

Subject: From Dean Quick: Important Information about SMU Fall Operations



SMU | MOODY

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE
AND ADVANCED STUDIES

13 August 2020

Dear Graduate Students,

All of us at the Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies are looking forward to your return! I understand that you may be concerned about your health and safety on campus, and I want you to be aware that SMU has put in place a robust [operations plan](#) that is designed to ensure the safety of our campus and minimize the spread of COVID-19.

As we approach the start of the fall semester at SMU, I know you are receiving information from many sources about adjustments to the University's operations in response to COVID-19. As always, I encourage you to check SMU's Coronavirus [website](#) regularly for the latest information and updates. I also want to highlight some information that will be particularly relevant to you as graduate students:

- **Return-to-Campus Training:** All students who will be on campus during Fall 2020 must complete an approximately one-hour return-to-campus training course, which is now available in [Canvas](#). To encourage timely course completion, students who do not complete the training by the first day of classes will receive a registration hold that will only be removed after the training has been completed.
- **Community Pledge to Protect:** As part of the return-to-campus training, you will be asked to sign a [Pledge to Protect Our SMU Community](#). Prior to the start of the fall semester, all faculty, staff and students will be asked to review and sign this pledge to confirm their understanding and commitment to their personal responsibilities during these challenging times.
- **Building Access:** Exterior doors no longer require ID card swipes during normal operating hours. Over the summer, card swipe access to buildings assisted in contact tracing efforts. With the addition of new digital contact tracing measures, which will be announced soon, card swipe access is not necessary.
- **Quarantine:** Under current travel guidelines, SMU is not requiring individuals arriving from international locations to quarantine for 14 days. The University will continue to monitor the situation and will revise travel directives based on local, state, and federal authorities and CDC guidelines.
- **Zoom Spaces** spread across campus will provide students with a quiet place to engage their courses virtually when necessary. Most Zoom spaces will accommodate more than one student, and students will be expected to follow social distancing practices and wear their face covering. Students will need to bring their own laptops and headphones. [Zoom spaces must be scheduled](#) through a centrally managed reservation system.

- [The Dedman Center for Lifetime Sports](#) is open with limited capacity and hours to meet health and safety guidelines. Individuals should [make a reservation](#) prior to their desired workout time and must present an SMU, Dedman Center Member, or government-issued photo ID at time of check-in.
- **SMU Dining** will operate with menus designed to meet student preferences and ensure speedy service with the latest state safety guidelines. Students should anticipate occupancy restrictions and cashless payment options.
- **The SMU Libraries** except Bridwell will be open for the fall semester with limited capacity, required face coverings and spaced seating for social distancing. Bridwell Library will not be open due to renovations but will provide virtual assistance. Libraries that are open will only be accessible with a valid SMU ID. Curbside pickup, mail delivery, study room [reservations](#), librarian [consultations](#) and other [online resources](#) (e-books, journals, databases) will also be available for students. For current library information, visit <https://www.smu.edu/libraries/covid19>.
- **The Campus Shuttle** will continue to operate its normal route. The shuttle will follow current guidelines for public transportation in Texas and Dallas County, which include social distancing and the use of face coverings.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Whether you are on campus or attending your classes and performing your other responsibilities remotely, my office and I stand ready to assist you. You may reach us by emailing smugrad@smu.edu or by calling us at 214-768-4345. We look forward to doing what we can to make the new academic year a safe and successful one.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Quick". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

James E. Quick
Dean
Moody School of Graduate and Advanced Studies