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 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. Some second-year MBA students will be completing a virtual Global Network Week if they placed a winning bid in the Fall Course Auction.

I have to miss a class. Can I just watch a recording of the class afterwards?

AASL is able to excuse absences from SOM classes due to data issues, problematic time difference, medical issues, personal emergencies, and religious holiday observance: please submit the Excused Absence Request Form. More information about each specific issue can be found on the form.

If you are unable to attend class in person on your assigned day but are able to connect live through Zoom, you do not need to submit the Excused Absence Request Form, but should let your session coordinator and TA know when you sign in.

If you encounter data issues that prevent you from attending class live through Zoom, or you are unable to attend a course live due to a problematic time difference, please notify your session coordinator and TA at the time of the issue, then submit the Excused Absence Request Form.

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. All courses taught by SOM faculty—with the exception of SNOCs—have an Evan’s classroom reserved for them where students can sit on their assigned A/B day, irrespective of whether or not the faculty member is teaching in-person or remotely. The course directory and SIS tell students where classes meet, and the classroom location will be in students schedules.

This approach has both a public health and an educational component to it. This solution balances both. Students will be assigned to A (Mondays and Tuesdays in-person) or B (Wednesdays and Thursdays in-person).

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 (Mondays and Tuesdays), the other half on B days (Wednesdays and Thursdays).

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.

Can I switch my A/B designation?

No. Your A/B designation must be maintained through the entire hybrid learning period.

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 through the auction 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 based on the A/B schedule).
- 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.**

Non-SOM Courses

- Non-SOM 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 non-SOM 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.

**How are grading and attendance policies affected in the fall?**

Yale SOM has returned to the regular grading system and attendance policies.

**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.

**Travel**

**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 prohibit graduate and professional students from traveling outside of Connecticut for the remainder of the fall of 2020. If personal travel outside of Connecticut is absolutely necessary (am emergency situation arises), you must request permission in advance by submitting this form https://ehs.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/travel-notification-form-graduate-professional.pdf to som.hsl@yale.edu. This restriction does not apply to travel for the Thanksgiving break, but notification must be made for Thanksgiving break using the travel form linked above as early as possible before your planned departure.

Any student, and any student who lives with anyone, who arrives at or returns to Yale from any travel outside of Connecticut, and intends or is required to be on campus within two weeks of their arrival or return must either quarantine for fourteen days or obtain a test on their first full day in Connecticut (day #1) and a second test no sooner than four days later (day #5) and quarantine until negative results are received for both tests. Go to https://covid19.yale.edu/screening to schedule tests. If both tests are negative, the individual may return to campus and is strongly encouraged to participate in voluntary testing for at least one more week. This policy is specific to the Yale community, and differs from the State of CT policy. For more information, please see the Yale COVID-19 Travel Guidelines page.

Students should wear face masks and practice social distancing as much as possible while travelling.

For the remainder of 2020, students and scholars who are unable to quarantine safely at home may choose to quarantine in Yale designated housing in Welch Hall on Old Campus, space permitting. To safely quarantine at home, the individual must have a separate bedroom and a mask should be worn at all times in any shared spaces. Neither a separate bathroom nor a separate kitchen are necessary, provided the quarantining person is able to clean after each use.

Conditions for quarantining in Welch Hall include:

- Food will be provided by Yale hospitality, individual orders from options including vegan, delivered each day by 11:00am.
- Other deliveries must be arranged through the housing office: 203-432-4020.
- Individual must remain in their assigned room except to use the bathroom and for testing. Outdoor space immediately in front of Welch may be used provided social distance is maintained.
- Individual agrees to remain in the quarantine housing area for the duration of quarantine.
- There is no cost to the individual.

Arrangements for quarantine housing may be made by contacting the housing office at 203-432-4020 or housingservicesoffice@yale.edu.

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

**Can I be reimbursed for COVID-19 tests while outside of Connecticut?**

If you are in Connecticut, you must continue to use the university testing sites as you have been - tests performed within Connecticut, outside of Yale Health will not be covered. If you are outside of Connecticut:

1. Please refer to Community-Based Testing Sites for COVID-19 for free testing locations near you.
2. If you are unable to find free testing, you may get tested at any testing center and submit your receipt to your own health insurance carrier or, if your insurance carrier does not provide coverage, to Yale for reimbursement of up to $120.
3. If you submit your receipt to Yale, you should complete this form, and return it by mail or send it electronically to yhclaims@yale.edu to receive your reimbursement.

**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.
Why am I being asked to swipe-in to Evans Hall and the other Yale buildings, even if the door is being held for me?

Yale is using your badge data to collect and aggregate data on how many people are on campus each day, monitor the total number of individuals entering buildings to facilitate dedensification and enhanced cleaning, and reinforce compliance with quarantine or isolation.

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. If you do not have classes in Evans Hall in both the morning and the afternoon on any given day, it is recommended that you return to your home to have lunch to keep the numbers down.

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

Students may arrive 30 minutes prior to the start of their first class, and should leave Evans after their last class, if possible. The building is open for independent study before and between classes (and after, if required). It closes at 6:45 pm daily unless a student has an evening class that runs past that time. Announcements will be made throughout the building just in advance of closing.

If I have a 100% virtual class on one of my in-person days, will I be able to attend the class in-person?

Yes, there is a classroom reserved for every course, with the exception of SNOCS, regardless of whether it is 100% virtual or not. Students enrolled in virtual courses may choose to sit in the classroom assigned to that courses, even though the instructor is virtual. You can find the classroom assigned to courses in the SOM Course Directory.

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.?  

In order to reduce unnecessary exposure certain building amenities have been temporarily closed, including Bloomberg terminals (Archive 20200930 Bloomberg Terminal Remote Access, ), Breakout Rooms, Charley’s Place, Fit For Thought, the student lounge, and the student locker room and changing rooms. Zhang Auditorium will remain closed unless the demand for independent study space during approved on campus windows increases.

The Ross Library, Kenney Reading Room, and Student Commons remain open for independent study before and between classes (and after, only if required) subject to occupancy limits. The lactation room remains available, but mask use is required within despite being alone. Students may use the couches in shared spaces while on campus. You need to observe social distancing and have a mask on at all times.

Printers throughout the building will be available to students. Papercut printers have been programmed to release print jobs simply by presenting your ID card at the reader; touching the screen is not required. 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 to change on a day to day basis, as staff is also required to help reduce the population in the building at any one time. In general, very few staff members will be on campus on a day-to-day basis.

Will IT support be available in Evans Hall?
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. You are encouraged to attend synchronously, but if your time zone makes that difficult, you may watch the recordings.

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.

Academics

Can I request a tutor?

You can request tutoring for all core courses. The first step is for you to ask the instructor to send a referral to AASL. If you have questions about tutoring, you can contact som.aasl@yale.edu.

I need to request special permission regarding exams (e.g. use of laptop), how can I do that?

For assistance with exam accommodations, you can contact som.aasl@yale.edu.

I have questions about accessibility, who should I contact?

For assistance with accessibility questions, you can contact som.aasl@yale.edu.