

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS: 1940-2020



GILLINGS SCHOOL OF
GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Coronavirus

7/1/2020

Dear New and Returning Gillings Students,

We hope that you are staying healthy and safe this summer. Preparations are fully under way for the Fall 2020 semester, and we look forward to a very successful start to the new academic year.

Today is July 1, and we promised to share information to help you plan for the fall even as we face uncertain times and increasingly high numbers of COVID-19 cases here in NC and around the US. We are fully committed to the safety and health of all students, staff, and faculty, so many steps are being taken with required mask-wearing, physical distancing of at least 6 feet (with masks) both in public and in the classrooms, and many changes to the physical space at Gillings to increase signage for entering/exiting the buildings and classrooms, as well as more hand sanitizer stations, phasing in of staff/faculty return to campus, and much more. We welcome any questions or concerns you might have but urge you to refer to university (<https://carolinatogether.unc.edu/>) as well our Gillings updates (<https://sph.unc.edu/resource-pages/return-to-campus-roadmap/>).

Let's review some facts you might find useful:

+The first day of classes is Monday, August 10. We will not have a fall break this year. We will finish the semester at Thanksgiving. If you are new and pursuing the MPH degree, be sure to complete COMPASS as soon as possible, but definitely before you start the semester!

+For new/incoming students, you will be receiving a separate email to register for the Gillings School Orientation, please review the schedule here: <https://sph.unc.edu/students/schoolwide-welcome/>

+Beginning today, your fall 2020 DRAFT course schedule will be available to review in ConnectCarolina (CC). You are currently unable to register or make changes in CC because final changes in the draft schedule are being made by faculty instructors between now and July 13. Changes to the course schedule will be made for a variety of reasons, so please be patient with this process and know that we

are putting safety and health front and center. Overall, priority scheduling is given to the core and other required classes, and, to those who had a class scheduled on a Monday, Wednesday, or Friday beginning at 4:40pm or 5:45pm as those new start times are now 6:40pm and 8:00pm. We expect the final schedule to be active in ConnectCarolina on July 21. For specific questions, reach out to your Academic Coordinator who can help direct you and get you the information you need as soon as it is available. In the meanwhile, thanks for your patience as we complete this challenging process involving more than 280 classes being offered this fall! In addition to checking days/times of classes, here are a few other key things for you to consider:

- Beginning on July 21, ConnectCarolina will go “live” again, and you will have access to make any changes to your course schedule (ADD/DROP, etc.). If any of your courses in CC are labelled “Hyflex”, you will be asked to indicate if you would like to attend this course in person or remotely. Please understand that we will not be able to guarantee that all courses have an in-person option due to a wide array of reasons. Each instructor will clarify for students what options will be available if the course is offered as Hyflex.
- All Gillings School courses that are indicated as in-person will have options for Zoom remote participation and viewing lectures via Zoom recordings; please talk with your instructor to discuss these options and how it might work for an individual course.

+We have a relentless focus on health equity, social justice and anti-racism in the Gillings School. All incoming MPH students are required – and all other incoming students are invited – to complete the Racial Equity Institute’s groundwater training program as part of orientation. We are continuously working to improve our processes, policies, procedures, and curriculum to be consistent with our mission: *“to improve public health, promote individual well-being, and eliminate health inequities across North Carolina and around the world. We anticipate threats to the public’s health and accelerate solutions. We’re committed to excellence in all we do – and to keeping our students at the center.”* Students are very engaged in our mission, and we hope you will get involved upon arrival, either in person or virtually!

+Watch for an upcoming email from the Office of Student Affairs and a whole host of activities you can get involved with.

We hope you find this information useful. Please stay in touch with your Academic Coordinators with your questions. We will continue to send updates about our academic plan as they evolve. We encourage you to be creative about ways to keep physically (but not socially) distant... we will be in touch! Stay healthy!!

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