



Fall Opening FAQs

As our [“Owl in This Together” protocol document](#) outlined, Warren Wilson College plans to open in August and remain open throughout the fall semester. To do so with the support and well-being of our students, faculty and staff at the center of our planning, we have developed processes and guidelines that we will be following. We have created this FAQ document, organized by area, which is designed to answer questions about a number of issues related to our opening. We are also responding to the expressed need for flexibility around the student experience for the fall semester by providing a process to request online-only enrollment. The link for the form to request this status is included in these FAQs in the section on Academics, and it is due on July 17. We will be adding to our FAQ list as new information becomes available. If you have additional questions, please direct them to the appropriate office or submit them [here](#) so that we can include them in our next updates.

Academics

- ***What will in-person classes look like in the fall?***

The faculty are designing their courses with both structure and flexibility in order to adapt to student and community circumstances while continuing to create the individualized learning and personal connections that are the hallmark of our teaching at the College. This flexibility includes hybrid course designs that will blend in-person and remote learning in order to reduce the numbers of students present at one time in any classroom, lab, or studio—while staying connected and learning together.

Typically, faculty will use digital tools to facilitate rich interactions outside of class. Such designs also prepare students to make the most meaningful use of time in class for questioning, problem-solving, and other sorts of engaged learning, including our many options to use outdoor spaces for such meetings. To allow for lower densities in class, cohorts of students may alternate their in-class days. To allow for students who will be remote for any reason, courses will include robust, structured, and engaging outside-of-class projects—all with regular feedback from faculty.

If a student or faculty member is unable to attend class due to symptoms or a need to go into isolation, they will be able to continue with the course remotely. Students should expect that some of their in-person, on-campus classes could operate online for some or even all of the semester.

- ***What do I do if I want to continue my studies at Wilson but I am not comfortable returning on campus?***

Students may elect to enroll as non-residential, online-only in Fall 2020 and should consult with their advisors before making this decision. Once a student elects the online-only option, this will be their status for the entire semester. Because of recent federal regulations, international students should discuss carefully their particular circumstances with the Global Engagement Office. Please use this [Online Only Intention Form](#) to request this option by July 17. Make sure to review all of the information on the form carefully to make a well-informed decision.

- ***Can I change how I am taking my classes after school starts? For example, moving to online only from in-person or vice versa?***

Students who are on campus and taking classes in person and who need to shift into online learning due to health related reasons will have the opportunity to do so. Because of the complexities involved with health protocols, campus housing, and classroom learning, students who start the semester online and off campus will not be able to switch to in-person/on-campus learning until the spring semester.

- ***I am worried about the faculty and staff at Warren Wilson. What can I do to keep them healthy and well?***

Maintaining the health and well-being of all our community members will require strict adherence to the published protocols in the [“Owl In This Together” campus reopening plan](#). Wearing masks, washing your hands, and maintaining physical distancing have been shown to be the most effective strategies in mitigating the spread of the virus. It is important that we all see this as our responsibility and our commitment to keeping everyone in our community, including our faculty and staff, healthy. In addition, we encourage students to stay in “cohort” groups whenever they can—keeping close physical contact to as small a number of fellow students and colleagues as possible while on campus in the fall.

- ***How will I get tutoring if I need it?***

All tutoring will be virtual. Each department that provides tutoring will have a sign-up process. If you are in a course for which tutoring is not provided, please contact Lyn O’Hare, Associate Dean of Educational Access, lohare@warren-wilson.edu and Academic Support to arrange for a tutor.

- ***How do I arrange for Disability Access academic accommodations?***

Contact Deb Braden, Director of Disability Access, dbraden@warren-wilson.edu. Beginning on Monday, August 10, Deb will be meeting virtually with students to develop or update disability access academic plans for the fall semester.

Accessing Services

- **Will the Center for Integrated Advising and Careers (CIAC) be open?**

All of the services of CIAC will continue to be available to students. All scheduled appointments with CIAC staff members will be virtual. We are also scheduling staff and crew to be available in person during high-traffic times for those questions and needs that aren't able to be scheduled in advance. Any conversation that needs to happen in person will utilize spaces that are designed for people to be able to maintain appropriate social distancing. These spaces are on the first floor of Jensen, but not in staff offices.

- **How will I meet with my Integrated Advising Coach for scheduled appointments?**

Integrated Advising Coaches will continue to hold all scheduled one-on-one appointments virtually. You can schedule an appointment with an Integrated Advising Coach by visiting their scheduling links, found on the [Integrated Advising Coach myWWC page](#).

