



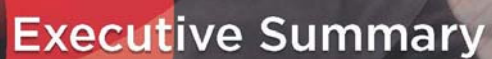
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COVID-19 Working Group



**FALL 2021 SEMESTER
OPERATIONAL PLAN**



Executive Summary



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
COVID-19 Working Group
Fall 2021 Semester Operational Plan

Since the onset of the COVID-19 global health pandemic in March 2020, Radford University has been a leader in continuing our great work and providing an in-person experience. As a Radford family with robust operations in both Radford and Roanoke, we have done so with a constant focus on the health, safety, and well-being of all Highlanders and the broader community.

Following our transition to a fully virtual environment during the Spring 2020 semester, we reopened campus on July 27, 2020 with new health and safety measures and protocols in place. And, throughout the 2020-2021 academic year, we demonstrated our ability to provide a safe learning and living environment for all Highlander students, and a safe working environment for all Highlander faculty and staff members.

As we move forward together to begin a new semester and academic year, we will continue to place a priority on the well-being of our campus and our community. As such, we will make a shift to return to normal operations, but keep a number of protocols in place to ensure that we can protect our students, faculty, and staff, while fulfilling our mission of teaching, research, and service!



ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Due to the continued vaccine rollout, including the increased supply and projected timeline to vaccinate all interested individuals, Radford University will return to the traditional academic calendar and follow the previously published Fall 2021 academic calendar with the observation of a one-day Fall Break and a week-long Thanksgiving Break. The calendar is as follows.

- *Tuesday, August 17, 2021 through Saturday, August 21, 2021:* Residence Halls Open with Student Move-In and COVID-19 Entry Testing
- *Monday, August 23, 2021:* Fall Classes Begin
- *Sunday, August 29, 2021:* Last Day for Undergraduate Students to Add/Drop Classes
- *Monday, September 6, 2021:* Labor Day (Classes in Session)
- *Monday, September 6, 2021:* Last Day to Change Pass/Fail or Audit Options, Last Day for Graduate Students to Add/Drop, Last Day for Graduate Students to Apply for Fall Graduation, Census Date, and Last Day to Withdraw with a Full Tuition Refund
- *Friday, October 8, 2021:* Fall Break (No Classes in Session)
- *Friday, October 15, 2021:* Mid-Semester Grades Due by 10:00 a.m.
- *Friday, October 29, 2021:* Last Day to Withdraw from One or More (but not all) Classes with a Grade of "W"
- *Friday, November 12, 2021:* Last Day to Withdraw from the University (all classes) with a Grade of "W"

- *Saturday, November 20, 2021 through Sunday, November 28, 2021*: Thanksgiving Break (No Classes in Session)
- *Friday, December 3, 2021*: Last Day of Classes
- *Monday, December 6, 2021 through Thursday, December 9, 2021*: Fall Exams
- *Friday, December 10, 2021*: Main Campus Graduate Degree Conferral and Winter Commencement Ceremony
- *Saturday, December 11, 2021*: Main Campus Undergraduate Degree Conferral and Winter Commencement Ceremonies
- *Sunday, December 12, 2021*: Radford University Carilion (RUC) Undergraduate and Graduate Degree Conferral and Winter Commencement Ceremony
- *Monday, December 13, 2021*: Grades Due by 10:00 a.m.



HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

After much review and in-depth analysis, the following health and safety protocols will remain in place for the Fall 2021 semester to ensure that Radford University maintains precautions and prioritizes the well-being of students, faculty, and staff, as well as visitors.

The following items will continue.

- Strict enforcement of the Commonwealth of Virginia masking requirement;
- Six feet of physical distancing in classrooms, laboratories, common spaces, and meeting rooms;
- 50-person classroom capacity with an available option for “large” classes to meet in a blended/hybrid format or in a fully face-to-face format through an available exemption due to faculty resources and/or accreditation requirements;
- Full compliance with the Commonwealth of Virginia social gathering limitations (both indoor and outdoor);
- Daily symptom tracker for all students, faculty, and staff;
- Dedicated entry and exit points for buildings;
- Two-person capacity in all elevators; and
- Visitor requirements for pre-registration process on main campus and check-in process at RUC for non-students, faculty, and staff.



AN IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT CONTINUED PHYSICAL DISTANCING

As of the release of the Fall 2021 Semester Operational Plan, no federal, state, or local updates have been issued with regard to prior guidance for six feet of physical distancing in community settings, specifically college campuses. If such guidance is issued, Radford University will stay the course with the current classroom, laboratory, common area, and meeting space configurations. This is being done to ensure Radford University can continue its operations and carry out its

mission despite any regional or local changes with regard to the continued presence and possible spread of COVID-19.



ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Alternate Learning Arrangements for Students and Alternate Working Arrangements for Employees

- Due to the continued progress associated with the vaccine rollout and return to normal operations in many areas, alternate arrangements for students and employees for the Fall 2021 can be requested and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Students seeking a fully online schedule should examine any and all online course offerings.
- Any questions about Alternate Learning Arrangements for Students should be directed to the Dean of Students Office by calling 540-831-6297 or emailing dos-web@radford.edu.
- Any questions about Alternate Working Arrangements for Employees should be directed to the Department of Human Resources by calling 540-831-5008 or emailing hr@radford.edu.
- Both offices are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but observe all University closures and holidays.

Athletics

- Radford Athletics will engage in practice and competitive play in accordance with NCAA and Big South Conference requirements.

Gathering Limitation for On-Campus and Off-Campus Events

- For the Fall 2021 semester, Radford University will follow the Commonwealth of Virginia gathering limitations for both indoor and outdoor events, which applies to both on and off-campus settings.
- Please note that classroom and laboratory instruction, as well as clinical rotations and field experiences, are exempt from such limitations based on assigned COVID-19 room capacities.
- If necessary, the University will implement stricter limits to respond to any campus and/or community transmission of COVID-19.

Student Health Services

- Throughout the Fall 2021 semester, staff in the Student Health Center will make any necessary adjustments to their process and staffing based on student needs and utilization.

Travel

- For the Fall 2021 semester, Radford University students, faculty, and staff will be permitted to engage in University-sponsored travel with approval from the appropriate division head.
- Personal travel of students, faculty, and staff must follow Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for any recommended testing and/or quarantine.

Student Move-In

- For Fall 2021, students will move into residence halls over an extended period of five days and utilize a structured reservation process for arrival.
- Move-in information will be distributed by the Division of Student Affairs by August 4, 2021, including a method to sign-up for appointments.
- Details regarding move-in logistics and support, including any available equipment and other forms of support, will be provided by August 4, 2021.
- Students who are selected for entry testing will be required to comply in order to gain access to their on-campus residence hall or University-operated off-campus apartment.

COVID-19 Entry Testing

- For Fall 2021, entry testing notifications will be sent to selected students by the Division of Student Affairs no later than August 10, 2021.
- Main campus entry testing will be held on Tuesday, August 17, 2021 through Saturday, August 21, 2021 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Young Hall.
- RUC entry testing will be held on Saturday, August 21, 2021 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Carilion Roanoke Community Hospital in the Board Room located on the 3rd floor.
- Please note that any required testing, as part of move-in and/or entry, will be scheduled and completed in order for test results to be returned prior to the first day of class.
- Students selected for entry testing who have been fully vaccinated can provide their vaccine card to eliminate the testing requirement.
- Students selected for entry testing who have not been vaccinated, but are interested in receiving a vaccine, should contact the Dean of Students Office prior to their arrival on campus or in the local area.

Quarantine and Isolation Housing

- For the Fall 2021 semester, Radford University will offer quarantine and isolation housing for main campus students living in on-campus residence halls and RUC students living in University-leased housing.
- For main campus, such housing will be available at an off-campus location.
- For RUC, such housing will be located in the Patrick Henry.
- All quarantine and isolation housing needs will be administered by the Dean of Students Office.

COVID-19 Weekly Testing

- For Fall 2021, students, faculty, and staff interested in COVID-19 testing will have access to open/walk-up testing on a weekly basis.
- On the main campus, testing will be available every Monday and Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Young Hall as the Buchanan House will no longer be utilized to support Student Health Center operations.
- At RUC, testing will be available the first and third Wednesday of each month and the second and fourth Friday of each month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Carilion Roanoke Community Hospital in the Board Room located on the 3rd floor.

- For symptomatic students, additional testing opportunities will be available by appointment through Student Health Services for main campus students by calling 540-831-5111 and RUC students by calling 540-795-3273.

COVID-19 Vaccine Process

- Beginning with the Fall 2021 semester, students who arrive on campus or in the local area and have not received a vaccination, but are interested in receiving one, can contact the Dean of Students Office, which will work in collaboration with the Office of Emergency Management, Student Health Services, and local health districts regarding vaccine availability and administration.
- Also, for the Fall 2021 semester, new employees who are hired and have not received a vaccination, but are interested in receiving one, can contact the Office of Emergency Management, which will coordinate with local health districts for the vaccine.
- For individuals who were employed by Radford University at the time of the campus clinic, but opted not to participate, the local health district is the appropriate entity to assist with vaccine needs and/or requests.
- Due to the emergency use authorization, the Commonwealth of Virginia and its agencies, including Radford University, cannot require students, faculty, or staff to be vaccinated; therefore, vaccine requirements cannot be considered by the University at this time.

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We look forward to a successful Fall 2021 semester, which will not be possible without the full cooperation, continued flexibility, and unwavering support of students, faculty, and staff! Any questions regarding the Fall 2021 Semester Operational Plan should be directed to COVID19@radford.edu.

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