COVID-19 Task Force Update

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

2 July 2021

Happy Fourth of July!!!

Guidance from the Dean of Students: (new)

- To begin the Summer Quarter, instructors/professors should execute whatever plan they have in place to start classes on 6 July.
  - In-person learning is encouraged to maximum extent possible.
  - If professors would like help creating a rotation plan that works for their circumstances, Program Officers and the DOS’ office are here to help.
  - Guidance may change as the quarter progresses. Should conditions permit, our goal is to return to full in-person classes for resident students by the beginning of Fall Quarter, if not earlier.

- Students with negative/unknown vaccination status are required to wear masks while on campus.
  - Program Officers are reaching out to those students to inform them of this requirement.
  - If conditions change, students are encouraged to update information on the self-reporting site.
  - Program Officers are allowed to share these names with the applicable faculty for their awareness.
  - We will continue to update this list in the coming days and share with Program Officers and faculty.

- Faculty may request unmasked students to wear a mask; however, student compliance is purely voluntary so long as they are adhering to the appropriate DoD Guidance.

- At this time, faculty may inquire as to the vaccination status of a military servicemember, but disclosure to a civilian employee is purely voluntary.

For in-person classes:

- If all participants are immunized (requires unsolicited, voluntary disclosure by civilian personnel)
  - Masks are not required
  - No distancing is required

- If any immunization status is NOT known
  - Masks are required for personnel in negative or unknown status
  - Maintain 6-foot distancing until we upgrade to HPCON A, which will result in distancing reduction

CNO Guidance:
The CNO office issued NAVADMIN 110/21, the US NAVY COVID-19 STANDING GUIDANCE, indicating that

"... Fully immunized individuals are not required to wear facemasks or physically distance from others ..."
Message from the PBSA:

"Hi new and current students,

The President’s Board for Student Affairs (PBSA) is the communication bridge between the staff and students at the Naval Postgraduate School. In response to our COVID-life survey, we have published a Student Resource list on our website https://nps.edu/group/pbsa. This will be maintained and updated on the 1st of each month. Other specific questions and town halls are answered at our general student body meeting every 2nd Thursday of each month, via direct message, or via email. Our next meeting is on Thursday, 8 July from 1200-1300 on MS Teams and outside of the Dudley Knox Library by Starbucks. If you are unable to attend please email us for the meeting minutes or with any questions. If you arrived during COVID, are a new student, or have otherwise never been on campus, please sign up for one of our Campus tours. Our upcoming campus tours are on July 7, 9, and 10 July. Please email us to register. We will be conducting a follow-up COVID-life survey in July, so please continue to share any comments or questions you may have. We are always looking for feedback on campus life and our team is here to support you regardless of rank or background. If you would feel more comfortable, you may also reach out to me directly. We are here to build community and are happy to discuss, address, and try to mediate tough issues students face. You may contact us at pbsa@nps.edu or email me directly at domonique.hittner@nps.edu. It is our pleasure to welcome you and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Here to serve.

Domoniqué Hittner, Chair, President’s Board for Student Affairs"

Classroom/Lab Scheduling & Availability: (updated)

Scheduling Office assigned a classroom to every course, even the ones who requested to be 100% DL, to assist students that have face-to-face and DL courses in the same day.

Alternative spaces, such as larger conference rooms were added to the pool of available classroom spaces to provide additional capacity for in-residence learning.

The Scheduling Office reminds that changes to the posted schedule will need to follow this scheduling workflow. The Scheduling Office is available to facilitate room adjustments.

For scheduling questions: scheduling@nps.edu

Instructional Support: (updated)

On July 14, TLC will host a faculty workshop on the effective use of the Sakai learning management system for courses delivered in face-to-face, distance learning, hybrid modes. A detailed announcement for this event will be sent soon.

