SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING
NEW GRAD/PROF STUDENT INFO SESSION

Virtual Info Session for Incoming G/P students
4 pm, July 6, 2020
AGENDA

• Welcome
• COVID-19 status
• General Fall Info
• COVID specific Fall Info
• Answers to Questions
• Discussion / Q and A

Disclaimer: the information provided today describe our plans/intentions as of today. However, this continues to be a rapidly evolving and changing situation and things may (and are likely to) change over the coming weeks.
WELCOME TO VANDERBILT!

A great engineering school in a liberal arts environment with a world-class medical center (VUMC) in one of the hottest cities in the US...

July 6, 2020
A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

As Dean of the Vanderbilt School of Engineering, I am proud to say that our graduate programs allow you to examine various engineering disciplines from multiple perspectives and to explore responsible use of technology in the state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories with world-class faculty who are committed to serve and to advance your academic prowess and professional development.

Best,
Philippe Fauchet, Ph.D.
Bruce and Bridgitt Evans Dean
## GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL DEGREES OFFERED

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<th>Programs</th>
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SO.....WHAT IS THE FALL SEMESTER GOING TO LOOK LIKE IN THE COVID ERA??

As of July 6:

- 2,911,888* total cases and 130,101 total deaths in the U.S.
- 52,155 total cases and 653 total deaths in Tennessee
- 11,205 total cases and 122 deaths in Davidson County

- No truly effective treatment yet
- No vaccine yet

*Recent CDC estimates indicate the number of cases could be 10X larger
TIMELINE OF EVENTS (1)

• Early March: 1st case in TN, 1st case in Nashville
• March 10-13: classes cancelled, then moved online only.
• March 13: remote work order, travel ban
• March 18: research lab ramp down
• March 25: 2020 Commencement rescheduled for Spring 2021

• May 18: Phase 1 of research ramp up starts
• June 8: Phase 2 of research ramp up starts
• Late July (?): Phase 3 of research ramp up starts
**TIMELINE OF EVENTS [2]**

- August 16: official start of F2020 semester
- August 17-21: F20 orientation activities
- August 24: Instruction starts (1\textsuperscript{st} day of classes)
- Nov 20: on campus instruction ends (continue online)
- Nov 21-29: Thanksgiving break
- Nov 30: classes continue remote / research continues on campus
- Dec 4: last day of classes
- Dec 5-13: final exams (remote)
EXPECTATIONS

• Vanderbilt University and the School of Engineering are committed to providing students continued excellence in our educational programs.

• The goal is to have meaningful interaction between students and faculty even with physical distancing, so most of our classes will have some level of in-person instruction (in person, lectures, labs, hybrid, and recitation style).

• G/P students are expected to be in Nashville/on campus (i.e. in residence) during the fall.
EXAMPLES OF WHAT WILL BE DIFFERENT

• Masks must be worn everywhere (on campus, inside buildings, inside classrooms)

• When walking through a building, arrows on the floor will indicate the flow of traffic.

• Stairwells are one-way.

• Entrance and exit doors are clearly marked.

• Everyone will be required to complete a COVID safety module and sign the acknowledgment form (online) before being allowed on campus.

• Elevator and restrooms......
EXAMPLES OF WHAT WILL BE DIFFERENT

ENTRANCE ONLY

ROUNDABOUT
Please walk counterclockwise to maintain social distancing.

UP ONLY
FALL COURSES – GRAD/PROFESSIONAL

• Our G/P students will follow UG calendar
  • Orientation/introductions: Aug 17-21 (details TBD)
  • First day of classes: Aug 24
  • On-campus courses will end Nov 20 – courses will continue remote/online after Thanksgiving break
  • Grad students doing research can come back/stay to continue their research after Thanksgiving break

• G/P students are expected to be in Nashville/on campus during the fall
  • accommodations due to personal health reasons/risk factors can be made using Student Access Services (SAS) - http://www.vanderbilt.edu/student-access/
  • VUSE is not planning have ‘remote only’ option

• Courses will be using regular grading scheme (no P/F option)
FALL COURSES – GRAD/PROFESSIONAL

• Many considerations will go into fall schedule (faculty, class room space, everyone’s safety, etc.) – work in progress!!

