

Fall Semester 2021 Frequently Asked Questions *(as of May 24, 2021 – Safety on Campus Section Updated)*

COURSES

Q: Will there be in-person courses offered in Fall 2021?

A: Yes. We are scheduling approximately one-third of our courses to have some in-person component to them. Most of those courses will be a mix of in-person and online. About two-thirds of Fall Semester courses will be online. The Fall Semester 2021 course schedule is online at [eServices](#).

Q: What will in-person classes look like?

A: With the safety of students and faculty in mind, we will continue to follow Minnesota Health Department (MDH) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance. We have arranged our classrooms to allow for safe physical distancing spacing of a minimum of 6 feet.

Some in-person courses will be utilizing new technology that will allow the class to take place in two adjacent rooms at the same time. These paired classrooms will allow for sufficient social distancing while creating more in-person availability in selected courses.

Q: Will I find out more about the classes I have signed up for before fall semester starts?

A: Please refer to the [Explanation of Course Formats](#) for more information about class formats. As you are registering for courses, **please pay attention to the notes in [e-Services](#)** that provide further detail about your courses. You will continue to receive communication from the college about resources and updates that can help you be fully prepared to succeed in the fall semester. The [Student Resources Checklist](#) provides a great list of resources to be fully prepared for a successful fall semester.

Q: What will online and in-person student services look like in Fall 2021?

A: Student services will be a mix of online and in-person. Admissions, Advising, Counseling & Career Center and Student Services are currently providing robust online services and will continue to do so in the fall. In-person services will be available from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Online services will be available from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday.

Q: What if my major requires face-to-face experiences as part of my academic program, and those offerings are not available in the fall?

A: We are examining all options to make sure we meet minimum requirements for courses that are part of programs with accrediting bodies that mandate certain face-to-face obligations or require face-to-face assessment to obtain certifications. Normandale and Minnesota State are in constant communication with accreditation agencies to make sure we stay within the standards and maintain approval. There are and will continue to be separate communications to students in programs with these accreditation requirements.

Q: What if I am still not comfortable coming to campus for courses?

A: Please see [Explanation of Course Formats](#) to see types of courses that do not require on-campus presence. You can search in [eServices](#) for the specific types of courses that will meet your needs. If you need assistance with your schedule please reach out to advisors through [Advising, Counseling & Career Center website](#).

Q: What if I only want to take in-person courses?

A: There will be some courses offered 100% in-person and many more will have at least some in-person component to them. Please check [eServices](#) for In Person, Blended/Hybrid and Hyflex. If you need assistance with your schedule please reach out to advisors through [Advising, Counseling & Career Center website](#).

Q: What should I know before coming to campus?

A: As of May 24, we will discontinue the use of the online COVID screening questionnaire and all campus entry doors will be available. There will be signage at campus entrances that advise people that they may not enter campus buildings if they are exhibiting symptoms or are COVID-19 positive. We will no longer ask people to swipe ID cards/driver's licenses when they enter and exit.

STUDENT SUPPORT**Q: The pandemic has made my finances very difficult. Is there any help available for students?**

A: Grants of up to \$1,000 are available to students whose finances have been impacted by the pandemic. The easy application is available on the [emergency grant webpage](#).

Q: Is there still food assistance available on campus?

A: Yes, the [Campus Cupboard](#) offers a variety of food – non-perishable, perishable, and ready-made meals. Hygiene products are also available. In the fall, it will be located in A1560 near the Fitness Center.

Q: Where can I find additional information?

A: The [Student Portal](#) is a great resource to find key links to all of the student service areas and timely announcements. The [Student Services website](#) is also a great resource to find answers to key questions you have. Also, be sure to regularly check your Normandale student email

SAFETY ON CAMPUS (updated May 24, 2021)**Q: What are the rules around wearing masks and face coverings on campus?**

A: Normandale strongly encourages people who are not fully vaccinated to wear masks in campus buildings, and we welcome all people to wear masks as an expression of concern for everyone's health. We have posted signs with this language at all campus entry points. Normandale continues to follow guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and CDC. Please click on [CDC recommendations](#) and [Governor's Walz's Executive Order](#) for more information on recent guidance.

We are no longer asking people to swipe ID cards/driver's licenses when they enter and exit. The campus is not yet open to the general public.

