

Questions from Student/Family Open Forum July 2020

Wi-Fi/ Residence Halls

Do the dorms have wi fi or are they hard wired?

Answer: Residence halls have ethernet and wifi, with upgraded wifi for all residence halls to allow for seamless access to HyFlex education this fall as needed.

Hy Flex/Academics

Do we need to download the HyFlex software or is it just a website?

Answer: HyFlex is not a software or a website. When an instructor designs a course for HyFlex, they design it with student choice in mind, and may include a number of technologies for students to participate remotely or in class. These technologies are web-based and may involve downloading a client to their machine (like Zoom, for example), or using a web browser to connect.

How do you handle assessments in HyFlex (meaning how are tests given)?

Answer: The learning management system that we use on campus called Blackboard, allows faculty to assess student learning via distance using standard formats for on-line examinations with question formats such as multiple/choice, true/false, or essay. Discussion boards can be used to foster interaction and can also be graded. Papers can be submitted on-line, and there are a variety of ways in which students can present projects virtually using technology. NDSU has used Blackboard for a number of years so most faculty are well-versed in its features.

If HyFlex is accessed from home, what speed internet connection is going to be most effective or required?

Answer: 25 megabits per second download/3 Mb per second upload minimum

What is the difference between hy-flex and zoom or teams.

Answer: HyFlex is short for hybrid-flexible. At NDSU, this means each course is built to give students and instructors a choice to attend either in person or remotely. The course still has a physical classroom and synchronous instruction, and the learning outcomes are the same regardless of mode of attendance. It uses technologies like Zoom or Teams for convening remote classes.

How long will we implement the HyFlex model for? Is it temporary only during the pandemic or will NDSU continue to use it long after this has all passed?

Answer: It's likely that universities will continue to use innovative models after the pandemic ends. Universities, K-12 school systems, non-profit organizations, businesses and industries are learning a lot about new ways to interact and work remotely. Although NDSU is known for high-quality learning and the campus experience that we offer students in the face-to-face environment, there will be times when being able to teach or learn remotely will be of great assistance. Moreover, employers are likely to expect their employees to be skilled in these methods because the workforce is also evolving.

Does Hyflex mean that my senior student can remain at home and participate online vs going in to actual face to face? Or are they only encouraged to use this option if they are sick?

Answer: While the face to face experience is the preferred method of instruction, HyFlex will allow students to participate from home in most scenarios (excluding some labs and experiential courses). Students should check with their advisors and instructors to find out the best scenario for participation in their courses.

How would lab classes work if an instructor does the HyFlex on a particular day?

Answer: Students should check with their instructors as lab courses may be handled uniquely.

As a chemistry major student, is it possible for us to take lectures through HyFlex and show up on campus just for the labs?

Answer: Students should check with their instructor regarding lectures and labs.

If this doesn't work, not necessarily just NDSU but on a national level due to an increase in covid rates and we have to switch from HyFlex to a fully online course schedule, is there a plan in place for allowing students to drop

courses are there plans to do pass/fail classes. Will we have to do housing/dining/wellness center refunds again? How will this affect scholarships?

Answer: We believe the HyFlex model will allow for seamless instruction even in a scenario where many students needed to leave campus and learn from home. We are instituting risk reduction measures to reduce the likelihood that we will need to move students off campus.

For classes that can be well suited to the Hyflex model, will students be able to complete their classes from start to finish online?

Answer: Yes, classes that are well suited to HyFlex may be completed from a distance start to finish remotely.

Can a student complete a full class load and not come to campus?

Answer: Yes, for many students it is possible for a student to complete a full class load and home and not come to campus. Students should check with their advisors to be sure that their classes will all be offered HyFlex or in an online format.

If the student is well but is uncomfortable with attending personally, is the student able to attend online w/o negative consequences?

Answer: Yes, for many students it is possible for a student to complete a full class load and home and not come to campus. Students should check with their advisors to be sure that their classes will all be offered HyFlex or in an online format.

What is the plan for social distancing in the lab settings?

Answer: It depends on the size of the space. Some of our labs are quite large and students can space out to a social distance of 6' or more. Other spaces are smaller, in which case, we may have to rotate students coming into the physical lab space on alternate days. Faculty will inform students of how the labs will be conducted once the semester starts. For some labs, students may be able to participate virtually or simulation software may be used to enhance the learning experience on days when they can't be in the physical space. Labs may also be designed so students can work independently to master content or prepare in advance for the work they will do once they are back in the physical space prior to returning to the lab.

Covid-19 Related Questions

What happens if a student contacts Covid-19 and is not well enough to complete coursework. Will they lose a semester or what about their financial aid etc.

