Academic & Student Life FAQ

For our academic plans to be successful, we will need to hold students to a high standard of conduct. Students will be required to wear masks in the building and maintain strict distancing from one another. We will add signage, stock supplies, and reduce seating to assist. Things will be different at Evans this fall and we will all need to work together, as a community. Even then, there is the risk that conditions will change and we will be required to update our approach. That could happen at the course, program, school, university, or state levels.

Courses & Scheduling

What are the current plans for SOM degree programs for the fall 2020 semester?

Courses for the Executive MBA started in July. All SOM courses for the residential master’s programs, including MBA core courses for entering students, will start during the week of August 31. The exception is the Master’s Degree in Asset Management which will postpone the start of its inaugural cohort until fall 2021. Check the Academic Calendar.

What is an A/B schedule?

Students will be assigned an A/B schedule in which their participation in each course will alternate between the classroom and online sessions. This will be true regardless of where the professor is located while teaching. This approach has both a public health component and an educational component to it. This solution balances both. Students will be assigned to A or B.

How will the A/B approach differ for first and second year students?

First-year MBA students will be assigned to A/B based on their cohort and learning team. Second-year MBA students will be assigned to A or B during bidding. The higher the bid, regardless of the clearing cost, the better the chance of attending the course online, for courses with higher enrollment.

How will the A/B approach affect my cohort?

Half of your cohort will attend classes on A days, the other half on B days.

How will the A/B approach affect my learning team?

Your learning team will be on the same schedule as you are, whether it be A or B.

How will fall course information be affected? Electives, Global Network Weeks, and Non SOM Courses?

GNAM Courses (SNOCs)

- These will not be in the course auction.
- The application deadline: Friday, July 31.
- Applications will be accepted after deadline if seats are still available.
- Course details and applications can be found here.

SOM Elective Schedule

- The schedule was posted on the portal the week of July 27.
- The instruction mode for most courses will be dual delivery: on-line and in-person (one group attends one day a week and the other group attends on the other).
- Courses that will be taught 100% online will have a notation in the course description.

Fall 2020 Course Auction

- The Course Auction is scheduled to begin on Monday, August 3.
- There are 5 rounds (one less than last year).
- Unlike last spring, you will need to submit at least one point to bid for a course.
- Although many courses may clear for zero, zero bids will not be accepted.

Global Network Weeks (GNWs)

- GNWs will be available to bid for in the auction.
- GNWs do not carry academic credit but will be noted on your transcript.
- Due to the current circumstances and delivery of these programs, many may clear for 0 points, so bid accordingly.
• Fall 2020 GNW courses will be taught 100% online.

NonSOM Courses

• NonSOM courses can be added in SIS.
• SOM students will use the SOM Add/Drop form for all courses outside of SOM.
• The SOM Add/Drop period for nonSOM courses opens on Monday, August 24.
• The University courses can be found in Yale Course Search.

Can non-SOM students still take electives?
Yes, but non-SOM students will not be permitted to attend classes in-person. Every course will allow for virtual attendance - non-SOM students must attend virtually.

For 2nd year MBAs and one-year degree programs, what is the policy for registering for classes at other graduate schools? Are SOM students expected to take non-SOM electives completely online?
This will vary by school. Please check that school's website or contact their registrar for more information.

How will course schedules be affected?
Classes will start at 8:00 am rather than 8:30 and will end after 5:30 pm. Breaks between classes will be longer than the usual 20 minutes, so classrooms can be cleaned and more screen rest is provided for those joining via Zoom. Course schedules will be staggered between core and electives, so demand on common areas and bathrooms will be reduced during breaks.

What are the plans for Fall Break?
First-Year MBA students will be attending MGT 401: Managing Groups & Teams for part of the break, and there will be CDO activities for them as well. All other students will have a break, and can complete a virtual Global Network Week if they wish.

