



FLIGHT PATH **FALL 2020 ACTION PLAN**

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI
UPDATED JULY 27, 2020

[USM.EDU/FLIGHT-PATH](https://usm.edu/flight-path)

COMMUNITY STANDARDS

The health and safety of our University community is our first priority, and our ability to resume an on-campus learning, residential and working environment in fall 2020 requires all of us working together. Each individual has a personal responsibility to follow our Community Standards and institutional protocols to help maintain a healthy environment for all Golden Eagles.

FACE COVERINGS

Wear a face covering over the nose and mouth to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

All faculty, staff and students are required to wear face coverings in classrooms, labs, communal office space, on-campus gatherings, and in any campus setting where physical distancing is difficult to maintain.

PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Avoid close contact with others by maintaining at least six feet of physical distance.

Physical distancing modifications are being made to on-campus housing, on-campus dining facilities, classrooms, common areas and study spaces.

WASH HANDS

Maintain good personal hygiene by washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer of at least 60% alcohol.

SELF-SCREENING

Conduct a daily self-screening to assess for symptoms, stay home when sick and seek medical care, if needed.

All USM faculty, staff and students are required to self-screen each day for [symptoms of COVID-19](#) before coming onto any University property or going to class.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The health and safety of our University community is our first priority. Each individual has a personal responsibility to follow our [Community Standards](#) and institutional protocols to help maintain a healthy environment.

SELF-SCREENING

USM requires all faculty, staff and students to self-screen each day for [symptoms of COVID-19](#) before coming onto any University property or going to class.

Daily self-screening questions include:

- Have you been in close contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
- Are you experiencing a cough, shortness of breath or sore throat?
- Have you had a fever or felt feverish in the past 48 hours?
- Have you had a new loss of taste or smell?
- Have you had vomiting or diarrhea in the last 24 hours?

If an individual has any of these symptoms and they are not due to a preexisting underlying chronic health condition, they should not come to campus.

- ➔ Employees should stay home and contact their direct supervisors.
- ➔ Students should notify their instructors and the Dean of Students office.

[CDC prevention guidelines](#)

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

PERSONAL DISINFECTION

Normal routine cleaning can reduce risk of exposure and is a necessary step before disinfecting surfaces. USM custodial staff will routinely clean workspaces, classrooms and public spaces. Additionally, surfaces frequently touched by multiple people, such as door handles, handrails, light switches and faucets, will be cleaned and disinfected more frequently.

The CDC also recommends individuals wipe down all living, studying, working and eating areas before leaving any room in which one has been working or eating. This includes a private workspace or any shared-space location or equipment (for example, computers, A/V and other electrical equipment, copiers, desks and tables, chair arms, light switches, doorknobs, handles, etc.). To the best of one's ability, clear desk and table surfaces in personal offices and workstations to aid in thorough cleaning.

Using a hand sanitizer is also effective after contact with commonly used surfaces.

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

[Student Health Services](#) at Moffitt Health Center is a healthcare facility located on our Hattiesburg campus. USM students and employees are eligible to receive services from the staff of physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and registered nurses.

Testing for COVID-19 is available at Moffitt Health Center, and individuals testing positive will be monitored by a team of medical professionals during the 14-day isolation period.

STUDENT COUNSELING SERVICES

USM [Student Counseling Services](#) provides free and confidential mental health care services for all currently enrolled USM students.

FALL 2020 CLASSES

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The existing academic calendar has been adjusted to start the fall 2020 semester on August 17, 2020, eliminate fall break, and conclude regular classes on Monday, November 23, 2020. This format will decrease the flow of students to and from campus for holidays and allow the semester to end slightly earlier.

- In-person classes that meet on Mondays may elect to hold the equivalent of one class meeting through Canvas in virtual format during the semester instead of meeting the Monday of Thanksgiving week.
- Night classes and classes that meet once weekly in block meeting times will have their final exams during regular class times in the week prior to Thanksgiving.
- Final exams for the remaining classes will be scheduled during the week of November 30. All exams during that week will be administered virtually. These exams may be given through Canvas or using the Examity virtual proctoring platform. Instructors may also elect the option of a final project or paper in lieu of a formal exam.

COURSE DELIVERY

Classes will be offered in face-to-face, hybrid and online formats. Face coverings will be required during in-person classes, and physical distancing modifications will be made to classrooms and other spaces.

The number of in-person classes being offered are limited due to the number of rooms available for appropriate physical distancing. In deciding which classes will be face-to-face, classes are being prioritized with learning outcomes that are extremely difficult to translate to a virtual environment and those that primarily serve new students (freshman and transfer) at the University.

No classes over an enrollment capacity of 50 will be offered in person in fall 2020 due to space constraints.

All classes, regardless of format, will include online content housed in Canvas. A Canvas [introductory tutorial](#) is available for students to learn more.

FALL 2020 CLASSES

CONNECTING WITH INSTRUCTORS

When classes begin, students should [log into Canvas](#) and check their course shells for messages from instructors and other important information. Students should stay in touch with instructors through Canvas and email.

Instructors will hold office hours with students through online platforms, providing opportunities for students to personally connect with instructors.

[Center for Student Success](#)

FACULTY RESOURCES

Faculty will be required to house their classes in Canvas, and all faculty will hold virtual student office hours this fall. Faculty training and resources are available through the Center for Faculty Development.

[COVID-19 Teaching Resources](#)

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Libraries will be open to students during the fall, and online library resources will also be available.

[University Libraries](#) will be implementing safety practices, such as increased spacing between seating and work areas, use of barriers at service points, availability of hand sanitizer, regular cleaning of high-touch areas, one-way directional flow in hallways and stairwells, and limiting capacity in accordance with University protocols.

The Libraries' vast array of ebooks, ejournals, streaming media, and other online content will continue to be available to students.

OTHER ACADEMIC RESOURCES

Academic success resources such as the [Center for Student Success](#), [Gulf Park Academic Success Center](#), Math Zone, [Speaking Center](#), [TRIO-Student Support Services](#), and [Writing Center](#) will be fully operational in fall 2020, and most can be accessed through virtual formats or in person.

BARNES & NOBLE

On-campus [Barnes & Noble](#) locations will be open to students. Books can be pre-ordered online, with shipping and pick-up options available. Course materials can be shipped for free directly to students.

OFFICE FOR DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

The [Office for Disability Accommodations](#) (ODA) provides individual assistance with a variety of campus resources for eligible students.

ODA works with eligible registered students on an individual basis to provide classroom and housing accommodations that are specific to their disabilities. ODA works with faculty and staff to ensure that students with disabilities have full access and the encouragement to participate in all University activities.

HOUSING AND DINING

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

[Modifications](#) have been made to residence halls, including increased cleaning, visitation restrictions, and limited capacity in lounges, common areas and study rooms. Quarantine rooms for isolating students have also been identified for use.

ON-CAMPUS DINING

On-campus dining facilities will be open for the fall semester.

[Modifications](#) have been made to all locations, including physical distancing guides at applicable locations. [Hours of operation](#) may be adjusted for additional cleaning and sanitation, personnel shift changes, and customer flow.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Office of Leadership and Student Involvement is encouraging student organizations to plan virtual activities for the start of the fall semester and is working to finalize resources for their success.

[Office of Leadership and Student Involvement](#)



COVID-19 updates are posted on the [COVID-19 Response](#) page.