Q: Will all students and employees be required to be vaccinated in order to be on campus next fall?

A: We do not anticipate such a requirement from Minnesota Department of Health, Office of Higher Education or Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

Q: What do I need to do to be safe on campus?

A: You must follow the following practices:

- Physical distancing by maintaining at least six (6) feet of distance from other individuals at all times
- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water frequently throughout the day, but especially at the beginning and end of your time on campus, before eating, and after using the toilet
- If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, stay home.

Q: Will I be safe if I am attending an in-person course this fall?

A: All classrooms and meeting rooms have been evaluated and assigned a safety occupancy maximum based on physical distancing guidelines. We have also built in approximately 45 minutes in between uses of classrooms to ensure that they are properly cleaned. There will also be maximum occupancy numbers will be posted outside each classroom and meeting room. Computer and science labs also have modified occupancy to assure physical distancing. Physical distancing of at least six feet will be maintained in classrooms.

CLASSROOMS AND PUBLIC SPACES ON CAMPUS

Q: How will you ensure appropriate spacing?

A: Furniture in classrooms and other campus spaces have been rearranged to assure appropriate distancing. There are signs directing everyone to maintain a 6-foot distance from one another.

Q: Will everyone coming to campus be required to complete the COVID screening questionnaire daily and have permission to come to campus?

A: As of May 24, we will discontinue the use of the online COVID screening questionnaire and all campus entry doors will be available. There will be signage at campus entrances that advise people that they may not enter campus buildings if they are exhibiting symptoms or are COVID-19 positive. We will no longer ask people to swipe ID cards/driver's licenses when they enter and exit.

Q: What is the state of the air handling system on campus? Is it up to the task of increased students on campus?

A: Facilities Management works with mechanical engineers and a heating/cooling contractor on an ongoing basis to keep us as safe as possible and mitigate risk. The College uses a dual filter system that is changed every couple of months. Facilities Management has engaged a consultant to determine if there are other improvements to the system that can be made.

Q: What about maintaining physical distancing in common spaces like the Student Center and food services areas?

A: Furniture has been removed so that seating is physically distanced in these spaces. Signs will remind everyone about the mask and physical distancing requirements.

Q: What safety precautions are being taken with restrooms?

A: Facilities Management will clean and disinfect regularly, particularly high touch areas.

Q: Can drinking fountains be used?

A: We ask that only the bottle filling function of drinking fountains be used.

ENTRANCES TO THE BUILDING

Q: What is the process if I am coming to campus?

A: As of May 24, we will make all campus entry doors available and not limit entry to College Services only. Signs prohibiting entry if people are symptomatic or have been exposed will be posted to each entry. We are confident that the same honesty that has been exhibited in answering the online screening questions will continue guiding behavior with the new signs.

Q: Will Normandale open to the public in the fall? For example, will community members be able to come to campus to use the library? Will non-Normandale groups be able to book spaces at Normandale for their events?

A: We do not anticipate being open to the public generally but Normandale student groups may be able to book spaces for events if they conform to safety guidelines.

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ADDITIONAL COVID-19 QUESTIONS

Q. What should I do if I have or have been exposed to COVID-19?

A: *First, stay home.* Contact Dean of Students at dos@normandale.edu, if you have been exposed, have symptoms, or have been clinically diagnosed. The Dean of Students will contact the Minnesota Department of Health, who will conduct contact tracing.

Q. How long do I need to quarantine if I have been exposed to COVID-19?

A: Guidelines from the Minnesota Department of Health advice are as follows:

- a. Household exposure = 14 days

If exposure is from someone in the same household, you should quarantine for 14 days from the time of exposure



- b. Non-household exposure + no symptoms = 10 days**
If the exposure is not from someone in the same household and you are not experiencing symptoms, quarantine can be limited to 10 days.
- c. Non-household exposure + symptoms = 14 days**
If the exposure is not from someone in the same household but you experience symptoms, the quarantine period needs to be at least 14 days.
- d. Either kind of exposure + >5 days + negative test = 7 days**
After 5 days from the point of exposure, you can take a COVID test and, if the results are negative, your quarantine can end after 7 days.
- e. Exposure + test < 5 days = 14 days**
Tests within the first 5 days of exposure are not sufficient to end quarantine early. You need to quarantine for 14 days.