



Dear Graduate Students,

As President Salovey announced in his message to the Yale community earlier this evening, all university classes, including graduate courses, are moving to an online instruction format to help prevent the potential spread of COVID-19 in the Yale community.

[Please download the Zoom audio and video conferencing application](#) and familiarize yourself with connecting to and hosting meetings for classes and meetings to be held online. Zoom is available to everyone in the Yale community with an active NetID.

Teaching Fellows (TFs) will need to conduct all activities remotely. Zoom, Canvas, or other online learning platforms are appropriate for sections, but students should consult with the faculty member for the course to determine the best remote learning strategy for the material you need to cover.

By now, all faculty members and graduate student teaching assistants should have received [information from the Poorvu Center](#) for Teaching and Learning describing how to convert their courses to online instruction and to obtain assistance with the transition. Please reach out to the Poorvu Center as soon as possible if you need support (askpoorvucenter@yale.edu).

Graders and tutors should also schedule virtual office hours and be available for questions via Zoom or Skype. If assessments must be given while online instruction is still in force, the faculty member for your course will provide guidance.

Ph.D. students will continue to be paid their stipends on time and at the usual rate, even if TF activity is curtailed for any reason.

All graduate research may continue as long as it does NOT involve:

- Travel to Level 3 locations per [the latest guidelines from the CDC](#) (currently including China, Iran, South Korea, and Italy). If you must go to these countries for any reason, please complete this [registration form](#) and self-monitor and self-isolate for 14 days after you return using [these guidelines](#).

- Groups of people of >100
- Coming to work or interacting with others while manifesting any symptoms at all, including but not limited to fever, sneezing, coughing, and shortness of breath.

Throughout this time, advisers and students should communicate frequently to plan how to continue research and scholarship as the situation unfolds.

Graduate Student Housing will remain open, with updated cleaning protocols now in place. Students residing in graduate housing in New Haven are expected to attend lectures or classes remotely from their rooms.

In the meantime, how can you avoid getting this disease?

COVID-19 is NOT the same as the flu and there is currently no vaccine to prevent it. The best ways to guard against illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus and follow recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), including:

- Avoid close contact with people who seem sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you feel unwell.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and then throw it in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces (your phone and your laptop for example) using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Use face masks only if you have symptoms to help prevent spreading illness to others.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds more often than you ever thought possible.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

As always, please check communications.yale.edu/covid-19-information for the latest updates. Take good care of yourselves and those around you. We are in the midst of a challenging and unexpected new global situation -- everyone in the Graduate School and at Yale is here to help you continue your education in safety.

Sincerely,

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