



Pittsburg State University

**STUDENT GUIDE
FOR RETURNING
TO CAMPUS**

August 2021

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Know this, Gorillas

Our primary mission is to provide transformational experiences to you. We are here for you. We want you to be safe, healthy, and happy. We want your time at Pitt State to be amazing, even during difficult times. We love having productive conversations with you. We want to help.

If you have concerns or challenges and you feel we can help solve them, please contact us at social@pittstate.edu. We'll answer fast, we promise.



A SAFE AND HEALTHY FALL

We are excited to once again welcome students to campus and make Pitt State a place where students, faculty, staff, and our community come together. We do so with the ongoing global pandemic in mind, following the guidance of the CDC, our local public health officials, and the expertise of the medical professionals at the Bryant Student Health Center. At the same time, we now have more tools and knowledge, and approach the semester with optimism and a greater sense of normalcy.

We will continuously monitor the COVID-19 situation in our area, and announce changes as needed. We will once again conduct the semester using these **guiding principles**:

- Do what we can to maintain the **health and safety** of our students, faculty, and staff
- Maintain **transparency** with thorough and frequent communication as the situation evolves
- Provide high-quality experiences for our students that **preserve progress toward a degree**

NOTE: While these guiding principles will endure, the information in this document could change as the pandemic evolves.

STAY TUNED IN

If our plans change, or if we need to communicate other important information, you'll be notified by email. Please pay special attention to your account. Please also regularly check our website and follow Pitt State on social media for the latest updates.

pittstate.edu/coronavirus



BE READY FOR CHANGE

These are uncertain times. We can do our best to predict the path of the pandemic, but we know it's smarter to instead prepare for as many scenarios as we can. **You should do this, too.**

- **Be tech-ready.** Make sure you have the technology you need to complete your coursework remotely, if needed. [Check out IT resources and guidance here.](#)
- **Stay flexible.** Remember that we cannot predict everything, and neither can you. It's ok - we are in this together. Living with uncertainty is difficult, but we can do it if we remain change-ready.
- **Keep in touch.** Speak up, ask questions, and seek to understand the resources available to you. We have a wealth of support for you - take advantage of it.
- **Check your course schedule.** Do this regularly, as things could change.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Maintaining a healthy campus for fall 2021 requires us all to work together. Do everything you can to avoid contracting and spreading COVID-19. This means:

- **Get vaccinated.** Vaccines are widely available to all students. Vaccination is the single-most important action you can take to avoid serious illness, hospitalization, and death. Widespread vaccinations also mean a faster end to the pandemic. If you are vaccinated, you are not required to quarantine if exposed to COVID-19, meaning your life will be free of pandemic disruptions this fall.
- **Wear a mask.** Masks are required indoors on our campus, regardless of vaccination status. This includes classrooms and meeting rooms where social distancing is not possible, and crowded indoor events. We will review the necessity of the indoor mask mandate every two weeks and will lift it when it's safe to do so, based on the status of our local healthcare system, infection rates in our county, and recommendations from health professionals.
- **Stay home and get tested if you're sick.** COVID-19 symptoms evolve - don't take chances. Pay attention to your health and get tested. Do not leave home if you are sick, and stay away from others.
- **Follow standard mitigation practices.** Avoid crowded bars and parties. Wash your hands and disinfect your spaces. Carefully follow mandated isolation and quarantine rules if you test positive or are exposed and unvaccinated.



MONITOR YOUR MENTAL HEALTH

Uncertainty, health worries, and social isolation are real concerns and should not be ignored. It is important to take care of yourself. Take breaks from social media, take a walk with a trusted confidante, and stay connected with your family and friends. Professional help is here for you, too: [University Counseling Services](#).



OFF-CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

When not on our campus, it is critically important that you adhere to all public health guidelines - stay home if you are sick, wear a mask indoors, practice social distancing and good personal hygiene, and avoid large indoor gatherings. **Please remember that you and your fellow students have tremendous positive impact in the Pittsburg community.** Let's keep it that way.

Be part of the solution.

Many Pittsburg businesses, employers, and public spaces are committed to community health, and will actively enforce mask requirements and even social distancing. Be a good customer, a good employee, and a good citizen - follow the rules. They are in place for your safety and the safety of those around you. Be part of the solution!



