



EMORY | SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Anesthesiology Assistant Program: Fall 2020

Students,

You may have received a communication from the University about plans for fall semester scheduling and coursework. This information is focused largely on Emory College (undergraduate students) and some of it does not apply to the School of Medicine.

For the AA Program, fall semester begins on August 24th, as has been published on the Program Calendar. We are planning for a number of sessions to be in-person (especially simulation and skills labs). We also anticipate that some lectures will need to be attended remotely. When in-person teaching is required, we will take all reasonable precautions to keep everyone as safe as possible.

As you saw in the University email, undergraduate students will be offered a choice to attend courses in-person or remotely. However, given the nature of medical education, we strongly believe that a fully remote education is not sufficient to become competent clinicians. As the current epidemiology of COVID-19 changes in our community, we are confident that we can progressively construct educationally sound and reasonably safe experiences that will allow you to learn the knowledge and skills you need.

We have developed our plans in close collaboration with subject matter experts in the Emory Department of Medicine's Division of Infectious Disease, our hospital epidemiologists, and leaders in the SOM and the University.

Current policies that address student safety include:

- Distribution of appropriate PPE to students and training on how to use it
- Requirement to wear appropriate face masks in all public spaces
- Limit on the number of people gathering in person
- Enforcement of physical distancing requirements and reconfiguration of space to accommodate these requirements
- Adherence to protocols for sanitizing educational spaces

The current pandemic reminds us that we must be flexible and ready to thoughtfully adapt to global, national, and regional changes. With that in mind, understand that at some point we may need to change curricular plans to preserve personal health and adapt to community needs while doing our best to ensure academic continuity. We have contingency plans, and we will keep students informed if changes are being considered.

To support ongoing planning efforts, the University will send out a survey on Monday, June 15. Emory is a large and diverse university; keep in mind that the survey is designed to capture preferences and feedback from Emory's entire professional and graduate student community, so some questions may not be applicable to School of Medicine students. Please complete the survey as best as you are able, and provide candid input, understanding that some questions may not be relevant to you.

Should any student feel that they are unable to continue their education because of personal health concerns – or any other personal reason – please speak with Dr. Monroe or Dr. Hall. Requests for deferral or leave of absence can be granted.

Sincerely,
KM

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