

PURCHASE COLLEGE ACADEMIC CONTINUITY PLAN

Fall 2021 Term

1. Vaccination, testing, and quarantine/isolation requirements:

a. Daily Health Screenings

All students, faculty, and staff will continue to complete the electronic daily screening for COVID-19 history, exposure, and symptoms upon return to campus regardless of vaccination status.

b. Residential Student Requirements:

Unvaccinated:

- Must have proof of an approved medical or religious exemption.
- Have proof of a negative PCR test within 5 days prior to arrival to campus.
- Complete a 7-day precautionary quarantine at home prior to arrival to campus.
- Must participate in weekly campus surveillance testing.
- Must quarantine at home or on campus if exposed to a positive case.
- Must isolate at home or on campus if they test positive.
- Must wear masks inside campus buildings and maintain social distancing per CDC guidelines and College policy.
- The College has the right to limit access to some areas of campus as well as some activities or events in order to ensure the health and safety of our community.
- In the event of an outbreak of COVID-19 on campus, the college reserves the right to mandate that unvaccinated students leave campus for a period of time to be determined in consultation with the Westchester County Department of Health.
- Purchase College reserves the right to reassign temporary medically accommodated students from their current housing assignment. The purpose of such reassignment would be to avoid placing a mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated students in the same room or suite. If possible, reassigned students would be assigned to a space in the same residential community as their current assignment; however, this may not always be possible given that the campus is expected to be at full residential occupancy. A temporary medically accommodated student reassigned to a different residential community and/or room type will be charged the lower of the two housing rates between the two assignments.
- Temporary medically accommodated individuals may request to remain in their assigned housing and share a room with their roommates and/or suitemates by gaining written consent from all roommates/suitemates.

Vaccinated:

- Must provide proof of vaccination prior to move in.
- Must adhere to college policy regarding masking and other mitigation measures imposed for the health and safety of the campus.

Note: Failure to comply with all Purchase College policies and procedures may result in referral to the Office of Community Standards for disciplinary action and/or removal from residential housing for failure to comply with the Residence License Agreement.

c. Commuter Student Requirements:

Commuter students include those attending in-person classes and students who come to campus regularly to study, work, or use campus facilities.

Unvaccinated:

- Have proof of a negative PCR test within 5 days of prior to arrival to campus.
- Complete a 7-day precautionary quarantine at home prior to arrival to campus.
- Must participate in weekly campus surveillance testing.
- Must quarantine or isolate at home if exposed to a positive case.
- Must isolate at home if they test positive.
- Must wear masks inside campus buildings and maintain social distancing per CDC guidelines and College policy.
- The College has the right to limit access to some areas of campus as well as some activities or events in order to ensure the health and safety of our community.
- In the event of an outbreak of COVID-19 on campus, the college reserves the right to mandate that you leave campus for a period of time to be determined in consultation with the Westchester County Department of Health.
- Upon FDA approval of one or more of the COVID-19 vaccines, students will be required to schedule their vaccination within seven days or submit a medical or religious exemption for approval.

Vaccinated:

- Must provide proof of vaccination prior to arrival on campus.
- Must adhere to college policy regarding masking and other mitigation measures imposed for the health and safety of the campus.

Note: Failure to comply with all Purchase College policies and procedures may result in referral to the Office of Community Standards for disciplinary action.

d. Employee Requirements:

Unvaccinated:

- Must participate in weekly campus surveillance testing.
- Must quarantine or isolate at home if exposed to a positive case.
- Must isolate at home if they test positive.
- Must wear masks inside campus buildings and maintain social distancing per CDC guidelines and College policy.

Vaccinated:

- May provide proof of vaccination to opt out of weekly testing however will be required to participate in random, periodic surveillance testing as requested.
- Must adhere to college policy regarding masking and other mitigation measures imposed for the health and safety of the campus.

e. Surveillance Testing

Weekly surveillance testing for unvaccinated students who have a presence on campus will continue. The campus will continue to utilize pooled testing to provide sensitive, accurate, and rapid feedback about the presence of SARS-COV-2 in saliva samples from individuals on campus. The benefit to pooled testing is the ability to identify asymptomatic cases to facilitate early intervention.