Follow all public health guidelines.

Get a vaccine. Isolate if you are sick. Adhere to mandated quarantines. Wear a mask. Wash your hands and practice other good hygiene. Keep distance between yourself and others. Avoid large indoor gatherings. Avoid indoor crowds (parties, bars).

SOCIAL MEDIA CONVERSATIONS

Be patient. Be kind.

Conversations about vaccines, masks, and other pandemic-related issues can be stressful. Even in the face of diversity of thought around these things, it's important that we support and respect each other. That is especially true during tense debates, particularly those that take place on social media.

Be kind. Be patient with each other. Help each other through this. We're all in this together, and the only way we'll get to the other side is by doing it together.



CLASSROOMS AND COURSEWORK

This fall, classes will once again be delivered one of five ways:

- **Fully online:** 100% of instruction is online through Canvas and does not require attendance on campus.
- **HyFlex:** full-class instruction is delivered online either synchronously during the scheduled class time or asynchronously via a recording in Canvas. The class is split into smaller groups by the instructor and required to attend face-to-face sessions as assigned.
- **Hybrid:** a minimum of 50% of instruction is online through Canvas, and established classroom meeting dates are listed in the schedule of classes.
- **Face-to-face:** course content and learning material are taught in person.
- **Other:** specific techniques/schedule/process due to the nature of instruction required.



The **course schedule** is current and reflects the delivery method selected for each of your courses. If after viewing your course schedule you have questions or concerns, please contact your **academic advisor or the chairperson for your department**. Department chairpersons are listed in the contact information for each department at pittstate.edu/academics. **As always, courses may be adjusted to meet the current situation due to unforeseen circumstances.**

STUDENT VACCINE INCENTIVES

Vaccines are the single-most powerful weapon in stopping spread of the COVID-19 virus. Vaccines are available to all students on our campus, and are safe, effective, and free. To encourage vaccination among students, we are offering these incentives to all students with on-campus classes in the fall 2021 semester if they upload an image of their completed COVID-19 vaccination card/record by September 17, 2021.

Eligible students who do this will:

- be awarded a **\$500 scholarship**
- be entered into a drawing for one of **two \$8,500 grand prizes**, equivalent to a semester's tuition, fees, housing, and meals

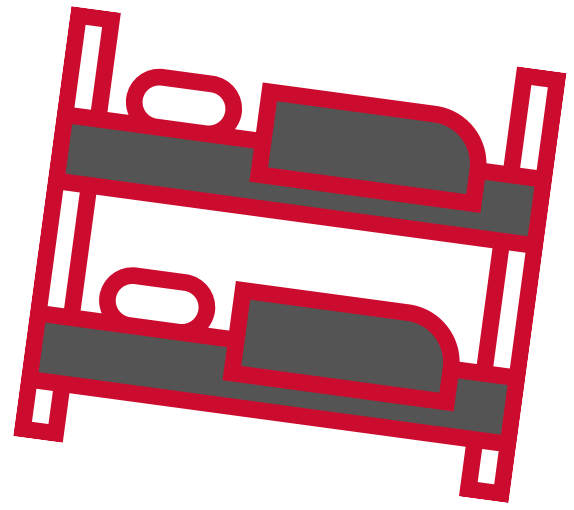
Scholarships and the grand prizes will be applied to the Spring 2022 semester except for those students graduating in December 2021 - theirs will be applied this semester and refunds issued as applicable. The goal is to protect our campus. Therefore, online-only students who do not have on-campus classes are not eligible for the incentives.

Students: [upload your COVID-19 vaccine record here.](#)

RESIDENCE HALLS

University residence halls are dynamic, fast-paced, and highly interactive living-learning environments. During the last year, we implemented processes that help make them healthier environments for students living near one another.