- **Will my Integrated Advising Coach be available for drop-in questions?**

The Integrated Advising Coaches will continue to be available to students for drop-in questions, but this availability will be a mix of in-person and virtual. Integrated Advising Coach availability will be posted on the [Integrated Advising Coach myWWC](#) page and in the Center for Integrated Advising and Careers.

- ***How do I sign up for a drop-in academic counseling appointment with Academic Support in the CIAC?***

All of our academic counseling appointments will be virtual. You can sign up with us using our booking links, for Deb Braden, [Schedule a meeting with me](#) and for Lyn O'Hare, [Schedule a "Virtual" Meeting with Me](#)

- ***Will there be private spaces available to have private online or phone conversations?***

Yes, we are developing a list of spaces and a reservation system to assist students looking for private meeting spaces around campus to engage in remote advising, counseling, telehealth, or other confidential conversations.

- ***Will I be able to get a ride to my medical appointments?***

Due to COVID concerns, transportation for medical appointments will be restricted to essential trips only. Please keep in mind that most medical providers and mental health appointments can happen remotely.

Athletics and Intramurals

- **Can a student interested in staying involved with a sports team still participate if they choose to complete the fall semester online?**

Yes, provided a student is enrolled full-time online or in-person and meets eligibility requirements, they may participate on a sports team.

- **Has any varsity sport been canceled for the fall?** Yes, the mountain biking season was canceled by the College's cycling conference, the Southeastern Collegiate Cycling Conference, on July 9. For more information click on this [link](#).
- **Will other varsity sports take place in the fall?** Yes, WWC Athletics intends to conduct team activities, including meetings, leadership development, strength and conditioning, practices, and competition. However, varsity competition is currently under discussion/review and will be decided over the next couple of weeks. WWC is a member of the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA). The USCAA will be meeting soon and any decision that comes out of that meeting may impact competition for the remaining fall sports. The athletic department is also awaiting an update regarding the NC phase plan from the Governor and expecting additional guidelines from the NCAA soon.
- **Will intramurals take place in the fall?** Intramurals will only be offered virtually in the initial phase of campus reopening. As the fall progresses and standards allow more flexibility, it is our goal to reintroduce some in-person intramural program offerings that allow for low participant numbers and no to low contact/shared equipment (e.g., Table Tennis, Tennis, 3 v. 3 Futsal, Over The Line, Spikeball, & Backyard Games). No team competitions involving high participant contact with each other or shared equipment will occur until such intramural activities are able to do so safely in accordance with guidelines set forth by campus and local officials. Off-campus intramural opportunities will be re-evaluated for resumption in the spring.

Community Engagement

- ***What types of community engagement/service are recommended for Fall 2020?***

As we navigate a global pandemic, the Center for Community Engagement urges students to consider engaging remotely when at all possible. Through remote engagement, you will still be able to meet the goals of the Community Engagement Commitment (i.e., the PEGs) and will be limiting the number of people you come into contact with.

In-person direct engagement will only be supported in situations where the community partner has directly requested our presence and the organization is following the same safety protocols that are in place on campus.

- ***Will there be any temporary adjustments to community engagement requirement deadlines during this academic year due to the pandemic?***
Part of PEG 1 will be waived for current and incoming students

For current and incoming students, PEG 1 will be completed through First Year Seminar only. We are in the process of updating all student records in GivePulse and myWWC to reflect this change. *This is not a permanent change to Explore (PEG 1), only a modification during this unprecedented time. If you were not required to enroll in a First Year Seminar due to transfer credits, the Explore (PEG 1) requirement will be fully waived.*

- ***How do I get credit for community engagement projects I was involved in over the summer?***

Fill out a [Community Engagement Proposal form](#) to make sure your project meets the goals of the Community Engagement Commitment. Once you get an approval message, add an impact on your [WWC GivePulse account](#). Check out [this tutorial](#) for more information on creating an entry in GivePulse.

- ***How will service-learning classes work?***

All Fall 2020 service-learning designated courses will still satisfy the community engagement requirement. PEG 2-designated courses will satisfy the PEG 2 requirement; PEG 1 and/or PEG 2 courses will satisfy the service-learning general education requirement. Faculty are working to find alternate ways to build community engagement into these courses. This may happen through capacity-building projects or other remote tasks.

- ***I have been very active in community organizing this summer as part of movements for Black lives. Can any of that work count towards my community engagement requirement?***

The requirement celebrates any and all forms of engagement and thus is not limited to work with nonprofit and/or government organizations. For any social justice work you were a part of this summer, fill out a [Community Engagement Proposal form](#). Staff will review the form to make a determination around which PEG your work meets, and will follow-up.

