

Gonzaga Law School Return to Campus, Fall 2020 FAQs

Why is Gonzaga Law School going forward with in-person instruction when some undergraduate courses at Gonzaga University will be offered remotely, and some universities in the state are going to be operating entirely remotely?

- The Law School Pandemic Response Team (which includes representatives of the faculty, staff, and the SBA President) and I believe that a legal education is most robust and dynamic in a face-to-face, in-person setting with the instructor, when possible. To that end, we have worked hard to alter the schedule and classrooms to allow students to still have this experience to the extent practicable. The ABA has approved our approach, which was guided by the substantial work of the Law School Pandemic Response Committee over the summer, having benefitted from the input of students, faculty, and staff. The plan places a priority on our community's collective and individual health and safety. While recognizing that not all health-related risks can ever be eliminated from face-to-face, in-person instruction, we feel our plan is both reasonable considering the circumstances and educationally sound.

Do you know for certain that we won't have to move to "remote-only" instruction after the Fall semester has commenced?

- No, we do not. Unfortunately, the pandemic is marked by uncertainty, and we are doing the best to provide a rigorous educational experience in that context, which includes in our judgment starting the semester—and hopefully completing it—with face-to-face, in-person instruction.

Under what circumstances might Gonzaga Law School move to "remote-only" instruction for all courses after having commenced face-to-face, in-person instruction?

- (1) if regional or state authorities tell us that we cannot continue to provide face-to-face, in-person instruction; (2) if the President and Provost and Senior Vice President instruct us to move to remote-only instruction; and/or (3) if Spokane County reverts to Phase One.
- We currently have no reason to believe that any of the three circumstances is likely to occur, but we cannot predict the future, and cannot discount the possibility that one of the aforementioned circumstances might come to pass after the semester has commenced.

Should I return to campus, including signing a lease for housing, even if I don't want to or have concerns that one of the three circumstances outlined above might come to pass?

- We want to encourage you to make the best decisions for yourself and your family and will work hard to support you in those decisions within the educational framework we have laid out for the Fall semester.
- With that in mind, unless a student falls within one of the exceptions noted below, all 1L students should plan to be in Spokane for face-to-face, in-person instruction,
- Unless they fall within one of the exceptions noted below, upper-level students should plan to be in Spokane for face-to-face, in-person instruction, depending on their

individual schedules and the modalities of course delivery for the particular courses in which they are enrolled.

- The semester begins August 24, with 1L Orientation beginning on August 19. We encourage all students returning to campus to be in Spokane by August 10, to the extent they are able, so they can prepare for class and know if they are exhibiting COVID-19-related symptoms *before* the semester begins. If you are exhibiting symptoms, please do not come to campus, and please notify the CEAL Division and/or Assistant Dean Little by emailing CEALdivision@gonzaga.edu.

Are there any exceptions to the need to be in Spokane for face-to-face, in-person instruction?

- Yes. Students with medical conditions that place them at [greater risk of severe illness according to the CDC](#) may seek disability accommodation for attending class virtually in Fall 2020 due to the current COVID pandemic. In order to seek an accommodation, please work with the Disability Access Office and follow their process detailed at <https://www.gonzaga.edu/academics/academic-calendar-resources/center-for-student-academic-success/disability-access/students/covid19-accommodations>.
- Students who do not have a medical condition, but who would like to request a modification to the return-to-campus plan, may sign up to visit with Assistant Dean Little to discuss the possibility of an individual variance. Book a meeting by visiting: <https://calendly.com/deanlittle/>.
- Students who do not receive an accommodation or a variance are expected to attend courses via the modality associated with their individual courses, including, as may be applicable, face-to-face, in-person instruction. If this proves unfeasible for a given student, the student is encouraged to seek a leave of absence by contacting Assistant Dean Little. Leaves of absence will be liberally granted.

Does an individual faculty member have the authority to change the teaching modality of a course—e.g., moving it from face-to-face, in-person format to remote format, at his or her individual discretion?

- At this point, the teaching modalities for each course in the schedule are set. Individual faculty cannot change the modality based on personal preference alone. However, if their health situation changes, we will move the course to remote instruction, and/or provide a substitute instructor. Additionally, if the majority of students in a given course will be attending the course remotely, for reasons of their own health or circumstance, then the School and the instructor may elect to move the course to remote instruction, in order to facilitate the best pedagogical experience for all enrolled.

Will we still have the same number of face-to-face, in-person events at the Law School this Fall, outside of our courses?

- No. We will need to limit access to the building to enrolled students coming in to study or attend courses, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. No outside events or speakers will be allowed in the building during this time without prior approval from the Office of the Dean. To request approval for an event, please contact the Office of the Dean at lawdean@gonzaga.edu. Virtual programming, via Zoom, will be encouraged for student and extra-curricular events.

Is Gonzaga Law School the only school on campus that will be having face-to-face, in-person instruction in the Fall?

- No. Many other schools on campus have unique pedagogical features of their curricula such that they, too, are proceeding with face-to-face, in-person instruction. Examples include the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the School of Nursing and Human Physiology, and many courses within the College of Arts & Sciences. And all schools will offer at least some of their courses face-to-face, in-person to undergrads.

What steps have you taken to facilitate remote and online learning at the Law School?

- All instructional classrooms will be equipped with state-of-the art video-recording equipment to facilitate remote learning, as necessary. In addition, the Law School Pandemic Response Committee has promulgated a “best practices for remote teaching” document that will help ensure a uniformly positive experience for students in courses featuring remote learning.

What services will be open on campus?

- All Law School offices will be open and staff personnel will be in-person in the building, unless a work accommodation has been made for them to work remotely. The Chastek Law Library will be open to law students only, with limited exceptions, during normal hours. Campus dining facilities will be open, as well as most other services on campus, although all facilities will have social distancing protocols in place.

Can you tell me more about the physical safety precautions the Law School is taking and that will be required of students, faculty, and staff?

- Physical safety precautions at the Law School are substantial and follow the advice of the University’s Pandemic Response Team. Enhanced cleaning of rooms and offices, occupancy restrictions, HVAC improvements, and social distancing and PPE protocols are all part of the plan and will be implemented. For more information, please visit the University’s “Student Return to Campus Guide,” which will be published and disseminated in the coming days and made available online at: <https://www.gonzaga.edu/zagon>. Please be assured that additional logistical and safety-related information, specific to the Law School and our learning context, will be provided to you by members of our administrative team before the start of the Fall semester.

Whom do I contact with general questions or concerns, not covered above?

- For student-life-related issues, please contact the CEAL Division at CEALdivision@gonzaga.edu.
- For academic-affairs-related issues, please contact Associate Dean Pearson at pearsonk@gonzaga.edu.
- For law-school-in-general-related issues, please contact Dean Rooksby at lawdean@gonzaga.edu.