

Campus Readiness Plan

Salve Regina University's opening plan for the 2020-2021 academic year begins with our commitment to the health, safety and security of our students, faculty and staff. We are guided by the principles of upholding academic integrity, the quality of a Mercy education, and the transformative opportunities of a residential student experience. We are also driven by our desire to be responsible members of the larger communities within which our campuses operate. Thus, our plan is informed by guidance from the Rhode Island Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American College Health Association.

Salve Regina enrolls approximately 2,600 undergraduate and graduate students who are supported by 400 faculty and staff. As a smaller institution with many buildings and a small, average class size of 19 in normal times, we have some advantages when trying to maintain social distancing and limiting group sizes.

Still, we anticipate some substantial modifications to life on campus in the fall, including:

- Physical changes to campus to reduce the population density of classrooms, residence halls and other communal spaces.
- Large-scale deployment of classroom technology to support instruction whether a student is in the classroom or participating remotely.
- New cleaning and sanitation policies with a special emphasis on high-touch surfaces.
- A University-wide commitment to health screenings, symptom monitoring and the common courtesy of face coverings.

Although plans could change subject to state guidelines and restrictions, the University is currently planning to host limited athletic contests in the fall. Athletes will begin arriving Aug. 12, when the football team returns to campus. Field hockey and men's soccer will return on the 18th, women's soccer the 19th, volleyball the 21st and cross country the 27th. Decisions about athletics are being made in conjunction with the state of Rhode Island, the NCAA and the Commonwealth Coast Conference and are subject to change based on public health conditions.

We anticipate the campus will formally reopen for new student move-in and Orientation on Sept. 1, with returning students arriving over the following five days, and classes resuming as originally scheduled on Sept. 9. Our current plan is to offer the full semester in dual modality, as described below, and to end the semester as scheduled on Dec. 19. However, our plan will be flexible and responsive to changes in the outbreak and related local, state and national guidance.

Salve Regina University is a Mercy institution. We take seriously the call to walk with others through the challenges of life. Few of us imagined that a global pandemic would be the challenge we faced together in 2020, but it is. And we will get through it together.

Campus Calendar

Sept. 1-2, 2020	New Student Move-In <i>The annual right-of-passage will take place over two days, with some modifications to accommodate for social distancing.</i>
Sept. 3-7, 2020	Welcome Week (Orientation, Exploriation and Service Plunge) Returning Student Move-In
Sept. 8, 2020	Convocation <i>The traditional start of the academic year is being reimagined for the era of social distancing.</i>
Sept. 9, 2020	Classes Start
Dec. 11, 2020	Last Day of Classes
Dec. 19, 2020	Exams End

Classroom Experience

- Our academic calendar remains the same (Sept. 8-Dec. 19) with adjustments to move-in dates and Orientation to accommodate social distancing.
- Students who are unable to return to campus due to border restrictions or concerns related to the pandemic will be able to enroll in a full-time schedule remotely.
- Salve Regina's undergraduate and graduate courses will be offered in two modalities: in the classroom and remotely to allow for students and faculty to attend in person or remotely as circumstances change. Each classroom space will be outfitted with videoconferencing systems and resources to enable livestreaming and capture of each lecture offered for students to access in real-time or after the fact.
- Classroom space has been reduced by 45-60 percent due to group size restrictions and social distancing requirements. To accommodate those restrictions, we have located additional rooms for undergraduate instruction and modified our academic schedule to extend to weekday evenings. Beginning July 9, you will be able to see which courses are being taught online for the semester in My Salve.
- For those classes too large to meet as a whole given current social distancing requirements, students will be assigned to learning groups. When one group attends in person, other groups will participate remotely, taking advantage of the University's substantial investment in new classroom technology. All students attending from campus will have in-person classroom experiences; however, students may attend one day a week for a specific class, rather than two, depending on the size of the class.
- Finally, classes will end each day at staggered times to adhere to social distancing guidelines in hallways.

Life on Campus

Move-Ins

- To allow for social distancing, new and returning student move-ins will now be scheduled in three-hour appointments over multiple days. In late July, the Residence Life team will be providing a scheduling tool in MyHousing for students to sign up online for a move-in time.
- First-year and transfer move-in days will be Tuesday, Sept. 1 and Wednesday, Sept. 2. Returning student move-in days will be Sunday Sept. 6, and Monday, Sept. 7.
- To ease density on move-in days, local students will be given an option to drop off items earlier.
- Two family members from the same household will be allowed to accompany each student during the move-in process.

Orientation

- Orientation for new students has been redesigned to allow for social distancing. The first-year class will be assigned into groups of 20 or fewer students based on their assigned First Year Transitions (FYT) course. Students will stay in these FYT groups throughout the Orientation period and will be assigned to one or two peer mentors who will accompany their activities.
- Indoor and outdoor spaces across campus have been identified where these groups can take part in Orientation programming on a rotational basis, while maintaining social distancing. Some activities will be conducted virtually as needed.

Residence Halls

- Salve Regina University will open with a housing capacity of 1,041 students reduced from 1,264 due to social distancing requirements. Most rooms will be at single and double capacity and there will be 29 triples and five quads based upon spaces where square footage is large enough for social distancing.
- Salve Regina is contracting with the Newport Marriott Hotel to resolve the need for additional rooms.