Unvaccinated students and employees will submit samples at on-campus testing sites. Samples will be combined in a pool to be tested at SUNY Upstate Medical University. If a pool is positive, specimens in the pool are tested individually with results arriving within 24-48 hours. While waiting for results, the individuals in the positive pool regardless of vaccination status, are subject to precautionary isolation on campus or at home.

Unvaccinated faculty and staff who are currently assigned to work on campus will be subject to testing as per SUNY policy and labor agreements.

The college may require surveillance testing for vaccinated students and employees based on positivity rates and transmission and in conjunction with information received from the NYS and local Departments of Health.

F. Outbreak Response and Contact Tracing

The identification of positive cases of COVID-19 will be enhanced by daily self-assessments of symptoms and surveillance testing. Commuter students identified as positive will be required to isolate at home for 10 days. Residential students identified as positive will be required to isolate on **campus or return home**. There will be 60 units with bathrooms kept off-line to accommodate isolation/ quarantine needs.

Contact tracing is the primary responsibility of the State and Local Departments of Health. Campus contact tracers will conduct tracing during off hours. Identified student contacts of a positive individual will be tested on day 5-7 at Health Services or off-campus. In addition, unvaccinated students identified by contact tracing will be mandated to quarantine for 10 days while monitoring for symptoms. Specific student protocols for isolation/quarantine on campus are in place. Health Service staff will attend to the medical monitoring of isolated/quarantined students to the best of their ability via telehealth modalities. Case management of these students will be conducted through the collaboration of campus staff. Release from isolation/ quarantine will be guided by the New York State Department of Health and guidance from the

Westchester County Department of Health on the length of said isolation and timing of returning to activities.

Faculty/staff who contract COVID-19 (regardless of vaccination status) will isolate for 10 days at home and should be monitored by their primary care providers. Unvaccinated Faculty/staff who are exposed to a positive case will quarantine at home and should be monitored by their primary care providers. In addition, Human Resources will inform employees who have been identified as contacts of a positive individual to test on day 5-7 following exposure. Additional guidance may be provided by the DOH. Human Resources will specify return to work requirements. Return to work decisions will be guided by the New York State Department of Health and their local Department of Health on the timing of return to campus.

2. Mode of Instruction

a. Fall 2021 term instruction will begin as scheduled on August 30, 2021 for both in-person and remote courses.

b. Instructional Protocols to mitigate the spread of COVID-19:

Fall semester instruction will use both in-person and synchronous and asynchronous remote instructional modes. Approximately 76% of our fall courses will be offered through partial or full face-to-face instruction in traditional classrooms, while approximately 24% of our courses will be offered remotely in virtual classrooms.

In supporting in-person and remote instruction in Fall 2021, the college will:

- Ensure enhanced cleaning protocols are in place to disinfect for COVID-19 in rooms used for in-person instruction.
- Offer select courses in dual delivery modality (courses with synchronous in-person and remote).
- Continue to offer training for faculty in remote delivery of course content.
- Supply adequate training for staff members who support academic areas in remote course design and delivery.
- With regard to remote instruction, deployment of a remote delivery model must include a balance between synchronous and asynchronous instruction modes, appropriate for each course.
- Academic Internships will be offered through in-person, remote, or hybrid modalities, depending on the nature of the experience. Purchase students are made aware of potential risks and exposure at the workplace, and may be asked to adhere to specific internship site safety requirements and/or guidelines, including vaccination requirements and/or mask wearing. Career Development professional staff will work with students to search for experiences that can best suit their academic, career interests, and needs. Career

Development will also continue to work with internships sites on developing opportunities that can strengthen students' applied learning with high-impact opportunities. If a student does contract COVID-19 and is enrolled in face to face classes, they will be given an individualized study plan to recover those credits. If a student enrolled in face to face classes is quarantined due to symptoms of COVID-19, they will likewise be given an individualized alternate study plan to make up work they cannot undertake face to face.

c. Operational Activity and Campus Pause

In the event that pandemic conditions worsen to the point that all students must return to remote learning at some point during the semester, faculty will work quickly to adjust mode of delivery, the balance of course lesson plans, and course requirements. Instructional time for these classes may be extended by one week at the end of the semester if necessary. In the event that the campus reaches a 5% Covid-19 positivity rate, programs will transition to remote course delivery. Resident and in-person students, on campus employees, and contractors are considered in calculating the campus positivity rate.