I have to miss a class. Can I just watch a recording of the class afterwards?
Synchronous attendance is expected of all students in the live sessions of all the courses in which they are enrolled. If due to data issues, problematic time differences, illness, family emergency or religious observance students cannot attend the session, students should contact AASL for guidance and access to a recorded session. Please let your professor or TA know in advance if you cannot attend the session whether you are attending online or in a live session. It will be the discretion of the instructor to create attendance policies that support the learning environment.

How are grading and attendance policies affected in the fall?
Yale SOM has returned to the regular grading system.

When am I expected to attend class in person? Can students opt-out of in-class participation without being penalized in terms of attendance?
If you are assigned to A or B, you should attend in person on the days that correspond to that schedule (A: Monday and Tuesday, B: Wednesday and Thursday). You may only attend on your group's scheduled days, you cannot swap days with another student. Students may opt out of attending in person classes at any time (permanently) by notifying the instructor and/or TAs.

How do I log into class?
There will be a zoom link on each Canvas site.

Can I host a learning team meeting or club event in Evans Hall?
No, students are only permitted in Evans Hall to attend classes.

Can I bring food on campus?
• Groups: No catering or alcohol is allowed on campus. No social gatherings will be allowed on campus.
• Personal: Students are allowed to bring personal lunches to campus, however refrigeration and/or storage for your lunch will not be available. Microwaves also will not be available to heat up your food. No one may eat in class, or in classrooms between sessions. If you need to eat while on campus, utilize outdoor areas as much as possible while maintaining social distance. If you must eat indoors, utilize the Student Commons, SOM's designated indoor eating space. Occasionally removing one's mask to drink is allowed in non-designated areas. Maintain social distance and replace your mask immediately after each sip or after finishing your meal.

Will all professors be teaching in the classroom?
Instructors have the option to teach virtually.

How are professors preparing their courses for fall 2020?
Over the course of the last Spring Term and throughout the summer, faculty were trained in various aspects of online instruction. The Poorvu Center for Teaching and Learning has been working with members of the Yale community to provide training, consultations, and resources for hybrid teaching and learning. Faculty, staff and TAs also work closely with IT to ensure technology is working smoothly.
What is happening with SOM-sponsored global trips?

The second year MBA’s (and MAM and GBS students) will be able to participate in online GNWs in October. The list of modules offered will be posted on the Global Network website.

The Global Studies Requirement (GSR) has been waived for members of the MBA Class of 2021.

Global Social Entrepreneurship (GSE) course is happening. The fall course is currently planning a 2 week trip to India in January, assuming the University lifts the travel restrictions. The spring semester course is planning a trip during spring break (likely to Kenya or Brazil), again assuming there are no restrictions on University-sponsored travel.

Will there be restrictions around student travel during the Fall or Spring semesters?

Fall travel restrictions: There is no school-sponsored travel permitted. Yale Travel Guidelines strongly urge graduate and professional students to limit their travel outside Connecticut in the fall of 2020. If personal travel outside of Connecticut is necessary, AASL must be notified in advance by submitting this form [https://ehs.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/travel-notification-form-graduate-professional.pdf](https://ehs.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/travel-notification-form-graduate-professional.pdf) to som.aasl@yale.edu.

If you are traveling to one of the states on the State of CT quarantine list, and will be there for more than 24 hours, you will have to quarantine for 14 days, even if you have another negative COVID-19 test. Please note that this list of quarantine states is constantly changing as it relies on the percentage of positive COVID tests at any given time.

Spring travel restrictions: Not yet decided. Please note: this policy is subject to changes to university/school/state guidelines.

Events & Evans Hall Usage

Do I have to wear a mask on campus?

Students will be required to wear masks which adequately cover their mouths and noses while inside the building, during class, and maintain strict distancing from one another.

Can I use the breakout rooms in Evans Hall?

No. Students may only be in the building to attend classes in order to minimize the headcount in the building at any given time, and so facilities can be sure that each room is deep cleaned before a scheduled class begins.

Can I use classrooms after class hours for club meetings?

No, the classrooms will undergo the deep cleaning process after classes, and must remain clean until the next class.