Answer: Students are not well enough to complete coursework should contact the [Dean of Students Office](#) and request a Class Absence Notification. The Dean of Students will work with students to communicate with instructors and explore options, which may include requesting an incomplete grade until coursework can be finished, accessing academic support services, requesting accommodations for a temporary medical condition, or in some circumstances, withdrawing from some or all courses.

If a student tests positive for Covid-19, will there be a process for notifying their classmates and other potentially contacted individuals including faculty (contact tracing)?

Answer: The ND Department of Health will conduct contact tracing for positive cases of the virus in an employee or student. This means when the Health Department is notified of a positive test by the testing laboratory, they notify the provider that sampled the patient who then notifies the patient of the positive test. The Health Department, after waiting a sufficient amount of time for that contact to occur, ~30 minutes, will also contact the patient to start the epidemiological contact tracing. They will inform the patient of the required isolation steps they are to place themselves under, and then begin investigating possible contacts (which could include other students, roommates or faculty members). Following established criteria for this virus, they will ask the patient where they traveled and who they were near/around in the recent past. When the patient shares this data, they will dig in to find out more specifics, i.e., how close they were to the other individuals or groups of people and for what duration. The criteria they are using to consider contacts as 'close' is 10-15 minutes and within 12' distance—they are doubling the 6' social distance guidance in the investigation phase to add a margin for error. Anyone who falls within those criteria are then notified that they have come into close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 and informed of their

duty to quarantine themselves for 14 days, monitoring their symptoms, and if necessary, getting connected with a medical provider should they start to experience symptoms of the disease.

What medical care will a student receive if they become positive for Covid-19 (i.e. does anyone check on them, temps)? If they need to be quarantined will they have to move out of their dorm? And can or will they be able to stay on campus?

Answer: For on-campus students, while waiting on test results, students will quarantine in their units. When in quarantine status:

- Contactless meal delivery will be arranged through Dining Services.
- The private accessible bathrooms located on every floor of the low-rise residence halls will be locked and available only to students in quarantine.
- Residence Life will do daily virtual wellness checks for students in quarantine.

For on campus students in cases where the test result is positive, alternative housing will be provided In a Residence Hall set aside for this purpose. When students are in isolation status:

- Rooms will be set with a basic conference linen package, so a student doesn't need to bring personal belongings.
- Thermometer, sanitizing wipes, tissues, soap, hand sanitizer, and toiletries will be provided.
- Contactless meal delivery will be arranged through Dining.
- Custodial, maintenance, dining, and live-in staff will be provided with necessary training and PPE (as per CDC guidelines) when cleaning and entering these spaces.
- Residence Life will be prepared to assist students with their personal needs (medication pick up, delivery of hygiene supplies, etc.) while students are in isolation.
- Residence Life will do daily virtual wellness checks for students in isolation.
- Students will be released from isolation when 10 days have passed since symptoms began AND the student is fever free.

If the student lives off campus with several roommates, would they quarantine in a campus facility or in their home w/roommates? Will their roommate have to quarantine as well?

Answer: Off campus students would quarantine in their off-campus home with their roommates

If our student is coming from a state with high Covid-19, will they need to self-quarantine when they get there?

Answer: Not at this time. NDSU will follow the guidance of the ND Department of Health.

Would the university close off all spaces which were determined to have been exposed to positive cases? Would all students exposed by tracing be required to quarantine/test?

Answer: Spaces determined to have been exposed to positive cases will be thoroughly cleaned. All students exposed by contract tracing will be required by ND Department of Health to quarantine and test.

Face Coverings

Will masks be required in the common areas of residence halls?

Answer: Face coverings will be required in classrooms, at Student Health Service, and in other spaces where 6 foot distancing cannot be maintained for more than 10 minutes. Students should be prepared to supply their own face coverings. Click [here](#) for more information on face coverings.

What are the enforcement measures in place to ensure the mask requirement in classrooms is followed, and will the mask mandate be extended to all indoor spaces on the campus?

Answer: If an individual chooses not to wear a face covering in a space where it is required, the individual will be asked to comply with the policy. If the individual continues to violate the face covering policy, refer to Human Resources (for staff), College Dean (for faculty) and to the Dean of Students Office (for students).

Testing

We believe you have put some great efforts into the classroom and public areas to mitigate risk during the pandemic. For obvious reasons, the greatest risk we perceive of Covid-19 spread is within the residence hall environment once all students are present. Has any thought been given to following Purdue University's testing protocol prior to students returning to campus? While their testing cannot identify a student, who may test positive post-testing, it can identify those returning to campus who are asymptomatic. What is the university's position on this?

