

Return to Campus

March 25, 2021–The following is an overview of Metropolitan State University’s approach to returning to work on campus. Guidelines and information may change rapidly; watch for communication on shifts in plans and recommendations.

Guiding Principles for Returning to Work on Campus

- Focus on the health and safety of all students, faculty, staff, and visitors
- Meet student needs to promote success
- Continue to enhance virtual learning, teaching, and working remotely, including flexible and individualized approaches when possible
- Persist in providing an accessible, inclusive, and equitable university environment
- Comply with all federal, state, system, and university guidelines
- Maintain the financial sustainability of the university
- Ensure all university business is conducted efficiently with a focus on continuous improvement

Stage 1: Present–July 5, 2021

- Emphasize employee, student, and guest safety during heightened COVID transmission
- Continue remote work for those who are able
- Limit on-campus events
- Limit in-person courses to those that require in-person components
- Limit in-person services to critical functions
- Develop departmental “Return to Campus” plans identifying in-person scheduling and safety protocols
- Work on occupancy limit guidelines for campus location workspaces

Stage 2: Estimated July 6–August 13, 2021 (prior to fall semester start)

- Emphasize employee, student, and guest safety as vaccinations are available and COVID community transmission levels stay below 5%
- Focus on best meeting student needs and ensuring student success
- Limit on-campus events
- Transition some employees to a hybrid model with in-person work on campus beginning July 6
- Complete departmental plans identifying in-person scheduling and safety protocols, considering office layout, common spaces, and physical distancing requirements
- Continue to reevaluate office footprint to better support safe distancing, hybrid environments including flexible workspace, mobile workstations, and remote work

Stage 3: Estimated August 14–Dec 31, 2021

- Emphasize employee, student, and guest safety as vaccinations are available and COVID community transmission levels stay below 5%
- Shift appropriate number of courses and student services to in-person to support the level of student attending classes on campus
- Focus on best meeting student needs and ensuring student success
- Focus on ensuring university staff continue to be accessible to external partners
- Implement departmental Return to Campus staffing plans
- Continue review and modification of work location and schedules, determined by the President’s Executive Cabinet and supervisors
- Continue to reevaluate office footprint plans

Stage 4: January 2022 and beyond

Information will be forthcoming for Spring 2022 in August 2021. Academic departments will develop the schedule for spring 2022 and it will be posted by October 1, 2021.

*Please note: Metropolitan State University will continue to abide by CDC Guidelines and Minnesota State mandates, MDH, etc. Protocols will remain for regular cleaning and disinfecting. Ongoing monitoring will continue so that we can respond to changes in COVID19 transmission rates within the community.