



# UL SYSTEM FALL 2020 GUIDELINES

It is our desire to return to campus Fall 2020 and this can only happen with the safety of our students, faculty, and staff as our top priority. The following is a framework designed to provide the Universities of Louisiana a path to return to campus life following the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The contents of this document should be considered as campuses develop, refine, and implement plans for the fall 2020 semester.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

**All planning conducted, decisions made, and actions taken by UL System institutions, collectively and individually, shall adhere to the following hierarchy of principles:**



## SIX AREAS OF FOCUS

Universities are extraordinarily complex organizations. When approaching a return to campus, considerations must address each area of operation. The framework for planning identifies six areas of focus and are providing corresponding diagrams and narratives to guide decision making.





## FACULTY AND STAFF

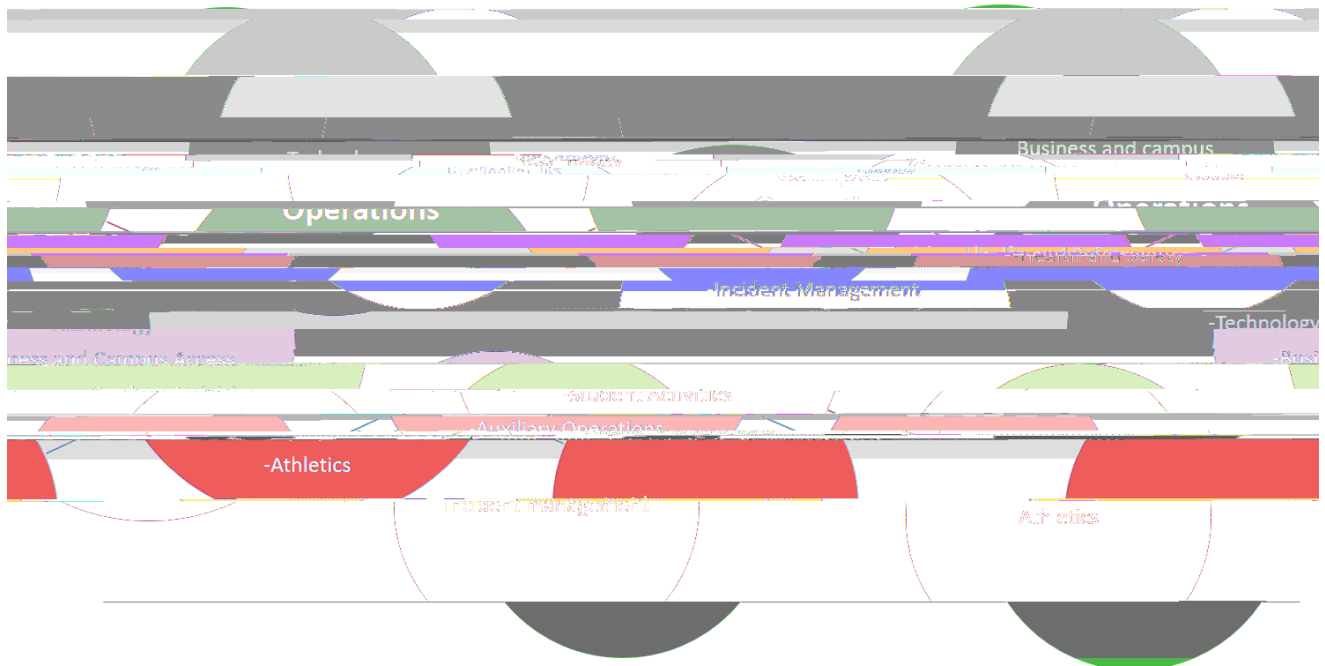
Ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of faculty and staff is of highest priority. With that in mind, phased-in return to campus plans/policies must call for appropriate workforce conditions as well as provide accommodations for those who are not able to return to campus to fulfill their duties.

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH

When planning for and implementing a new mode of operation, flexibility should be paramount while keeping the core academic mission at the forefront. A wide range of course delivery modalities (F2F, hybrid, remote, etc.) will need to be utilized to provide continuous instruction in light of CDC requirements (distancing and occupancy). This will require ongoing training and development for faculty to ensure online teaching skills are at their best; assessment of learning objectives is optimal; and technology is leveraged accordingly. Cultures that support instructional creativity, residential and/or remote, and reflect the academic integrity of program offerings will need to be supported. In addition, faculty will need to provide students with the assurance that the quality and viability of their coursework reflects a continued commitment to student learning, success, and degree completion. In regards to research, policy may need to be adjusted to address the disruption that has occurred (and most likely will continue) due to COVID-19. Operational

# CAMPUS OPERATIONS

The health and safety of students, faculty, staff, and visitors are paramount when planning a return to post-pandemic campus operations. Public health issues caused by the virus must be addressed in a manner that permits easing physical distancing practices and the resumption of many of the activities and educational experiences of a vibrant campus. With input from key stakeholders like HR, IT, university police, business affairs, athletics, and housing partners, the campus incident management group should be the driving force behind a safety-focused and medically informed plan to resume campus operations. The plan should include a guide to return to normal operations and a contingency plan in the event of a spike in COVID-19 cases after campus operations have fully resumed.



## EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION

Increased communication is necessary in times of crisis. Though we are beyond the



## FINANCE AND LEGAL

In a post-pandemic university environment, the institution's financial health is at the forefront of any transition back to campus operations. Despite the financial assistance provided and anticipated under the CARES Act and through other federal aid programs, institutions are faced with the real possibility of collapsing revenue if the health crisis is not resolved soon. With tuition and state appropriations being the two largest revenue sources, institutions are facing a significant challenge in maintaining their financial health. The University of Louisiana is no exception, with a projected revenue loss of \$30.967 million in 2020-21.

## ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PLANNING

The following list is far from exhaustive but focuses on key areas outside of the norms of university operations and protocols that should be considered for each area and phase of restart.

- Temperature Checks
- COVID-19 Testing
- PPE
- Faculty accommodations
- Outbreak response
- Isolation quarters
- Quarantine practices
- Contact Tracing
- Course modality

### Adjustments to existing institutional policies and practices

- Employee handbook
- Faculty handbook
- Student code of conduct
- Planning team
- Response team
- Refund policy
- Fees

