



## Elliott School Graduate Courses Online this Fall

Dear Graduate Students,

We hope that you have had an opportunity to review the President LeBlanc's [most recent message](#) regarding fall instruction. Please know that this decision was made to support the health, safety and care of our community while fulfilling our core academic mission. As a follow-up, we write to inform you that all Elliott School **graduate courses will be fully online during the fall semester**. Additional communication and guidance will be provided to our international students in the coming days.

On July 29, Provost Blake announced that graduate **tuition rates will be rolled back to the 2019-2020 academic year rates**. For more information, regarding the Elliott School's graduate tuition rate, visit the Student Accounts [website](#).

Over the summer, our faculty have been preparing to offer a high-quality online experience. We are guided by the following principles: safety, inclusion, and academic excellence. These guiding principles will help us to create a common experience for our graduate students, which is important during these unprecedented times.

The schedule of classes is currently being updated to reflect remote instruction for all IAFF courses. Any rare exception will be noted in the course comments. In the coming weeks, your instructors will provide additional details regarding class meetings.

We recognize that you have questions about the fall semester. For answers to some of your immediate questions, please visit this list of Frequently Asked Questions. **You are also invited to join a virtual town hall on Monday, August 3 from 12-1:00 pm EST**. A separate invitation will be sent with a link to register.

If you have questions regarding academic planning, we encourage you to contact your academic advisor in the [Office of Graduate Student Services](#).

We appreciate your flexibility and patience and look forward to seeing you virtually next month.

Ilana Feldman,  
Interim Dean

Lisa Stephenson,  
Associate Dean, Academic Affairs and Student Services

## FAQs

### ***What changes have been made to online instruction since the spring virtual learning experience?***

During spring we needed to react quickly and transition courses from on campus to online within a matter of days. For fall, the Elliott School, in conjunction with GW Library's Instructional Core team, developed a series of workshops and instructional resources to help all faculty develop their courses for hybrid and online settings. In addition, Elliott launched the [Flex-Start](#) program, where selected courses from each program went through a full online course design process in which faculty members and instructional designers worked closely together to tailor a highly engaging online course. All faculty further received a newly developed teaching guide with many helpful tips and resources, received access to an online course on how to develop and facilitate online courses, and had the opportunity to attend several workshops and trainings.

### ***What happens if my computer breaks or my internet connection goes down during class?***

Faculty have been guided to record their lectures, so if you are experiencing connectivity issues, you can view them at another time. In addition, both Blackboard Collaborate Ultra and WebEx have both call-in and mobile features, where you can gain access to your live-sync session through your mobile device. Faculty have also been guided to be as flexible as possible during these unprecedented times.

### ***Will taking a semester or year off affect financial aid, scholarships etc.?***

Please start by contacting your academic advisor to discuss any changes to your academic plan and impacts to the completion of your degree. Students should then check with the [Office of Graduate Admissions](#) regarding Elliott School funding and the [Office of Student Financial Assistance](#) regarding federal financial aid. International students should contact the [International Services Office](#) for potential visa implications as well.

### ***Who do I contact if I am feeling anxious or stressed about COVID-19 or learning remotely this fall?***

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) has created a [comprehensive Toolkit](#) and [mental health Self-Help resources for specific populations](#) related to COVID-19. CAPS is available to provide support to students. Call 202-994-5300 and press 2 to speak to a CAPS clinician during regular business hours (Mon-Fri. 8:30am-5p). Crisis support is available 24/7.

### ***What support will be available virtually?***

[Graduate Student Services](#) will continue to provide academic advising and career coaching support through virtual appointments, drop-in hours, workshops, and events. Academic Commons offers several short videos addressing different [virtual learning strategies](#) for the unique circumstances of the fall 2020 semester. They also offer a variety of [live virtual workshops](#) to equip students with the tools they need to succeed in a virtual environment. [Writing and research consultations](#) will also be available online.

### ***What is GW's plan for the spring semester?***

The university will continue to closely monitor the latest data on COVID-19 cases locally and nationally, guidance from our medical and public health experts, and ongoing feedback from the GW community in making a determination on plans for the spring semester.

### ***Will GW provide a tuition reduction for graduate students?***

Graduate tuition rates have been rolled back to the 2019-20 academic year. For more information, visit the Student Accounts [website](#).

### ***When will the schedule of classes be updated?***

The [schedule of classes](#) is currently being updated to reflect remote instruction for all IAFF courses. Any rare exception will be noted in the course comments. In the coming weeks, your instructors will provide additional details regarding class meetings.

### ***What if I have non-IAFF courses on my schedule?***

Most graduate non-IAFF are being held online this fall. Please monitor the schedule of classes and/or your fall schedule in GWeb for updates to your courses. If you have questions, please contact your instructor or academic advisor for further assistance.

### ***How will Elliott School Language Exams be conducted this fall?***

Both the reading and speaking exams will be conducted virtually in the fall, as they were in the spring term. Registration information will be communicated from Graduate Student Services (GSS) in September. Contact GSS with any questions at [esiagss@gwu.edu](mailto:esiagss@gwu.edu).