- ***Can students participate in in-person community engagement by driving themselves?***

Students should plan to sign a Health and Safety Liability Waiver (forthcoming) in advance of their engagement. In addition, students must confirm that their organization is following the same safety protocols in place on campus. Students should follow safety protocols in their vehicle as well, and ideally would travel alone.

- ***What requirements do we have of our community partners for complying with public health advice?***

We will need to have confirmation that host sites are following the same health protocols in place on campus. In addition, students engaging in direct service will be asked to sign a Health and Safety Liability Waiver (forthcoming).

Career Development and Internships

- ***Are internships still occurring, especially if part of a major's requirement?***

Yes! While internships may look different this year (and many on-site internships may not be possible due to the organization's safety standards), there are many other ways a student can engage professionally with an organization, especially remotely. A plan will be created on a case-by-case basis with the Director of Internships, the student's academic advisor, and the partnering organization.

- ***If I want to do a local on-site internship, is that possible?***

Yes, though only with the guarantee that the student and their partnering organization are following the COVID-19 health and safety protocols set in place by the CDC and consistent with those implemented by the College.

- ***If I don't have transportation to my internship, can I get a ride?***

Yes, as long as a reasonable schedule is created ahead of time with the transportation crew and the student and partnering organization are following the health and safety protocols set in place by the CDC and the College.

- ***If my internship no longer meets the required hours/length due to unforeseen changes, such as an unexpected closure of my organization and/or the campus, will I still receive credit?***

Yes. Each student's internship situation and academic plan moving forward will be addressed on a case-by-case basis by the student, their site supervisor, the Director of Internships, and the student's academic advisor. It is expected that the student will continue to either engage remotely with the organization or complete alternative assignments.

- ***I will be graduating in December. Will there be job search help?***

Absolutely. All of the services provided by Career Development continue to be available to you. We are glad to assist you through the entire process of finding employment. While we will likely meet with you remotely, we can help you develop a plan for your job search and help you prepare your job search materials.

- ***I need some professional attire for my internship and/or for an interview. Will the Career Clothes Closet be available?***

The Career Clothes Closet is still available for students. We ask that you do your best to find appropriate attire without trying the clothes on. If clothes are returned, we will have them dry cleaned prior to making them available to other students.

- ***Can I get help with writing my resume and a cover letter?***

A good place to start is with the resources we have available on the [Career Development/Internships myWWC page](#). Once you have a rough draft, you can make a virtual appointment with a Peer Career Coach or staff member and we can provide you with feedback.

Finances

- ***Can I take fewer courses in the fall and be a part-time student?***

Yes, you can be a part-time student. The part-time tuition rate is \$1,563 per credit hour. You are not allowed to live on campus if you are part-time. Please reach out to Financial Aid if you plan to go part-time, as it may affect your financial aid. If you go below 12 hours, your financial aid will be reduced.

- ***If the College must close because of a state or federal mandate and moves to fully online mid-semester, will there be a refund of tuition, fees and room and board?***

No, there will be no prorated refund of tuition, fees, room or board.

- ***If I withdraw after the semester begins, will I receive a refund for tuition, room and board?***

Students are obligated to pay WWC for the full cost of tuition for the academic year under all circumstances unless a student withdraws from WWC in accordance with WWC's policies regarding Institutional Withdrawal, Medical Withdrawal, and Administrative Withdrawal, which may be found in Sections 4 and 9 of the Student Handbook 2020-2021. In the event a Student withdraws, any tuition refund will be provided in accordance with the existing Refund Policy shown below, which will be in effect for each semester.

- 100% refund if withdrawal is before the first day of classes
- After first day of classes but before the end of week seven, tuition, room and board* charges will be refunded as follows:
 - 90% refund if withdrawal is before the end of the first week of classes
 - 80% refund if withdrawal is before the end of week 2
 - 70% refund if withdrawal is before the end of week 3
 - 60% refund if withdrawal is before the end of week 4
 - 50% refund if withdrawal is before the end of week 5
 - 40% refund if withdrawal is before the end of week 6
 - 30% refund if withdrawal is before the end of week 7
 - No refund if withdrawal is after the end of week 7

*The withdrawal date for refund purposes is the date the student is officially checked out of student housing or the last day of attendance, whichever is later.

Except as provided above, payments for tuition are non-refundable.

- ***If I opt to take courses entirely online, will there be a discount to tuition/fees?***

No. All college academic and support resources will be available to students who have chosen to not return physically to campus and take courses entirely online.



- ***Are there any hardship funds available to students (such as the Love emergency assistance fund)?***

Limited hardship funds for emergencies are available as long as the fund lasts.

