

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE:

*Salisbury University
Return-to-Campus
Overview*

Salisbury
UNIVERSITY



TOWN HALL QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

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What is SU's plan to make sure the campus is safe during the COVID-19 pandemic?

- SU has released its Back-to-Campus Overview, highlighting areas that will be addressed prior to the return of students, faculty and staff to campus: www.salisbury.edu/news/SU-Return-to-Campus-Overview.pdf. Additional updates will be posted on SU's [COVID-19 webpage](#) throughout the summer.

Will SU hold in-person classes this fall?

- SU expects classes this fall to be held in a variety of formats, including face-to-face, hybrid (some face-to-face instruction and some virtual), remote and online. Please visit [SU's COVID-19 Informed Students & Families page](#) for more information.

Some University System of Maryland campuses have announced a modification of the academic calendar due to COVID-19, starting and ending the fall semester earlier than normal. What are SU's plans?

- Classes will begin as scheduled on Monday, August 31, and continue through Friday, December 11, with finals from December 14-18. This calendar will continue online should circumstances require the return to a distance-learning-only instruction model prior to December 18.

What cleaning protocols will be used at SU this fall?

- SU has increased its frequency of disinfecting all frequently touched and hard surfaces that may come in contact with hands, including handrails, doorknobs, elevator controls, switches, classroom desktops and similar items. In addition, all common areas are cleaned daily to reduce germs from getting tracked throughout buildings. More information, including a cleaning frequency guide and details on what equipment and chemicals are being used for these purposes, is available under the "Campus Cleaning Procedures" tab on SU's [COVID-19 Informed Employees webpage](#).

The Student Health Services form for new students requires a vaccination record, but my doctor is not seeing patients due to COVID-19. What are my options?

- Most doctor's offices will send vaccination records without an in-person appointment. Those still unable to access vaccination records may check with their high school, as records sometimes are kept on file there. State immunization registries also may have that information. In-state students may check Maryland's [online database](#). Most incoming students likely already have all required vaccines. For those who do not, they are offered at many pharmacies as well as by most primary care physicians.

If in-person instruction ends early in the fall due to the threat of COVID-19, as it did in the spring, how will student housing and dining refunds be handled?

- Any refunds for the fall will be handled the same way they were in the spring, with disbursement through BankMobile. As during the last round of refunds, students will be able to select whether the disbursement is distributed into their existing bank account or a BankMobile account, or received via mailed check.

If I take out a student loan, can any future scholarships I receive be applied to help pay off that loan?

- As long as there is no balance on a student's SU account and the donor or agency granting the scholarship does not specify that it must be used for specific costs, students may request that scholarship funds be applied back to their loan balances. Visit the [SU Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships webpage](#) for more information.

If course modalities are changed to remote and online-only later in the semester due to COVID-19, what resources will be available?

- At this time, SU is planning for students to be on campus in the fall. Should a change in circumstances prevent that, SU's award-winning Center for Student Achievement, Supplemental Instruction (SI) program and University Writing Center will continue service for students remotely. SU's College Reading and Learning Association-certified SI and tutoring programs provide support for approximately 70 courses, staffed with 40 tutors and peer leaders.
- SU also continues to provide remote student counseling and services for students with disabilities via telephone and Zoom. Counseling services provided include crisis intervention, consultation, individual therapy and support groups. Beginning in the fall, the Disability Resource Center also will offer peer mentoring for first-year and transfer students. The level of student services provided by SU even during remote learning meets or exceeds similar resources provided by other regional comprehensive universities of its size nationwide.

Will students on campus this fall be tested for COVID-19?

- Yes, SU will have the ability to test students and will have the resources for faculty and staff who want to be tested.

How will the dining hall work if buffet service is not an option this fall due to COVID-19 restrictions?

- The Commons dining hall may look a little different this fall. Current plans are to limit self-service areas and provide more pre-portioned items, as well as to provide touchless swipe-in entry. Planned changes also extend to retail dining locations, which will feature expanded grab-and-go and full-meal menu options. A new advance ordering and payment system also will be installed at retail locations and at made-to-order stations at the Commons.

Campuswide, wellness shields will be installed at all cash-handling stations in dining areas, and high-touch food preparation locations will be cleaned even more frequently than usual. Students and other guests also will have access to more hand-sanitizing and wipe-dispensing stations in and around dining areas to supplement handwashing.

How will labs be handled if course modalities are changed to remote and online-only later in the semester due to COVID-19?

- At this time, SU is planning for students to be on campus in the fall. Should a change in circumstances mandate remote learning, many SU faculty members this summer are working on creative ways to ensure labs still can be conducted, whether that's through a virtual simulation, at-home lab kits or other methods. Individual faculty will be able to provide more information to students about their class' individual contingency plans.

What is SU doing for its international students?

- SU is paying careful attention to the more than 100 international students already enrolled and dozens more who have been admitted to academic programs for the fall. We are working on continuity of instruction strategies for students currently abroad who may not be able to re-enter the U.S. immediately in August, and we are in close communication with international students who have remained in Salisbury and are far from their families and support networks during these challenging times. The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us all how interconnected we are, regardless of borders and nationalities.

How will SU's in-person operations under COVID-19 affect the freshman experience?

- Those coming to SU for the first time this fall will have plenty of opportunities to meet new people, make new friends and connect with their peers and others in meaningful ways. Like most campuses in the U.S. and abroad planning to open in the fall, SU will do so with an emphasis on social distancing. This means that some traditional large-scale events, such as athletics games and social activities, may not take place as they normally would; however, SU is working on virtual versions of some of these events, to ensure incoming students have the best experience possible.

Are visitors allowed on campus?

- Only members of the SU community and invited guests are encouraged to be on campus this fall. SU buildings are open only to those with Gull Card access. Non-campus community members must pass an in-person COVID-19 screening, obtain a visitor badge, wear a face mask at all times while in SU buildings (and outdoors when appropriate) and maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between others when possible. For more information, please visit [SU's COVID-19 webpage](#).

How will SU's COVID-19 operations affect student employment?

- Hiring decisions, including those regarding student employees, are made by individual divisions, departments and offices based on need and budget. Current student employees with questions relating to COVID-19 operations should reach out directly to their supervisors.

Is mold an issue at SU as it has been at other campuses in Maryland and the U.S.?

- Mold is not a widespread issue on SU's campus. When mold is reported in residence halls or other buildings, representatives from SU's Physical Plant take immediate action to analyze the issue and take corrective action as needed. These incidents typically are isolated. SU's [Sustainability and Environmental Safety Office](#) also works to educate students about how to prevent mildew and mold by maintaining the climate and humidity in their residence hall rooms.

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1101 Camden Avenue • Salisbury, MD 21801
www.salisbury.edu



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