• Increased time between classes (10 min → 20 min).

• Classrooms will be cleaned twice daily by housekeeping staff.

• Instruction will be a hybrid (in-person / online) in most courses
FALL COURSES – GRAD/PROFESSIONAL

• Public Health Ambassa’Dores will be assigned to specific buildings and outdoor locations to help and educate people.

• If you see someone not following guidelines, politely ask them to do so (we’re in this together!!). If a student shows up for class without a mask, they will not be allowed in the class room.

• Instructors must cover their face when lecturing too; use of face shields and implementation of plexiglass screens is also under discussion.
RESEARCH

• Phase 0 – 3/18
  • Nearly all research operations on campus were shut down

• Phase I ramp up 5/18 to 6/5
  • ≤33% occupancy of labs, no external human subjects, returnees sign COVID-19 acknowledgement through Oracle Learning
  • Faculty/PI’s submitted research ramp-up plans for their labs

• Phase II ramp up 6/8 to present
  • ≤50% occupancy of labs
  • External human subjects who come to VU permitted

• Phase III ramp up – possibly mid/late-July?
  • ≤70% occupancy of labs; details still under discussion
  • Hoping to bring UG students back to research labs
  • Possibility of travel for research (ONLY) – i.e VU personnel going to collaborator’s labs, collaborators coming to VU labs. No conference/mtg travel.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

• Will students be tested for COVID-19 before coming to campus?
  • All undergrads will be tested, current the plan is to not test all G/P students
  • Everyone is expected to self-monitor (install the VandySafe app!!!)

• Do I need to be in quarantine / self-isolate when coming to Nashville?
  • VU will require people to be quarantined for 14 days only after international travel
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

• What do I do if I develop COVID-19 symptoms or may be exposed to someone who has COVID-19?
  • If you have symptoms related to COVID-19 or determine that you need to be tested based on potential exposure, contact the Student Health Center; stop activities immediately and leave campus; notify your advisor, the DGS and AD/Dean that you have been exposed and/or developed symptoms.

• What if I get sick during the semester and need to stay home?
  • Our faculty will be prepared to offer courses in-person and online (hybrid) – key is communication (i.e. let faculty know).
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

• When do incoming students apply for health insurance and when will it start?
  • Health insurance is required for all G/P students
  • VU offers student health insurance (SHIP) through Gallagher ($3,655/yr)
  • You will automatically be enrolled (and billed)
  • Insured period: Aug 12, 2020 – Aug 11, 2021
  • If you have comparable insurance you can petition for a waiver
    • US citizens / PR only (international students are required to enroll in SHIP)
    • Deadline to submit waiver: August 1, 2020
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

• I am an international student but don’t know that I can get my visa and/or travel to the US in time for the start of the Fall 2020. What do I do?
  • International students who are currently outside the US and who need a visa are unlikely to get that in time.
    • Delayed processing times
    • Travel restrictions
    • Additional scrutiny on visas for students in STEM
  • If you will be a TA or RA in the fall and won’t be in the US → defer (to S21 or F21)
  • If you are only taking courses, we are unable to offer ‘remote only’ courses (in particular internationally) → defer (to S21 or F21)
USEFUL WEBSITES

• https://www.vanderbilt.edu/coronavirus/
• https://www.vanderbilt.edu/coronavirus/faq/
• https://research.vanderbilt.edu/resources-for-4-phase-research-ramp-up/
• https://engineering.vanderbilt.edu/2020return/Gradinfo.php
• https://www.vanderbilt.edu/coronavirus/fall-2020/fall-2020-graduate-and-professional-students/
• https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html