- **Occupancy standard:** students are encouraged to opt for a single room assignment when available, allowing for control over your personal environment and increasing opportunity for social distancing and COVID-19 avoidance. Students still have the option to request a roommate if they choose.
- **Air purification:** Each room is equipped with a Synexis Microbial Reduction System. The system is also operational in all common area restrooms, and some high-traffic common areas. This technology uses dry hydrogen peroxide (DHP) molecules to reduce viruses, bacteria, and fungi in the air and on surfaces. Synexis devices are installed in many other facilities such as hospitals, restaurants, hotels, and schools.
- **Sanitation:** high-traffic public spaces in all residence halls are disinfected regularly. Residents are responsible for cleaning and disinfecting their private rooms.
- **Off-campus quarantine and isolation:** should a student living in a residence hall become infected with COVID-19, or if the student is unvaccinated and named as a close contact with an infected person, they are required to complete their mandatory isolation or quarantine at an off-campus location. Most students are expected to complete this at their permanent residence, though alternative space and meal delivery may be available on a limited basis to students whose circumstances prevent that option.



Prior to check-in to their residence hall assignment, unvaccinated students without a previous infection or negative test no more than 72 hours before will be tested. All students are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated.

STUDENT REC CENTER

The Student Rec Center has resumed pre-pandemic placement of equipment and program operations. The current indoor campus mask mandate does not apply to the workout and rec spaces in the center. The staff maintains a rigorous cleaning procedure and schedule for equipment and surfaces. The HVAC system is equipped with enhanced anti-viral filters and maintains a high rate of fresh air return. Patrons are free to wear masks and are encouraged to select equipment, workout space, and activities that allow for social distancing. Accessing the center at times of low usage might also make some more comfortable.

CAMPUS DINING

Our hospitality partner Sodexo is well-prepared for students to arrive back at our campus. A few things to note:

- All food service workers have had health and safety training. Focus areas are respiratory hygiene, personal protective equipment use, social distancing, and more.
- **Gibson Dining Hall** details:
 - Dining staff will wear masks and other PPE as appropriate.
 - Hand sanitizer stations are available at the entryway
 - Plexiglas separates workers from diners at service stations
 - Additional sanitation procedures throughout
 - Personal refillable containers are not allowed



In Gibson Dining Hall, a table sanitation system is in place. Tables sanitized and ready for diners are clearly marked, as are those requiring sanitation before the next user.

Sodexo also utilizes their **Bite+ app**, which enables students to order takeout from Gibson Dining Hall.



FACILITIES

Cleanliness of our facilities is a top priority, and we're enabling it with processes and supplies that will make campus a safe place for everyone.

- **Classroom sanitation.** Each academic department has supplies for classrooms as needed.
- **Common area sanitation.** Common areas are cleaned regularly.
- **Hand sanitizer.** Stations are located in high-traffic areas across campus.
- **Elevators.** Masks are required in elevators. Please use the stairs unless you are mobility-impaired. Wash your hands after using the elevator or a stair rail.
- **Office and work space sanitation.** If you work on campus, know that each office has disinfecting supplies and employees are responsible for their own work spaces.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Like previous semesters, all events and activities are required to adhere to mask mandates and any University-required health and safety guidelines. Please follow announcements from Campus Activities, Gorilla Activities Board, Intercollegiate Athletics, and the Student Rec Center to stay current on the status of most events and activities.

LINKS

[Pitt State Coronavirus Web Page](#). Central information and announcement resource for the University's COVID-19 response.

[Crawford County Health Department](#). Information about COVID-19 in our county. Includes guidance on testing and treatment.

[Kansas Department of Health and Environment](#). Statewide resource for COVID-19 in Kansas. Provides prevention and wellness guidance and response information specific to Kansas.

[American College Health Association](#). The voice of student health and wellness, ACHA provides guidance, best practices, planning help, and more.

[US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#). National resource for COVID-19 in the US, including travel advisories, evolving symptom and treatment guidance, and prevention techniques.

[World Health Organization](#). Resource for the pandemic on a global scale, including travel advisories, evolving symptom and treatment guidance, and prevention techniques.



QUESTIONS AND HELP

We know you'll have a lot of questions - and we are here to help. To get the fastest response, please direct your question to the appropriate department. If you aren't sure, no problem - send it to [**social@pittstate.edu**](mailto:social@pittstate.edu) and we'll respond ASAP.

[Bryant Student Health Center](#) - physical and mental health questions

[University Housing](#) - all residence hall questions

[Registrar](#) - all enrollment questions

[Your academic department](#) - all questions about course delivery

[Student Success](#) - getting started at Pitt State

[Financial Assistance](#) - CARES relief or any other student aid question



Don't forget **your academic advisor** - they are here to help, too.