arrange for something to be shipped to you. Be sure to check your accounts with Amazon and other online retailers to see that your default shipping address is not Lake Forest College campus.

- **What should I do with my belongings that I stored?**

If you stored your residence hall items with a third party vendor, please contact them directly to extend your storage until February 2021.

- **When do the residence halls open in January?**

Spring Semester classes begin on Monday, February 1, 2021. For returning students, the residence halls will open on Saturday and Sunday, January 30 and 31. A date for new student arrival will be announced once a winter New Student Orientation has been developed. Decisions about athletic pre-season arrivals will be announced as soon as possible.

## International Students

- What are the latest regulations from SEVP/ICE?

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) clarified in a July 24 [Broadcast Message](#) that U.S. colleges and universities are to follow the guidance issued at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic on March 9, 2020. This guidance allows international students who were in active F-1 status at that time to temporarily count remote classes towards a full course of study. The March SEVP guidance does **not** allow new students to enter the United States to study at an institution that is fully remote.

- How will the F-1 sponsorship for new students work? When should I get a new visa appointment with my consulate?

New international students will need to postpone their arrival to the United States to the spring semester. You will be issued a new I-20 form, which will reflect a spring semester start date (February 1, 2021). Sponsorship allows for entry into the country up to 30 days prior to our program's start date, and we will provide further information about a rescheduled First Connection, New Student Orientation, and athletic pre-season as soon as possible. Your SEVIS ID will not change, so if you already submitted your I-901 fee, the payment will remain valid for one year. If you have a visa appointment already scheduled, you should be able to keep that appointment and use your new I-20 with the February start date to obtain your F-1 visa. Please contact the SEVIS Coordinator with any questions.

- How will F-1 sponsorship for returning/continuing students work? Will I keep active F-1 student status?

Continuing F-1 students are able to maintain their active F-1 status and are allowed to enroll in the fully remote/online learning from outside or within the United States. F-1 students must continue to take a full course load of study, which requires at least three full Lake Forest College credits. F-1 students must stay in good communication with the DSO for fall SEVIS registration, which includes providing accurate address information.

## Campus Facilities

- Will college buildings and facilities be open to faculty, staff, and students living in the local area?



Decisions about academic buildings, the Sports and Recreation Center, the Donnelley & Lee Library, and the Mohr Student Center will be made by August 7 and communicated to the campus community. All residence halls and dining facilities will be closed.

## Leave of Absence / Deferring Admission

- I think I'd like to take a semester off. How can I take a Personal Leave of Absence?

A Personal Leave of Absence may be requested by students seeking to take one semester away from Lake Forest College. Please read the full Personal Leave of Absence [policy](#). Please note: the student remains enrolled at the College and thus may not take courses at other colleges/universities while on a Personal Leave. Students may seek a Personal Leave of Absence by submitting a written request to the Associate Dean of Students at [hoffman@lakeforest.edu](mailto:hoffman@lakeforest.edu).

- I'm a new student and think I'd like to defer my admission and start in spring 2021 instead. How do I do that?

Students who wish to defer their enrollment to the spring semester should contact their assigned admissions counselor or email [admissions@lakeforest.edu](mailto:admissions@lakeforest.edu). The \$500 deferral deposit has been waived. Admissions counselors, along with a first-year academic advisor, will help students prepare for their transition to the spring semester.

- How will my financial aid be affected if I make the decision to take a semester off?

Students who defer admission or take a leave of absence will have the same financial aid award (gift aid, loan) as they would for the fall semester, with the exception that there will be a limited number of work-study jobs available.

## For Faculty and Staff

- What support will there be for fall course planning?

The Transition Support Team will soon release a revised version of the "Fall 2020 Guidelines and Resources," organized for the remote semester. The current version of this contains the relevant information, but the new version will remove the in-person/hybrid guidance. Further, the Office of Faculty Development will continue to

facilitate planning workshops, along with the Director of Academic Technology. These workshops will be archived for later viewing.

- **Can I access campus to use a classroom or lab for remote teaching purposes?**

Specific instructions about access to academic facilities will be directly communicated to faculty in the near future.

- **Which staff will be required to work on campus, and which can work from home?**

Fall semester will look very similar to the summer for our staff members. Only staff categorized as “essential” need to work on campus, while those that can work effectively from home will continue to do so.

- **Will I be able to travel for professional reasons?**

College-sponsored conference travel is on hold until further notice. Some travel for recruitment and development purposes will be permitted with prior approval from the relevant Vice President.

## **Additional Information**

- **Are you confident that Spring 2021 will be on campus?**

We expect students will be safely able to return to campus for the spring semester. There are good reasons to plan for this. Medical experts believe that therapies for the coronavirus will advance significantly over the next few months, which means that people who get sick from the virus will be quickly able to receive new, effective treatments. Medical experts also believe vaccine trials this fall will likely prove successful. If they do, then vaccine distribution will occur most rapidly in an area with world-class healthcare, like ours.

- **If your questions were not answered above, you can email these departments directly:**
  - General questions: [coronavirus@lakeforest.edu](mailto:coronavirus@lakeforest.edu)
  - Academics (Transition Support Team): [tst@lakeforest.edu](mailto:tst@lakeforest.edu)
  - Athletics: [athletics@lakeforest.edu](mailto:athletics@lakeforest.edu)
  - Financial Aid: [finaid@lakeforest.edu](mailto:finaid@lakeforest.edu)
  - International/SEVIS Coordinator: [sortiz@lakeforest.edu](mailto:sortiz@lakeforest.edu)

- Residence Life: [reslife@lakeforest.edu](mailto:reslife@lakeforest.edu)
- Student Accounts: [studentaccounts@lakeforest.edu](mailto:studentaccounts@lakeforest.edu)
- Student Affairs: [coronavirus@lakeforest.edu](mailto:coronavirus@lakeforest.edu)
- Technology: [ithelp@lakeforest.edu](mailto:ithelp@lakeforest.edu)