- ***If students are sent home prior to the semester's end and required to take online courses, can the student opt out of this method of learning and receive a full tuition refund and prorated room/board refund?***

The College intends to remain open and provide education and support for students until November 20, when the campus closes for the semester. There will be no refund of tuition or room and board. If a student chooses to withdraw during the semester, our regular withdrawal policy would apply.

General

- **Does the College have any support from community health organizations to meet student and campus needs around the pandemic?**

Mountain Area Health Education Center (MAHEC) is forming a Rapid Response Team to provide quick testing and advice in the event of an outbreak on campus. An outbreak is currently defined as five concurrent cases and/or evidence of community spread. An individual case would be handled by our health services, the county, and testing through Range Urgent Care or another source. There will be a director of the team employed by MAHEC, and they will be organizing RNs to be on staff and on-call. When not responding to an urgent outbreak, they will act as technical advisors. MAHEC can process insurance for services they provide and has funding from the CARES Act to cover the under-insured.

Does the college plan to do regular coronavirus testing for asymptomatic people?

At this time, MAHEC and Buncombe County do not recommend widespread testing for asymptomatic people, although those guidelines may change. Testing will be available locally for students with symptoms, or who have been identified as at-risk through contact tracing through our partnership with Range Urgent Care, the Rapid Response Team through MAHEC, and through the Health Department of Buncombe County.

- ***What if a student gets sick and/or does not feel safe on campus with protocol?***

While students electing to be online only for the semester will not be able to change status, in-person students will be able to move to online only status if they have medical issues or feel that they are not able to comfortably and



effectively engage on campus. Students should work with their advisors if they are considering that option at any point in the semester.

- ***Will I need a car in order to have the flexibility to get groceries, take care of personal needs, etc?***

Transportation will be limited to essential trips only due to limits on vehicle capacities and physical distancing requirements. If you have the option to bring a vehicle to campus, you should bring it. Remember that you must also register for a [parking permit](#), which is free.

- ***Will students be allowed to go off campus whenever they want to and then return?***

Students will be permitted to go off campus; however, we are asking students to commit to follow health protocols on campus but also off campus, which include requirements for physical distancing and mask wearing. Health protocols off campus are also required by the State of NC.

- ***Will students be able to go home and see family during school?***

If your family is comfortable with this level of exposure, yes you can.

- ***What will be the ways in which others from Asheville and other communities will be coming to campus or restricted from coming to reduce the risk of COVID-19?***

While we will allow limited visitors to campus, we will be requiring them to follow similar health protocols when arriving, including health screenings, mask wearing, and physical distancing.

Health and Safety

- ***If I become sick, will there be a space for quarantine?***

Yes, we have reserved an off-campus quarantine and isolation facility at the nearby YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly. Students will work with our Health Center staff to be screened, and if it's determined that a student should quarantine or isolate, the student will be transported to Blue Ridge and assigned their own room with a private bathroom. We will work with them to provide individual care including meal delivery, health monitoring, and case management. Once students are medically cleared, they can return to campus.



- **Will sanitation stations be provided throughout the campus?**
Yes, there will be hand sanitizer available throughout campus.
- ***Is it possible to have everyone tested for COVID as they arrive?***
We are looking into that possibility; however, current guidance from the CDC does not recommend mass, asymptomatic, point-in-time testing. Most effective will be consistent and ongoing symptom checking, including regular temperature monitoring, and contact tracing in the event of a diagnosed case.

Housing and Dining

- ***My short-term lease ends August 1 and I have no place to go before school starts. Can I move back to campus on August 1?***
Similar to previous years, unless you are arriving early as a student leader to assist with College opening activities, have an approved work contract, or are a student athlete, we will not be able to accommodate early arrivals outside of the established move in dates.
- ***How will Housing work in the fall?***
Housing will be operating similarly to prior experiences. We will be suggesting that roommates sleep head to toe so that can maximize physical distance while sleeping. We will be limiting the number of students using common sinks and laundry facilities at a time.
- ***After we return to campus in the fall, if the campus must close down again, will hardship housing be available?***
Our residence halls will remain open to all, even if we need to transition learning to online.
- ***Is it mandatory to move out on November 20? And if so, that would mean moving back home early?***
Yes, per the announced and shortened academic schedule, students will be expected to leave campus by November 21 at 1 p.m. As we have in previous years, we will offer housing during breaks.
- ***Can students remain on campus over the holidays if there is a reason they cannot return home?***
Yes, as we do each year, we will provide break housing for students who are not able to leave between semesters. Similar to this past Spring, this will be reserved



for those in hardship situations. As in previous semesters, campus services will be limited including no food services.