See the following links for faculty and student information on hybrid classes:

- Hybrid Resources for Faculty
- NPS Student Guide for Hybrid Instruction

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

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

For further information and to review instructional resources, visit TLC website. For personal assistance, contact: TLC@nps.edu
Dudley Knox Library: (new)

The Library has re-opened!
See: https://library.nps.edu/
Library hours are 0730-1730, Mon-Fri. The library is open for resource checkout, printing (download new printer packages [login required]), study spaces (Covid-safe spacing), and library computers. Other services currently available online will remain.
In accordance with campus COVID safety protocols, ventilation system surveys and spacing requirements, we have removed some tables, chairs and computers to allow for proper social distancing. For everyone’s safety, we ask that you abide by the signage where computers and chairs have been removed and not move them back or try to use those spaces. We will have cleaning/sanitizing supplies located throughout the building.

As the stacks are now browsable and materials can be checked out, we will be discontinuing our book retrieval and print on demand services as you will now be able come in and get things as you need them. Course Reserve items will be available for use in the building.

For those who have used the printers in our building in the past, please note, we now have new Multi-function Devices (aka printers) so if you have mapped your laptops to the old ones, you will need to remap to the new ones. For those who are new, you can map your laptops so you can send print jobs to the library and release them when you get here. The link for those instructions is here.

The Graduate Writing Center (GWC) and Thesis Processing Office (TPO) are continuing most of their services on-line; however, there will also be opportunity for in-person coaching and instruction.

Further information:
GWC: https://nps.edu/web/gwc
TPO: https://nps.edu/web/thesisprocessing

Study Spaces: (updated)

Many students will continue to need on-campus study spaces and/or spaces to attend a DL class before or after a face-to-face class. Methods for requesting study spaces are listed below. In addition, as a reminder and for those new to campus, there are many outdoor spaces on campus with Wi-Fi access.

There are two methods to make requests for study spaces:

1. **Library Spaces**: The Library re-opened on 14 June. Open space study areas with socially distanced seating are available. Study rooms will be available on a reservation basis with limited seating capacity. To access the reservation system, you can use the Reserve a Room icon on the Library homepage https://library.nps.edu/ or directly at https://libmeeting.nps.edu/.

   Once in the reservation system, hovering over the room numbers with your cursor will enable you to see the current seating capacity, following current COVID-19 safety protocols.

2. **Campus Spaces**: The Event Scheduler requires VPN access and your nps.edu email account. You can request conference rooms, cubicles, classroom and auditoriums and your requests will be sent directly to the room owner for approval. Learn more about how to make a request at https://nps.edu/web/scheduling/faqs.

   *Please note that campus spaces are limited so requests will be granted on a first come, first served basis. Additionally, we recommend only making requests for the dates and times you will need the room, as blocking off rooms for an entire day/week is discouraged and may result in a denied request.*

For further information concerning additional study space needs please contact your Program Officer.
Technical Support: *(updated)*

ITACS and GEAC are working on increasing the technology capabilities of NPS classrooms, outfitting the classrooms across campus with hybrid capabilities. Currently, 45 classrooms are hybrid enabled, including the more robust Flex rooms and Reed Hall. The rooms list has been updated on the "Hybrid How-To" wiki pages. We've received shipping notice for 50 additional document cameras. We'll begin deploying them as soon as we have them on hand. The document cameras have built-in microphones, so will support lecture from the lectern, but will have limited utility for back-and-forth discussion between remote and resident students. An equivalent number of speakerphones is also on order and will better support discussion.

Useful links:
- **List of Hybrid Enabled Classrooms**, provides specific details of rooms and individual capabilities. *This list is updated as periodically.*
- **Hybrid How-to: NPS Classrooms**, provides information on the use of hybrid classrooms and their capabilities.
- **Update on Classroom Technology**, provides info on basic and enhanced learning technology kits for hybrid-equipped classrooms.

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Safety: *(updated)*

Current classroom capacity is 25%-50% of the normal capacity due to CDC 6ft social-distancing guideline. We expect to adopt shorter distancing in the coming days, pending determination of lower HPCON (health protection condition).

**Vaccinations are widely available and encouraged:** (see [https://nps.edu/covid-19-vaccine-planning](https://nps.edu/covid-19-vaccine-planning)) Ventilation and airflow have been tested in windowless classrooms throughout this past year and has included repairs to some systems. All windowed rooms are approved for use. For further information: [https://nps.edu/web/safety/coronavirus](https://nps.edu/web/safety/coronavirus)

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*Please send feedback, inputs or corrections to Geraldo Ferrer, Dennis Lester or Tom Rosko.*