New Residence Hall Policies

- Students will be required to wear face masks in common areas and encouraged to wear them in their rooms when others are present.
- Non-Salve Regina guests will not be allowed in residence halls.
- Salve Regina students will be able to visit other students in campus residences. However, students will need to maintain social distancing. Room occupancy will be limited to double the room residency (i.e. two in a single, four in a double). Please note this may change as guidelines for social distancing may change.
- Residence halls and the rooms at Newport Marriott will remain open for Thanksgiving, spring and Easter breaks in order for students to have the opportunity to remain on campus rather than travel. Students will be asked to complete an extended stay form in order to track those who will remain on

campus. Travel at this time is not prohibited should students wish to do so during the break periods.

Large Group Gatherings (Formal and Spontaneous)

- At this time all academic meetings and events, including student clubs and activities, will be managed in a hybrid or remote fashion to meet state requirements regarding group sizes in a contained area. As the semester progresses we will review events according to state regulations on group size. Events will be evaluated based on availability of spaces that will accommodate social distancing.

Dining Halls

- Occupancies in dining halls will be reduced by 50 percent.
- Alternative seating areas, both indoors and outdoors (especially while the weather permits), will be set up in proximity to food service venues.
- Buffet style food will be eliminated and more Grab and Go food items will be prepared.
- All tables in seating areas will be placed eight feet apart and plexiglass will be added to the back of booths to provide additional protection.
- All tables and seating will be cleaned between each use.
- Plates, utensils and cups will be delivered to customers by dining staff with proper protective equipment.

Athletics

- Salve Regina will be following state regulations with regard to the resumption of athletics and will announce decisions for specific sports as they become available.

Health and Safety

- The governor of Rhode Island recently announced a 14-day quarantine or testing requirement for students returning to campus from areas with high rates of infection. As the specific areas requiring testing are subject to revision between now and the start of move-in, additional details will be forthcoming.
- All international students are required by state government to quarantine for 14 days upon arriving on campus. The Office of International Program will contact impacted students in the coming days. Salve Regina will support any residential student in quarantine with their daily needs.
- Salve Regina is contracting with an external provider to support coronavirus testing for symptomatic individuals as well as some asymptomatic surveillance testing. Health Services will continue to use telehealth and in-person consultations by appointment.
- All Salve Regina community members will receive training through online videos and residential programming on how to prevent and mitigate disease spread as well as new campus policies regarding the use of face masks and social distancing.
- All community members will be expected to self-screen themselves prior to returning to campus for coronavirus symptoms, and to participate daily in the use of

an online screening tool prior to leaving their residences. Screening will include a daily temperature check. This tool is currently being tested by a pilot group of employees already on campus and further details will be forthcoming.

- All community members will be expected to follow guidelines on using face coverings and social distancing while on campus and in the broader community.
- A supply of face masks, thermometers and hand sanitizer will be maintained on campus for those who need them.
- The University has developed a plan for quarantine and isolation of suspected or confirmed cases of coronavirus. We are committed to working with local health authorities and the state to protect community members in the event of a confirmed case.
- The University will periodically test a subset of our student and staff populations including athletes to monitor the potential for outbreak in our community.

Environmental Health and Facilities

- Prior to the return of students, all campus, all residence halls, classrooms and common areas will be deep cleaned and disinfected.
- Cleaning and disinfection schedules across campus will be increased to meet or exceed Centers for Disease Control guidelines.
- Physical barriers will be installed in all locations where transactions take place or there is routine interaction between staff and students (points of sale, mailroom, registrar, computer assistance).
- Six-foot social distancing will be observed in classrooms using markings on the floor to guide faculty members lecturing in front of a class, and desk positioning to ensure proper distance between students.
- Occupancies in classrooms, labs, gathering spaces and residence halls will be reduced, and excess furniture will be removed to support appropriate social distancing.
- Occupancies in dining halls will be reduced by 50 percent.
- Signage will be installed throughout campus to reinforce the need for the wearing of face coverings, social distancing and the correct hygiene protocols for reducing the spread of the virus.
- Disinfecting wipe stations and cleaning supplies will be provided in classrooms, office spaces and common areas across the campus.

Workforce

- To minimize health risks, all employee office spaces will be evaluated for compliance with social distancing. Customized measures will be taken as needed, including installing plastic shields in service offices, establishing office visit restrictions and protocols, rearranging desks/cubicles, and reducing office density through rotating on/off campus work.
- Salve Regina will require all staff/faculty to wear face masks or face coverings while working on campus when in the presence of others and in public settings where

other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., common workspaces, meeting rooms, classrooms, etc.).

- Employees that are at higher risk for severe symptoms of coronavirus will be able to self-identify and request a reasonable accommodation to reduce the risk of contracting the virus at work.

Communications

- Salve Regina will continue to maintain a coronavirus-related portion of its website titled Back to Salve with policies and resources pertaining to fall 2020 and the 2021 academic year.
- Salve Regina will provide weekly email updates about the new academic year through the fall semester.
- The campus will display posters and signs reminding everyone of our collective role in keeping the campus community safe.
- Community members can provide input and feedback to this plan using coronavirus@salve.edu.

Contingency Planning

- The University has developed a comprehensive pandemic plan in order to respond to any cases that may emerge on our campus in a timely and effective manner in conjunction with the Rhode Island Department of Health. The health and safety of our community is our top priority.
- The dual modality academic delivery plan outlined above will allow for courses to continue online in a seamless manner should the need arise.