Weekly COVID-19 Task Force Announcement

Sharing information regarding academic planning activities for the NPS Summer Quarter 2021

24 May 2021

DOD Vaccine Memo:
The Deputy Secretary of Defense signed on May 20 this vaccine memo. It said:

"...As of early May 2021, the Department as a whole has suffered more than 285,000 cases, and we have lost nearly 350 of our teammates. We must continue to do all we can to operate safely and effectively in a COVID-19 environment for the foreseeable future.

Vaccination is critical to defending against COVID-19. Used together with testing, hand washing, and other mitigation measures, vaccination can prevent people from getting COVID-19 and keep them from getting seriously ill if they do get the disease. With greater access to vaccinations and a more readily available supply of vaccine, we are now moving into a new phase of our efforts. This memorandum reaffirms our support for initiatives to increase vaccination acceptance among all Service members..."

DOD Mask Guidance:
The Deputy Secretary of Defense signed on May 13 the following mask guidance that said:

"...fully vaccinated DoD personnel (who are at least two weeks beyond their final dose) are no longer required to wear a mask indoors or outdoors at DoD facilities. All DoD personnel should continue to comply with CDC guidance regarding areas where masks should be worn, including within airports. Personnel who are not fully vaccinated should continue to follow applicable DoD mask guidance, including continuing to wear masks indoors."

Reminder from our Chief of Staff, CAPT Philip Old: The honor system applies as inquiry concerning vaccination status is prohibited. Honor, Courage, Commitment!

Command Guidance:
President Rondeau has approved the plan to have the summer quarter taught in hybrid-mode. The current goal is to have at least 50% of classes in residence with at least 50% of students experiencing in-person classes, and the remainder delivered either in hybrid-mode or DL-mode. The safety of faculty, students and staff remains the top priority.
President’s Board for Student Affairs

The PBSA will be helping students find resources as we transition back to hybrid and eventually in-person learning. We have an upcoming student survey to address the status and needs of students (it is pending IRB approval). We will be meeting with and supporting students at the New Student Orientation, June’s Graduation Ceremony, will be offering campus tours, and will continue to host monthly student council meetings on the second Thursday of every month. We will be pushing a weekly student update over Yammer. If you would like to learn more or have more questions for the PBSA please email domonique.hittner@nps.edu or pbsa@nps.edu.

Safety Update:

According to Tony Colon, our Director of Safety, Health and Environmental, 42% of the students and 39% of Faculty and Staff are fully vaccinated. Several more have received the first dose of vaccine. Vaccinations are widely available and encouraged.

Ventilation and airflow are being tested in windowless classrooms throughout this past year, and has included repairs to some systems. The Safety Office continues to test the windowless classrooms, significantly expanding the number of available rooms for the summer.

For further information: https://nps.edu/web/safety/coronavirus

Classroom/Lab Scheduling & Availability:

Current classroom capacity is under 45-50% of the normal capacity due to CDC 6-feet social-distancing guideline. Classrooms are being evaluated for safety (capacity, ventilation, etc.) to determine use [see Safety Update]. Alternative spaces, such as larger conference rooms are being added to the pool of available classroom spaces to provide capacity for in-residence learning. Limited capacity will likely impact room preferences.

The Scheduling Office expects to release the schedule on or before June 4th. Changes to the posted schedule will need to follow this scheduling workflow. The Scheduling Office will be available once the schedule is posted to help facilitate room adjustments.

Please note that any ad-hoc room requests that are for events occurring on or after July 5th will be in a pending status until the AY21Q4 is finalized. Contact scheduling@nps.edu with any questions.

For scheduling questions: scheduling@nps.edu

Other Academic Spaces:

In addition to classrooms and labs, other spaces on campus are being made available to the during the summer quarter for use as socially-distanced study or meeting spaces. This addresses student concern of having a place to go between scheduled classes or for use for a DL class while on campus. The Safety Office has surveyed the Dudley Knox Library study spaces. The library is making plans to re-open with socially-distanced spaces and modified services.
From the Web:

The following chart shows that COVID-19 is in retreat or, as we should say in a STEM university, the second derivative of the number of cases has been negative since January:

![Change in Daily U.S. Covid-19 Cases and Deaths Since Jan. 1](image)


Instructional Support:

The Office of Teaching and Learning (OTL) and the Graduate Education Advancement Center (GEAC) look forward to more faculty and students returning to campus for instructional activities in the coming months. To begin this transition, faculty are encouraged to incorporate blended/hybrid instructional opportunities throughout the quarter for specific purposes such as review/tutorial sessions, labs, regular classes with social distancing, project work, independent study, and advisory sessions.

For additional ideas and help getting started contact Ali Rodgers: arogers@nps.edu

Resources for course design and technology & pedagogy integration: geacinstrdesign@nps.edu

The Teaching and Learning Commons (TLC), coordinates a variety of helpful resources that support hybrid learning and instruction.

There will be a TLC Forum: Improvise, Adapt, Overcome: Lessons From the COVID Experience that all faculty and staff are invited to attend in Teams on Thursday, May 27 from 1200-1300.

Directions for joining the meeting:

**Microsoft Teams meeting**

Join on your computer or mobile app

Click here to join the meeting

Or call in (audio only)

+1 323-457-5029,,957791042# United States, Los Angeles

Phone Conference ID: 957 791 042#

For further information and to review instructional resources, visit TLC website. For personal assistance, contact: TLC@nps.edu
Technical Support:

ITACS, in conjunction with GEAC, is working on increasing the technology capabilities of NPS classrooms, outfitting the classrooms across campus with hybrid capabilities. Information on the use of hybrid classrooms and the status capabilities is available on the NPS Wiki:

- [Hybrid How-to: NPS Classrooms](#)
- [List of Hybrid Enabled Classrooms](#), with specific details of rooms and individual capabilities

For further information, click [HERE](#)

NSAM Updates:

For further information related to guidance, services, and activities under the command of Naval Support Authority Monterey please see:

https://www.nps.edu/web/nsam
https://www.nps.edu/web/nsam/news-and-announcements

Jennifer Barnhill, Tony Colon, MAJ Domonique Hittner, CAPT Philip Old, Ali Rodgers, and Harry Thomas provided content. Please send feedback, inputs or corrections to Geraldo Ferrer, Dennis Lester or Tom Rosko.