



# Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

## Didactic Learning

The Didactic Learning Focus Area is supported by the appropriate didactic educational deans. The table below identifies the RTF focus area status of each recommendation or decision followed by a membership roster including the primary and deputy focus area leader. The following initiatives have been approved by senior leadership to move forward as part of the Covid-19 Recovery process.



## Didactic Considerations Status

Issue	Status
<a href="#">Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning</a>	In Progress
<a href="#">Virtual assessments</a>	In Progress
<a href="#">Lectures</a>	In Progress
<a href="#">Interactive Classes</a>	In Progress
<a href="#">Detailed school and department plans</a>	In Progress

## Didactic Focus Area Members

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## Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning

*In Progress*

Description	Date Approved	Expted Completion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In summer 2020, the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning (FCTL) should prioritize assistance for UMB faculty who are teaching online for the first time and who need to convert in-person classes to virtual formats. This includes faculty who moved classes to online formats in March 2020, but who have not previously taught online. To accommodate the number of faculty who need assistance, UMB schools should share existing expertise in instructional design as coordinated by the FCTL.</li> </ul>	6/12/2020	

**Summary**

- Address strategies for formative and summative assessment in an online environment.
- Facilitate faculty-to-faculty mentorship from faculty who have taught virtually.
- Schools may consider identifying a taskforce of faculty, staff, administrators and students to advance virtual learning in each school, trouble shoot challenges, and serve as a liaison with the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning.
- Provide training or training materials for students.

**Virtual and Remote Instruction**

Significant efforts must be made across the campus to enhance training and support for faculty in order to be ready to deliver high quality virtual instruction in the fall semester. UMB and the schools must also address the issue of ensuring that students have appropriate equipment and strong Internet access. These efforts should begin immediately.

Our group discussed at length the critical need for training and instructional design support, especially for faculty who have not previously taught using formats common to remote education. Wide accessibility to training on quality rubrics and to best practice guides for online teaching and course design will be crucial.

Established in May 2019, the Faculty Center for Teaching and Learning (FCTL) is a central resource for all seven schools at the UMB campus. It will be important to clarify the role of the Center and its current capacity in the context of the immediate need for widespread support throughout the campus. Instructional design support varies from school to school and prioritizing or enhancing the use and availability of resources to facilitate conversion of courses traditionally taught in-person to online and hybrid formats may be necessary. In addition to access to expert professionals, promotion of faculty-to-faculty mentorship opportunities such as currently exists in the Online Teaching Community (OTC) will be helpful.

Faculty will need assistance and guidance on developing lesson plans; choosing between modalities (synchronous/ asynchronous) and platforms (WebEx, Zoom, Blackboard Collaborate); organizing Blackboard sites, designing sessions that promote student engagement; designing formative and summative assessments in the online environment; developing strategies for navigating difficult conversations on online platforms; and using presentation software. Schools may want to consider forming a taskforce of faculty, staff, administrators, and students to advance virtual learning, troubleshoot challenges, and serve as liaison for consultation with the FCTL.

## Virtual assessments

*In Progress*

Description	Date Approved	Expected Completion
During the fall semester, to the extent possible, UMB schools should conduct assessments in a virtual format.	6/12/2020	Fall Semester 2020

## Lectures

*In Progress*

Description	Date Approved	Expected Completion
Lectures, whether they represent entire courses or portions of courses, should be delivered in the fall semester via virtual instruction. This recommendation applies to all schools and programs.	6/5/2020	Fall Semester 2020

### Summary

Develop and clearly communicate safety protocols for in-person classes.

Re-evaluate planned use of classroom spaces to accommodate physical distancing and projected enrollments for in-person classes. Consider sharing classrooms across schools by balancing efficiencies such as cleaning and HVAC use with factors such as school-based tech support, and classrooms configured for particular school-based instructional activities.

A school-based emergency contact should be available on-site in case safety/health questions arise.

There is a need for clearly established communication protocols. Administrators will need student/faculty/staff contact information for rapid communication of changing circumstances.

For select classes requiring in-person interactions many steps will be required to achieve physical distancing and safety of faculty and students. Our group expects to work closely with the Operations and Health groups to develop standard policies and guidelines for these activities.

Areas in which guidance will be required include room occupancy, building occupancy, masks or other appropriate PPE for faculty and students, signage, disinfection of classrooms and other building areas, availability of sanitizers, corridor usage, and possible need for installation of shields.

Schools may need to use classrooms in other campus buildings if necessary to achieve social distancing and occupancy guidelines.

Decisions on use of space will require balancing of facilities and financial issues with other factors such as school-based technology support, spaces designed to meet specific school-based needs, and the value of encouraging school-based community building in an environment that is heavily virtual.

Additional security and environmental services may be necessary if schools need to extend evening or weekend hours to accommodate more meetings in smaller size groups.

Faculty will need an emergency contact in case safety/health questions arise while faculty and students are present in a building.

## Interactive classes

*In Progress*

Description	Date Approved	Expected Completion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interactive classes – practice classes, seminars, discussion sections (includes large classes divided into small groups), classes associated with experiential learning – may be in- person or online. In-person requires approval and compliance with all safety protocols.</li> </ul>	6/5/2020	Fall Semester 2020

## Detailed school and department plans

*In Progress*

Description	Date Approved	Expected Completion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each school should develop and present for approval detailed plans for operating in the fall semester which will include options for making rapid shifts if conditions change. Plans must be in compliance with State of Maryland, Baltimore City, USM, and UMB policies as determined by CMAG.</li> </ul>	6/5/2020	Near- and mid-term

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