In some cases, soft pauses may be enacted for individual academic programs areas, also using the 5% positivity rate metric. The campus will be guided by the directives of the NYSDOH and the WCDOH regarding operational activity in the event of rising transmission rates. Students will be notified of campus expectations in the event of a mandatory pause prior to the beginning of the semester.

d. Residence Hall Closures

The closure of campus residence halls falls under the purview of the President and the President's Cabinet. Upon notification of a closure, the Office of Community Engagement will work with both the Campus Emergency Response Team and Crisis Communications team to provide guidance to students affected by the disruption. Students will be provided with a minimum of 48 hours to vacate the campus. In some cases, students will be allowed to store personal items on campus. Students will be notified of the closure via telephone, text, and email. The correspondence will contain timelines, checkout instructions, and emergency housing opportunities.

e. Remote Instruction

The faculty and support staff, in collaboration with the governance processes, will work to ensure that all courses offered through remote instruction meet or exceed expectations of regular and substantive interaction. The College will continue to assist students with access to devices and internet connectivity in order for students to be successful with remote instruction.

- i. Fall 2021 course sections offered at Purchase College are clearly marked and searchable by whether they are in-person or remote. Remote classes are also distinguished as to whether they are online-synchronous, online-asynchronous, or online-combined, and students can search courses by those formats.

- ii. Courses will provide for the opportunity for substantive interactions with the student on a predictable and regular basis commensurate with both the length of time, and the amount of content, in the course or competency, and monitor the student's academic engagement.
- iii. Some international students at Purchase College will be completing Fall 2021 coursework from other time zones. In those cases, International Programs & Services staff will work with students and faculty teaching the courses in which they are enrolled in order to make reasonable accommodations where necessary and within the bounds of curricular requirements in order to account for time differences.
- iv. Substantive Interaction: The College will engage students in teaching, learning, and assessment, consistent with the content under discussion via Zoom sessions for synchronous and combined sections, VoiceThread, or other presentations for asynchronous or combined sections, and through Moodle Lesson activities.
 - a) Provision of direct instruction
 - Zoom sessions for synchronous and combined sections, VoiceThread, or other presentations for asynchronous or combined sections, and through Moodle Lesson activities.
 - b) Assessment and / or the provision of feedback on a student's coursework
 - This is provided through Moodle assignments, Turnitin assignments, and Mahara ePortfolios.
 - c) Provision of information and / or responding to questions about the content of a course or competency
 - This is provided through Moodle page resources, Moodle messaging system, course forums, email correspondence, etc.
 - d) Facilitation of group discussion regarding the content of a course or competency
 - This is provided through Zoom sessions, Zoom breakout rooms, Moodle discussion forums, etc.
 - e) Other instructional activities approved by the institution's/program's accrediting agency.
 - Varied tools are available to provide the above.
- v. Purchase's Office of Disability Resources works with faculty on all accommodations for remote and in-person classes, and both this office and the college's Teaching Learning and Technology Center provide faculty self-serve help guides on extended quiz time and other accommodation practices for the remote setting. Purchase faculty take advantage of captioning resources, and provide extended time on Moodle quizzes/tests, as well as other

accommodations that can be provided remotely. Additionally, the Office of Disability Resources and Director of Digital Accessibility perform outreach to faculty members whose courses have students with digital accessibility needs. This outreach and the subsequent training are done to ensure that all digital documents in these classes are accessible to the student(s) in question and improved universal design for all of the learners in the course. Reminder e-mails are sent from the Office of Disability Resources to faculty and students regarding the standard process for requesting academic accommodations, as well as any changes to office policies and procedures or technologies available in the online and in-person environments.