Answer: NDSU is working with the North Dakota University System and the North Dakota Department of Health to offer several mass testing events across the state of North Dakota prior to the start of classes. More information can be found [here](#). Out of state students can travel to the nearest NDUS testing location. Testing closer to home is encouraged if it is available and distance prohibits travelling to North Dakota.

Do students need to get tested before they move in?

Answer: Students are encouraged to attend the mass testing events scheduled throughout the month of August prior to moving in. While students will not be required to report their results, students testing positive are asked to follow public health guidance and isolate at their home place of residence.

Move in

My daughter is on the dance team and is moving in early on Monday, the 17th. Do we need to sign up for a time?

Answer: The dance team coach will be working with Jason Medders in Residence Life to arrange their specific time for check ins if it is occurring outside of the times we've offered.

Marching band students are scheduled to move in on August 19 for band camp and were told not to sign up for a move in slot like the rest of the students. If for some reason band is cancelled, will students be assigned a different date or will they will arrive as planned on August 19?

Answer: If they were canceled, they would still be able to sign up for a date and time that works for them on the 20-22.

Can senior students move into the on-campus apartments that Saturday or do they need to make an appointment for a time?

Answer: We will have apartment check ins offered on that Saturday so they would just indicate that date when they respond to the assignment offer.

Is Niskanen addition considered apart of residence life like the dorms?

Answer: The Niskanen expansion is not a residence hall, but yes Residence Life operates the area. They fall under their own contract and live there year round vs. contracting for specific semesters.

Dining Centers

Are the dining centers going to function any differently?

Answer: NDSU Dining Centers are following the state of North Dakota Department of Health guidelines. Specific information can be found [here](#).

Will all of the dining centers offer takeout options?

Answer: The WDC will offer takeout meals.

International Students

Wondering if any specific instructions or policies for international students (both Grad and Undergrad) under this new HyFlex model learning?

Answer: Credit load minimum requirements for undergraduate and graduate students remain the same as usual. The July 24 SEVP Fall 2020 Guidance does allow for more than one online course, but as NDSU is providing in-person courses, you should take the least amount of online courses you can and still continue to make normal academic progress. When reviewing your Fall class enrollment at NDSU, remember: **a minimum of one 3 credit course must be face-to-face/in-person.**

Also, are there any changes regarding VISA and immigration policies for international students?

Answer: The July 24 SEVP Fall Guidance does not require us to make any changes to F-1 immigration documents for current students. Most routine U.S. visa services had been suspended since March 2020. However, an announcement was made in mid-July 2020 with regard to a phased resumption of visa services at U.S. Consulates. This varies by post and country, so if applying for an initial or renewal of the F-1 visa stamp, please contact the U.S. Embassy in your country directly. Credit load minimum requirements for undergraduate and graduate students remain the same as usual. The July 24 SEVP Fall 2020 Guidance does allow for more than one online course, but as NDSU is providing in-person courses, you should take the least amount of online courses you can and still continue to make normal academic progress. When reviewing your Fall class enrollment at NDSU, remember: **a minimum of one 3 credit course must be face-to-face/in-person.** In general, other federal regulations and processes as they pertain to F-1 students remain in effect as usual. However, you should reach out to the Office of International Student and Study Abroad Services if you have any questions about your situation.

As an international grad student with assistantship, if I had waived off the assistantship due to current guidelines and take only online classes. Will I be able to receive the assistantship from mid semester if I arrive at the US after August?

Answer: For students who have chosen to enroll in courses and are attending remotely from their home country (or another country outside the U.S.) and who then obtain the F-1 visa, they can arrive mid-semester as long as they are enrolled in the minimum number of credits a graduate student needs to maintain F-1 status (9 credits without an assistantship or 6 credits with an assistantship) In addition, at least one of their 3-credit courses must be classified as in-person, face-to-face course. With regard to whether or not the assistantship stipend would be available mid-semester, students will need to confirm this with their academic advisor as it will vary based on department and situation.

Sanitation

Other than cleaning surfaces in the residence halls, are there any other measures being taken for air borne virus particles?

Answer: NDSU requested \$11.3 million as part of a system-wide HVAC modification effort. The application is now making its way through the stages of review and final approval is expected around mid-August.

Are there metrics (in ND specifically) which NDSU is following which when/if we hit the campus will close again and courses will be shifted to solely online learning - or will NDSU only be following cues from the ND Department of Health (and Gov. Burgum)?

Answer: NDSU will follow guidance from the North Dakota Department of Health.

Are the workout/rec facilities going to be open to all students?

Answer: The Wallman Wellness Center is currently open and will continue to follow North Dakota Department of Health guidelines.

Bookstore

Should students order all books now and have them sent to their dorm or home?

