



LORAS COLLEGE™

Loras Flex 2020-2021 Academic Year Frequently Asked Questions

Academic Affairs:

Hybrid Learning

- 1. If I choose to take my classes via hybrid delivery, what does this mean?** Hybrid delivery includes a blend of online and in-person learning. Some courses will prioritize in-person instruction, while others will be entirely online or include a combination of in-person and online learning. Your instructor will provide more information regarding the specific days you are expected to be physically present in the classroom.
- 2. Will all the students in my class be hybrid learning students or will some be online learning students?** It depends on the class. Most classes will include a mixture of online and hybrid students. Online students join exclusively online and hybrid students are present in the classroom on some days and online on others. Some classes will be offered exclusively online and all students will be online.
- 3. My class meets two days a week (or three), but my instructor said I should only come to class one of those two (or three) days. What should I do on the day(s) when I am not in the classroom?** Follow the guidelines your instructor gives you for that day. In most cases, you will join the class via videoconferencing from your room or some other location on campus.

Online Learning

- 1. I would like to take my classes via online delivery. Are there required class meeting times?** Almost all classes will have required meeting times during the scheduled class period. All students are expected to participate regardless of whether they choose online or hybrid learning.
- 2. I am taking coursework entirely online, do I have to be present for the synchronous class sessions?** In most cases, your instructor will expect that you be present for those sessions.
- 3. What is a typical schedule for an online class?** Online classes will meet at the scheduled time posted on the fall 2020 schedule.
- 4. Are online classes scheduled or self-paced?** Online classes are scheduled.
- 5. Will all the students in my class be online students or will some be hybrid learning students?** It depends on the class. Most classes will include a mixture of online and hybrid students. Online students join exclusively online and hybrid students are present in the classroom on some days and online on others. Some classes will be offered exclusively online and all students will be online.
- 6. Can I be a residential student but pursue my coursework entirely online?** Residential students are expected to attend class in-person on the days your instructor designates. An exception would be a day when you are not feeling well.
- 7. I live off campus or commute from my home nearby; can I pursue my coursework entirely online?** Yes, students who do not live in Loras housing can pursue coursework entirely online.

J-Term and May Term

- 1. I have senior status (90 or more earned credits). I have not yet completed my second J-term requirement. Will I have to do May Term?** Students with 90 or more earned credits who expect to graduate in Spring 2021 are waived from the second J-term requirement.
- 2. I have junior status (60 earned credits) or sophomore status (30 earned credits) and still have one J-term to fulfill. What are my options for completing this requirement?** Students with junior or sophomore status can take a May term course and have it fulfill a J-term requirement. Students with junior or sophomore status can also wait until January 2022 (or January 2023 for sophomores) to fulfill their last J-term requirement.
- 3. I will be a transfer student with 30 or more earned credits, do I need to take May term?** You will need to take at least one J-term course to fulfill a graduation requirement. The J-term requirement can also be fulfilled by taking a May term course.
- 4. I will be a first year student or a transfer student with fewer than 30 earned credits, do I need to take May term?** Yes, first year students and transfer students with fewer than 30 earned credits are required to take a May term class.

Access to Campus

- 1. I am a local student who has received permission to take courses entirely online for health reasons. Will I be able to come to campus and use the Library?** Yes, as a Loras College student, you can come to campus and use the library.
- 2. I am concerned about returning home after Thanksgiving and taking classes online. Last spring, I realized that my home environment does not help me stay focused on my courses. Can I remain on campus?** Yes, but we will need to restrict any travel outside the area.
- 3. Will facilities be open after Thanksgiving?** Yes, but on a limited basis. Only students who have been approved to remain on campus will have access.

Residence and Student Life:

Housing

- 1. How were students placed in housing?** Room assignments are based on a number of factors including: application date (applications are placed in the order they are received - a student will not be assigned if they have not applied), preferences, selection of a roommate, and when applicable, roommate selections. Assignments may also be based on preferences of students with early application dates (those who applied before you).
- 2. Were there changes to housing due to COVID-19?** Housing assignments this year were also impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. While cases of COVID-19 have been decreasing in our county over the past several weeks, the College has been carefully planning to help minimize risk of COVID-19 in college housing this fall. In our buildings that allow for family-style living (4-6 students sharing a private bathroom space), students will be placed in single and double rooms as space permits. In our higher density facilities with common bathroom areas, like Beckman Hall, we will be reducing the population density in the space by placing only one student in each double room.

Hand sanitizing stations have been added at the entrance to each facility, and drinking fountains have all been replaced with touchless bottle filling fountains. We will be opening additional entrance and exit areas to each building to improve traffic flow in the corridors, and will be increasing the regular cleaning that occurs within our facilities. Campus community members will also be required to wear a face covering when in public areas, and students should plan to bring a thermometer, as you will be required to take your temperature and monitor symptoms daily.

- 3. How does a student know if they have a roommate?** If a student was assigned a roommate, the roommate's contact information is listed on the housing letter. If the roommate information fields are blank, it means the student does not have a roommate at this time.
- 4. What should I do if a student is unhappy with their fall housing placement?** Unfortunately, space restrictions hinder our ability to match every student with their multiple preferences. We understand that students may want to change room assignments for a variety of reasons. We are not able to honor room changes between now and student arrival on campus in the fall due to limited space in housing facilities. However, a wait list will be started. Students are able to contact the Residence Life Office at Residence@loras.edu for additional information about the wait list.
- 5. When do I check in to college housing?** Students should watch their inbox mid-July for a specific check-in date and time to arrive on campus this fall! Due to COVID-19, we will be moving students back in small groups to help keep our campus community safe. Students arriving early for athletics or a Loras organization may have a coach or advisor communicate your check in date. In general, students are not permitted to arrive prior to their designated arrival time on campus. To request early arrival, please log into Residence at <https://loras-residence.symlicity.com> and complete the early arrival form by August 1. Due to COVID-19, we will not be able to permit walk-in early arrivals this fall.

