

# Civil Current Student Townhall – Meeting Notes

June 18, 2020

Please be sure to refer to the following websites for the most up to date information:

<https://protect.purdue.edu/>

<https://www.purdue.edu/gradschool/covid-19/index.php>

**How and when will students get the Protect Purdue Kits?** The first thousand kits, for students that are in residential housing, will be distributed in July and the rest will be distributed at different points on campus during the second week in August for current students.

**Purdue has told us many times that class sizes in the fall will be reduced and that some courses may not meet face-to-face. The most recent statement on the Protect Purdue website says that students in a course may essentially rotate which days they meet face-to-face or attend an online version. Is there a broad plan for graduate courses in civil engineering or will it be up to the discretion of individual instructors?** Individual instructors will decide how/if the in-person rotation will be done for their courses. Instructors should include this information with the syllabus.

**Is there a current plan for where students can go on campus in between classes in the fall? I am assuming the seating capacity of computer labs and common areas will be greatly reduced. These places did not have enough capacity before this situation began. Where will students be instructed to go when these places fill up?** Most common spaces (such as Wood Commons) will be closed. For those rooms that are large enough to maintain social distancing and that can be outfitted to ensure the required space (permanently affix tables and chairs in a certain arrangement), then they may remain open. Computer labs will also be arranged for social distancing.

**If COVID cases start to spike – at what point would Purdue decide to close campus again?** Purdue is working with state and county Health Departments and conversations are happening to create a plan for this situation. At the time of the Townhall, no exact numbers have been set. Note that any students returning to campus from outside the US are required to self-quarantine for 14 days before coming on campus.

**What happens if I get COVID – who is going to pay for it?** At this time, treatment for COVID related services would be processed through Purdue's student insurance plan like any other illness. An actual COVID test would be covered 100%. Coverage for any treatment would be subject to the insurance plan deductible and co-pay requirements and the responsibility of the student.

**What do I need to do to begin my research activities?** Complete the online COVID training (<https://www.purdue.edu/epps/rem/worker/COVID-19%20Resources.html>). The Lab must be approved for reopening (proper social distancing evaluation has been completed) and the building must be open (we anticipate that HAMP will be open in early July). You would need to coordinate work time with your supervisor/advisor, Dave Rater, Alan Holtman, Dr. Govindaraju and Jenny.

**How do we enter and exit Hampton Hall?** You will enter through patio door with card swipe. Once the building is open, doors will be unlocked during normal business hours. You should exit through the SW, NW, or NE doors.

**Do we have the option to register for online classes for fall?** Purdue is allowing students to opt-in to an online course delivery for fall 2020. Your decision to opt in must be made by July 15, 2020. All courses offered by Civil Engineering for fall will have an online option. You can find more information and the opt-in form at: <https://protect.purdue.edu/students/online-2020/>.

- I. The opt-in online registration does have an adjusted tuition/fee rate if you register full-time (eight credit hours):

Fall-Online Option full-time estimate      (opt-in)

General Service	\$2,301.95
Technology Fee	\$94.10
Student Activity Fee	\$20.00
Engineering Differential Fee	\$562.00
Total Resident	\$2,978.05
Non-Res Tuition	\$4,700.50
Total Non-Resident	\$7,678.55
International Student Fee	\$145.00
Total Int'l Non-Resident	\$7,823.55

\*Please note if you take more than 9 credit hours, this full-time online rate is different. Examples can be found here: <https://protect.purdue.edu/students/online-2020/>.

- II. If you choose to register for less than full-time (1-7 credits) in the online model, the regular per-credit-hour rate will be charged:

Fall/Spring and Summer Session (1-7 Credit hours for Fall/Spring)	Effective Fall 2020 For students enrolled
General Service	\$ 329.05
Technology Fee	\$ 7.55
Repair and Rehabilitation Fee	\$ 11.25
Student Fitness and Wellness Fee	\$ 0.00
Student Activity Fee	\$ 0.00
<b>Total Resident</b>	<b>\$ 347.85</b>
Nonresident Tuition	\$ 600.45
<b>Total Nonresident</b>	<b>\$ 948.30</b>
International Student Fee	\$ 145.00
<b>Total International Nonresident</b>	<b>\$ 1,093.30</b>

Please note that the Engineering Differential fee (\$562.00) will be pro-rated based on the number of credits you register for:

1-3 credits      25% of differential

4-7 credits      50 % of differential

- III. If you choose to register in the on-campus format, there is no modification to the tuition/fee rates.