- ***Is there a chance students could stay during Thanksgiving break and move out the weekend before the remote exams start?***

No, the campus intentionally is planning to close residentially prior to Thanksgiving break in order to limit possible complications with the fall flu season.

- ***How responsible will students be for keeping living spaces sanitized?***

Students are responsible for the spaces in their room and/or suite. Students should bring supplies to clean and disinfect their personal living spaces including bathrooms if you have a private one rather than a common one which will be cleaned by our contract cleaning service.

- ***Will students be allowed to obtain employment off campus during the semester? If so, what precautions will be taken or in place when returning to campus in order to ensure the safety of roommates and the campus population?***

Yes, we cannot restrict students from obtaining off-campus employment. However, students are expected to follow NC health protocols at their off-campus employment such as following mask wearing and physical distancing protocols. When returning to campus, students are expected to regularly use a symptom tractor and monitor their temperature.

- ***Will the dorms be cleaned and sanitized?***

Warren Wilson College has contracted to clean all buildings on campus. All areas of the College will be sanitized and disinfected with CDC-approved cleaning products.

- ***What will meal times look like? Will there be physical distancing procedures in place?***

Meal times will be adjusted to accommodate changes in the dining hall. There will be no self-serve stations and there will be to-go containers available at the stations. The dining hall will be closed after meal times to allow for the facility to be cleaned and sanitized.



There will be physical distancing in the queue and within the dining hall. Canon lounge will be used for additional seating and for the queue to go into the dining hall.

Sage Cafe will not be open and Sage dollars will be transferred to your Flex dollars.

- ***Will there be an option to opt-out of meal plans for the fall?***

If there is a medical need to be off the meal plan, yes. Have the provider email Joyce Milling (jmilling@warren-wilson.edu) with the medical needs and why the student cannot be on the meal plan.

Programming

- ***Will there be co-curricular events and clubs?***

Yes. we are having Club Fair and clubs will be able to meet either outside or virtually. Events can happen on campus for the clubs, but must use the large spaces—Pavilion, Bryson, or Kittredge (Theatre and Recital Hall), even if they are for only 15 people, and practice physical distancing. No off-campus trips are allowed, and limited visitors to campus are allowed, but we are planning to have some level of engagement for every club and event.

Work

- ***Can students who are not returning to campus and choosing an online-only option participate in the Work Program?***

Students who are not residential and are participating in classes online only will not be given a work assignment and will not participate in the Work Program. This will affect the financial aid packages, as a work grant will not be included.

- ***Can residential students (living on campus) taking classes fully remotely participate in the Work Program?***

Yes, though students who are participating in the Work Program online will need to be assigned to a crew that has remote work available; if a student's current crew does not have enough remote work a reassignment may be necessary.

- ***If I take a Leave of Absence (LOA) for fall semester, or I am off campus and only taking classes online, will my work placement be held for me for the Spring semester?***

Positions on crews cannot be held or reserved. The Work Program Office (WPO) will work personally with students returning from LOAs to find a placement on



either their original crew, or a new crew, depending on availability. It has been our experience that supervisors most often will make space for students coming back from an LOA to provide those students with continuity in their work experience.

- ***What will my work look like?***

Work will be a combination of in-person work and remote work depending on the circumstances of each crew. Remote work will include the completion of online work modules provided by the Work Program.

- ***We will still have crew meetings?***

Yes, crew meetings will still be held, though most crews will hold them in a virtual setting. In-person crew meetings will only take place where social distancing parameters can be met (outside, small numbers, 6 feet of separation) Crew meetings will be held on Thursdays from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

- ***Online modules***

Each student participating in the Work Program will be responsible for completion of work modules as part of their work assignment. These modules are focused on delivering work learning that is applicable for your standing and experience in the work program.

- ***If the College has to move online, will I still be able to earn or receive my work credit? If the College has to close (and students move off campus) will I still be able to earn or receive my work credit? (student inquiry)***

Yes. Work will continue if we move online so all students can continue to earn their work award. The format of that work will vary depending on crew and ability to deliver remote work. The online work program modules will have the capability for students to make up any hours their crew cannot provide in remote work.

- ***If I get sick or am required to quarantine, will I be required to make up the hours of missed work?***

In case of illness or quarantine, affected students should work with their supervisors and the WPO to determine the best course of action. The implementation of the online work modules and availability of remote work are designed to provide students with maximum flexibility in meeting the work requirements.



- ***What do I do if I feel uncomfortable/unsafe in my work environment or on my work crew?***

Contact the staff of the WPO. As always, the staff of the WPO is available to support students by helping to find solutions. Solutions may include private conversations with supervisors, temporary or permanent crew reassignments, or something else that matches the student's particular needs.