Meal Plans

- 1. Will students receive a meal plan confirmation?** Yes – students will receive a meal plan confirmation notice approximately one week after they receive their housing placement information. All students living in traditional housing will be enrolled in a meal plan based on their application request.
- 2. If I live off-campus and in the area, can I secure an on-campus meal plan?** Yes.
- 3. Where can I go if I am looking to be exempt from the meal plan requirement?** Exceptions to the meal plan requirement are granted for medical reasons only. Applications for a medical exemption to the meal plan requirement can be found at: <https://lorasedu.sharepoint.com/StudentDevelopment/HealthCenter/Health%20Center%20Forms/Forms/AllItems.aspx> The Health Center processes all meal plan exemption requests.

Miscellaneous

- 1. Who should students contact with additional questions?** Please feel free to email us at residence@loras.edu, call the Residence Life Office at (563) 588-7060, or message us through our Facebook page (Loras College Residence Life) if you have any questions or concerns.

Stay up to date on important information by following us on Facebook at Loras College Residence Life, on Twitter @LorasResLife, and on Instagram at lorasreslife.

- 2. Is there a website that offers more comprehensive information?** Yes. Please access: <https://www.loras.edu/flex/>

Financial Aid and Billing:

- 1. Why does the 100% online option not cost less than the hybrid?** The coursework is the same whether a student is in class or online. A-high-faculty to student ratio will continue to be the case. The expectation is for students to be engaged in their learning – including discussion, group work, and other activities at the scheduled class time with the instructor and other students.

The cost of delivery does not change if in class or online. While this approach is not our first choice, it is a better alternative than an independent, at-your-own-pace online program, with 100+ students enrolled in the courses.

- 2. If there is an outbreak and students are required to go online and leave campus, will there be a pro-rated refund on room, board, and meals? I understand no refund on tuition but without a refund on the other items, students will be paying double for living expenses.** If all courses must be moved online for the remainder of the semester and students are required to vacate campus housing, then students would receive a prorated refund on their unused housing and meal plans. The prorated refunds would take into consideration financial aid and be calculated as follows: cost associated with the unused days in the housing and meal contracts multiplied by the percent of the total cost of attendance that the student/family pays to the college. Thus, a student's refund is split between the college and the student based on the percent of overall costs each is contributing to the cost of attendance. For example:

Total cost of R/B for the semester	\$3137
Unused portion of R/B total	\$2000
% of total costs paid through college	57%
% of total costs paid by student/family	43%
R/B refund to student	\$860

The College took this approach in spring 2020 as it takes into account the fact that students' aid packages are built around the total cost of attendance.

- 3. If I decide to live with my parents this fall and enroll in the *Completely Online* option, how will my financial aid be affected?** In some instances, the amount of need-based aid may go down. This may mean your subsidized loan amount goes down and the amount of your unsubsidized loan goes up. It may reduce your Loras grant aid. Revised financial aid award letters will be completed and published to the students IQ page once we know how a student chooses to enroll.
- 4. If I decide to live on campus in the fall, can I enroll *Completely Online* for the spring?** Yes. You will need to communicate your change in plans no later than December 15.
- 5. If I receive merit-based scholarships that cover my tuition expenses, will these be reduced if I enroll *Completely Online* and live with my parents?** No. Merit-based scholarships will not be affected by how a student chooses to enroll.
- 6. If I live off campus in my own apartment and follow the *hybrid* option, how will that choice impact my financial aid?** If you enroll in the hybrid option and do not live in campus owned housing and do not live with your parents, then you will not see any negative impact on your financial aid. If you had previously been packaged with the \$1,500 reduction in merit aid because you were living outside of Loras housing, then this aid will be restored.

- 7. If I start the semester by pursuing the *hybrid* option and then decide to return to my parents' home and continue remotely before the semester is over, what will happen to my financial aid? Will I get a refund on room and board charges?** Depending on the date of this transition, the Financial Planning Office may be obligated to adjust need-based aid. It is advisable to schedule a meeting with our Financial Planning Office staff before making any changes mid-semester. In terms of refunds, no adjustments to program fees will be made after the first day of each semester. Changes that students initiate to their room or board selections will be refunded based on the standard refund table. The refund table can be viewed here <https://www.loras.edu/financial-aid/refundpolicy/>.
- 8. If I was billed for the *hybrid* option and then decide to enroll in the *completely online* option prior to the start of the term, when can I expect to see the change on my student account?** Any student account changes will be made within 5 business days of the notice of change. Statements are only published once a month, but you will be able to see the transaction under the 'Recent Activity' link on your online student account.
- 9. If I choose the *completely online* option, why do I have to pay student fees? I won't be on campus utilizing the services.** Student fees help cover a variety of items such as technology, KLCR, LCTV, campus programming, and assist many organizations such as CAB and student senate with their events. While you may not be on campus to attend an in-person event, there will be online opportunities to participate.
- 10. I participate in the Civic Leaders Scholarship Program, but I need to take my courses entirely online – can I still participate?** Yes. Students participating in any of the following scholarship programs will be able to participate remotely:
- a. Breitbach Catholic Thinkers and Leaders
 - b. Civic Leaders
 - c. DuSTEM Scholars
 - d. First Generation Scholars
 - e. Interfaith Leaders
 - f. St. John Paul II Scholarship Recipients