Answer: We are encouraging all students to shop early online or in the store. Residence Hall delivery is the best option for our students living on campus, orders must be placed by August 12, 2020 to be eligible for RH delivery. We also have a pickup at store option. We have extended hours the week of August 16th:

Monday – Friday, August 17 – 21: 7:30 – 5:00

Saturday, August 22: 9:00 – 6:00

Sunday, August 23: 11:00 – 6:00

Compare prices and shop: <https://www.ndsubookstore.com/SelectTermDept>

Bring your booklist for in-store service: <https://www.ndsubookstore.com/1-2-3>

Can you explain the inclusive access program?

Answer: Inclusive Access is chosen by the professor and are usually an ebook **with** interactive online assignments, multimedia presentations, virtual tutoring, dynamic study and self-assessment tools. Ebooks are typically just an ebook without any additional material assigned. When we list Ebooks on our site it is usually a **format option** for students, just like used or rental books are format options. It is one way we give students a wide range of price points. Students automatically 'get' the material once their professor puts the information in blackboard. We start sending out emails in the beginning of August that will tell students if they are in the program and which classes it is assigned to. We then bill their account automatically unless they opt out. Please note if they opt out, we aren't able to sell them anything else. By law, IA is the cheapest version of the professor selected materials.

<https://www.ndsubookstore.com/digital>

To see what an IA book looks like on our site, look at ENGL 110, section

2653: <https://www.ndsubookstore.com/CourseMaterials>

To see what a book with multiple formats, including an ebook, see CE 204, section

2517: <https://www.ndsubookstore.com/CourseMaterials>

We also sent a list serv to all student on 7/15/2020 that gave bullet points on this program.

Are there student discounts at the bookstore for computers?

Answer: All our Apple computers are educationally priced. By being a NDSU student you are able to get anywhere from \$50 to \$200 off the regular retail price of your computer. Annual Apple Back to School deals are only available in our educational channel, they aren't available at 'big box stores.' The current promotion: Buy a qualifying MAC or iPad and get a free set of AirPods.

The HP computers we offer are HP Business class computers. The business class of computers are a higher grade of computer than what is offered in the big box stores. These computers are built to withstand the daily wear and tear to meet the demands of college life.

We also service anything that we sell.

Miscellaneous Questions

My son is first year freshman and his orientation is August 21, does the orientation include class registration or does he need to register for classes on his own?

Answer: The August 21 orientation will include registration for classes.

I've already registered for classes, but now that my AP scores have come in I'd like to try to get into a more advanced class. (Specifically, taking computer science II vs computer Science I). Do I change this where I registered for classes or is there someone I need to contact?

Answer: Andrea Hein Yes, you can make this change in [Campus Connection](#) where you originally registered for classes, however, it is a good idea to check with your advisor prior to making changes to your class schedule.

What is the best way to find out how far it is to walk between the classes I registered for? I am a first-year student.

Answer: Most classroom locations at NDSU are within 10 minutes walking distance from one another. However, NDSU has a mobile application called [Navigate](#) that automatically loads your class schedule, including Global Positioning System mapping to help you find the buildings. To download the app, search for “Navigate Student” in Google Play or the App Store, and you will be instructed how to download and log in.

I'm concerned about my student having to take public transportation to the downtown architecture building.

What measures are being taken for this situation? Bus exposure.

Answer: MATBUS is not controlled by the University, but the current COVID-19 information transportation may be found [here](#).

Wondering what tutoring will look like?

Answer: We are taking lots of precautions for tutoring at ACE this semester. First, we will no longer be offering drop-in tutoring. Instead, students will preschedule 30 minute individual appointments through Navigate to work with the tutors. This not only decreases the amount of people in the space overall, but allows for proper social distancing. I have rearranged the tutoring rooms, so I've created “tutor pods.” Basically, each tutor gets assigned a whiteboard (which they can sit or stand at) and there is a desk that separates them from the students by at least 6 feet. Masks are going to be highly encouraged in all of our spaces, but only mandated in the case the 6 foot distance cannot be maintained. We have lots of sanitizing stations around ACE, so we will regularly be cleaning the spaces as students and tutors arrive and leave. All markers and erasers will also be sanitized after each use. In addition to in-person tutoring, we will also offer online tutoring (which is also scheduled through Navigate), and students will receive a link to access the Bb Collaborate session at the time of booking.

Will there still be public spaces for studying between class for off campus students?

Answer: Yes, there are many places for off campus students to study between classes including the Memorial Union, Library, A. Glenn Hill Building, and other spaces. Furniture in these spaces has been moved to encourage social distancing.

Is there a location where we can find on student on campus job opportunities?

Answer: Students can find information about on campus jobs on CAREERLINK: <https://career-advising.ndsu.edu/front-page/12980-2/>