**For some courses, a large number of students come to TA office hours to ask doubts and questions. It becomes almost impossible to follow social distancing rules in such a case. Will the TAs be given the option to hold office hours via Skype or Zoom.** Yes, TAs do have the option to hold office hours via Skype, Zoom or other online medium. TAs should speak with their supervisor about this to work out an acceptable format and schedule.

**In the case of lab sessions in which a lot of hands-on activities take place, how will we follow social distancing measures?** It is likely that lab sessions will be held with a rotating group of students to ensure de-densification and social distancing. It may also be possible that the lab procedure is video recorded and the students review the video to complete lab requirements. TAs should speak with their supervisor to determine the format of the lab sections.

**What happens if students come to class, lab or office with no mask?** The first line of defense will be education and a request to comply. If students forget their masks, Purdue is planning to provide emergency masks in the classroom. If students repeatedly do not comply, they can be referred to the Dean of Students. If faculty or staff do not comply, they will be referred to the Office of the Provost or the Human Resources, respectively. Civil Engineering's policy is that if a student does not wear a mask, they may not attend class, lab, office hours, etc.

**Can you provide an explanation of what the tuition fees are? Can you give us a brief explanation of the fees?** Definitions for the University fees can be found at: <https://www.purdue.edu/bursar/tuition/definitions.php>. The Engineering differential fees are used for programs/initiatives within the College of Engineering (i.e., upgrade labs, TAs, lab equipment, etc.). Furthermore, these fees cannot be directly paid with federal money (i.e., funding packages) and, as such, they must be paid by students.

**Why are these fees not included in the research assistantship of grad students?** Some explanation can be found at: <https://www.purdue.edu/business/sps/preaward/menu/5.faq/frvstf.html>

**In this time of uncertainty and need, Is the department considering the possibility of decreasing these fees for grad students?** Ultimately, Civil Engineering does not have the ability to reduce University tuition and fees. However, we continue to try to provide extra TA positions through Lyles TA and Lyles Fellow positions (there are 12 of these for Fall 2020). We were also able to provide funding for seven TA positions over Summer 2020 to help support the creation of courses for our upcoming online masters. The Grad Office is rolling out additional Prof Development Scholarships and Independent Research Project Scholarships that will be available in fall. We also regularly review the Civil Grad Student Stipends. In April 2020, the School approved an increase in stipends, beginning Fall 2021 (MS rate will be \$23,500; PhD rate will be \$25,400), subject to funding availability. If you have an emergency situation, please speak to your advisor; they may be able to assist you in covering your portion of the student fees (for funded students). The University also has an emergency loan program: <https://www.purdue.edu/advocacy/students/financial/emergencyLoan.html> for those with an urgent short- term financial need.

**What will civil engineering do in regards to some professors who may be racist?**

If a student has a concern about a faculty member, they should talk with a member of the CE Graduate Office. We can be a sounding board and listening ear. We can also help you present your concern to the Department Head, Graduate School or other entities at Purdue as you feel appropriate.

Purdue University's Non-Discrimination Policy Statement (Amended 2010), states:

"Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran."

(Source: [http://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea\\_eou\\_statement.html](http://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea_eou_statement.html))

We believe that a diverse, inclusive community is an integral part of the Purdue experience.

**Additional notes:**

If you are funded and are away from campus for more than 22 days, you must complete a “Change of Duty Station Form.”

Most events in Fall 2020 will be virtual. We have confirmation that the CE Job Fair and Industrial Roundtable will be presented online.

For international students who currently have a visa, current regulations limit how many online classes they can take. International students who currently have a visa should be aware of any restrictions related to taking online courses. While there was a USCIS exception allowing F-1 visa holders to take online classes for Spring 2020, the decision for fall still is pending. [For more information or help with a visa status question, visit ISS.](#) We are still awaiting additional guidance from the federal government for Fall 2020.