Will we still have student events like Closing Bell at Evans Hall?

All events inside of Evans Hall or on its grounds will be devoted exclusively to the academic program. There will be no student events permitted in Evans Hall in the fall.

Will there be an opportunity for in-person club activities?

The latest detailed guidance on in-person events can be found here.

What will students and faculty be expected to do during lunchtime? Do students have to leave Evans Hall?

There will be tables and chairs set up with Plexiglas dividers to accommodate 100 people in the courtyard. There will also be seating available for meals inside, for smaller numbers of people.

What should students/faculty/staff do between classes? Are students expected to leave Evans Hall immediately after class?

If you have classes directly after one another (for instance, an 8 am class followed by a 10 am class) you do not need to leave the building, but while in Evans you need to observe social distancing and have a mask on at all times.

Will social distancing be enforced in the hallways and when classes are dismissed?

Yes, social distancing will be enforced at all times. There will be a few staff and faculty members roaming the building to monitor that.

What facilities on campus will be available for use, such as breakout rooms, printers, lockers, Bloomberg terminals, etc.?

Lockers will be off limits, as will breakout rooms and the Bloomberg terminals (Instructions for Bloomberg remote access.). Printers throughout the building will be available to students. Restocking paper within the printers must be done by the individuals using the machines.

How will co-curricular activities be delivered (e.g. office hours, review sessions, tutoring sessions etc)?

All co-curricular activities will be delivered virtually.

When can Club Leaders resume planning Club events?
Club Leaders can resume planning club virtual events now. In-person events will require a detailed event plan with their event request in CampusGroups. More information will be provided shortly to student organization leaders regarding how fall student events will be structured and operate. Student leaders should review the information on the Student Organization Handbook, and email somclubs@yale.edu if they have additional questions.

How many staff and faculty will be on campus?

Staffing is likely change on a day to day basis, as staff is also required to help reduce the population in the building at any one time.

Will IT support be available in Evans Hall?

For information on IT support, please visit: Support and Computing.

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**International Students**

What is Yale doing in response to the proposed ICE policy (early July)?

Yale is filing an amicus brief in support of the Harvard and MIT lawsuit requesting a temporary restraining order to block the implementation of the new guidance.

From President Salovey: “Yale will do everything in its power to ensure that none of our international students are denied their place on our campus as a result of DHS’s unwise policy. Student by student, we will determine how best to provide the in-person teaching required to preserve visa status under the terms of the new policy. Over the coming days and weeks, we will be in close touch with all affected students.”

If I need immigration, travel, tax, or legal information and/or assistance, whom should I contact?

The Yale Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS) has compiled FAQ sections around these issues for current students and for newly admitted students. For more information and specific inquiries, contact Erin Gustafson in OISS.

If I am an international student and want to speak to someone at Yale SOM, who should I contact?

You may contact Kristen Hammar at SOM (Senior Associate Director, Academic Affairs & Student Life), but OISS is the best resource for information on immigration-related issues.

If I can’t reach the U.S. due to visa delays, can I take classes online?

Yes, every class will have a virtual component.

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**Leave of Absence or Deferrals**

Is it possible to take a leave of absence and return to Yale SOM at a later date?

Yes. Please refer to page 77 of the Yale SOM Bulletin for more information about the process. Contact AASL with specific inquiries.

Can I take a leave of absence if I have a scholarship?

Yes. All students can take a leave of absence, and scholarship awards stay in place until the student has returned. Contact Assistant Dean Sherilyn Scully with specific inquiries.

What is the difference between a deferral and a leave of absence?

Deferrals are requested by admitted students who have not yet matriculated. The Admissions office makes the decision about granting a deferral. Leaves of absence can be taken at any point by students who have already matriculated. Contact AASL if you have a question about a leave of absence. For questions about deferrals, contact the Admissions team for your degree program: full-time MBA; MBA for Executives; Master of Advanced Management; Master’s Degree in Systemic Risk; Master’s Degree in Global Business and Society; Master’s Degree in Asset Management.