- vi. Purchase College resumed in-person orientation activities for Summer 2021 sessions. The College will continue to familiarize the community with instructional technologies and remote pedagogies, especially those faculty for whom such technologies/pedagogies are new and for those students in vulnerable populations.
- vii. Faculty advisors within academic programs and advisors working in the College's Advising Center have largely resumed normal pre-COVID operations while maintaining the greatest amount of accessibility through a combination of phone, email, remote, and in-person advising interactions.
- viii. Purchase College utilizes no-cost instructional support workshops offered by SUNY.

3. Academic Calendar

A. Fall Term Start Dates

The Fall 2021 semester will begin on August 30th for all students. There will be no delay in beginning the semester, and no staggered start dates for in-person and remote courses. All courses will conclude on December 17th, barring any unforeseen extension of operations due to a health emergency.

4. On-campus Activities

a. Federal, State, and Local Guidance

All in-person activities will continue to follow the NYSDOH applicable guidance for social distancing as well as the strictures of the approved campus reopening plan. To the extent possible, activities shall be held outdoors or in a well-ventilated location, CDC recommendations to improve ventilation will be implemented. On-campus services in support of religious observance shall follow the density, quarantine/isolation, and face covering requirements that are already incorporated into the campus reopening plan.

The facilities department will continue to assess and confirm that all cleaning protocols follow NYSDOH Higher Education Guidance and CDC guidance (Interim Guidance for Higher Education during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency and Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes). See:

[Office of Facilities Management - COVID Procedures](#)

b. Face Coverings

The campus policy has been updated in relation to face covering and social distancing to address both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. The campus will continue to follow CDC guidance and amend accordingly.

Campus Mask Policy Link:

[COVID-19 Updates and Plans • COVID-19 Updates and Plans • Purchase College](#)

c. Compliance

Disciplinary actions may be taken by the Office of Community Standards. A violation of the rules associated with COVID-19 policies and procedures may result in the loss of access to academic, campus facilities, and/or campus housing. Student conduct is governed by the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

The following actions will result in a disciplinary referral to the Office of Community Standards for further action under the Student Code of Conduct:

- Failure to follow the campus housing guest policy and/or hosting or attending an unauthorized gathering on or off campus.
- Failure to report a COVID-19 positive test result or the exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Failure to properly quarantine or isolate when directed by the College or as required by a NYS travel advisory.
- Failure to comply with COVID-19 contact tracing efforts conducted by College officials and/or the State or local Department of Health.
- Failure to follow the College's face covering/mask wearing and/or social distancing requirements.
- Failure to attend pool testing appointments.
- Failure to complete 3 consecutive daily health screenings (e.g.: COVID-19 Tracker).

d. Mental Health Support, Services and Referrals

The College understands that this is an exceptionally challenging time. The [Counseling Center](#) at Purchase offers all students mental health support, crisis intervention, treatment options, [Campus Advocacy Services](#), Behavioral Health services, and [referrals](#). [BIPOC self-](#)

[help and therapy resources](#) offer information, groups, and mental health providers. Resources are available to all with a Purchase College email address, including:

- Self-help tools in [TAO](#) for mental health practice and mindfulness exercises
- An online referral data base for searching private practitioners: [Thriving Campus](#)
- Wellness lifestyle resources and [support information](#).

Additional online resources for all SUNY students:

ReachOut SUNY: <https://online.suny.edu/covid19/students/local-state-and-national-resources/>.

Middle Earth peer support line from the University at Albany:
<https://www.albany.edu/counselingcenter/middle-earth.php>.

New York State Office of Mental Health Crisis Text Line: Text **GOT5 to 741741**.

5. Reporting

The campus has developed a protocol and assigned staff to report daily COVID-related information to the SUNY COVID-19 Tracker in accordance with guidelines set forth by SUNY

The Provost's office reports instructional modalities to SUNY System Administration, as a continuation of fall semester reporting procedures, periodic statistical summaries of the distribution of instruction will be reported as required.

6. Communications

The campus will disseminate clear, plain language notices to the campus community (students, faculty, and staff) via Purchase College email and the College's website, which the community is directed to check daily. The website will contain campus positivity rates and the most up to date information regarding College policies, surveillance testing requirements, and mandatory quarantine and isolation protocols.