



OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF THE COLLEGE  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN FOR RESEARCH

TO: Department Chairs, Program Directors, and Directors of Undergraduate Studies

FROM: Jill Dolan, Dean of the College  
Pablo Debenedetti, Dean for Research

RE: On-campus undergraduate research this summer

March 15, 2021

Although the news about vaccines continues to be encouraging, we anticipate that the current campus guidelines around masking, social distancing, limitations on in-person gatherings, and use of University facilities will remain in place for at least part of the summer. As a result, and because of the University's desire to focus on planning for the fall, undergraduate campus access will be significantly limited in summer 2021.

On-campus access will be restricted to Princeton students in "continuous housing," as well as rising seniors whose thesis research requires access to laboratories or other campus facilities (such as archival or special collections, or other University research resources). Approval for on-campus thesis research will be contingent on the endorsement of the student's department and presumes that individual students may be accommodated safely in research facilities under the applicable social distancing protocols.

All other undergraduate activities normally hosted on campus, including internships for Princeton and non-Princeton undergraduates, must be conducted remotely or suspended. In-person student-employment positions should only be considered for students who have already received approval to be on campus this summer for another reason; all other hourly-paid positions will be held remotely.

We're aware that some departments may not want to endorse on-campus thesis research for their concentrators if the department won't be able to offer placements to all concentrators who seek them. For departments that plan to endorse rising seniors to conduct on-campus thesis research this summer, we've put in place a review process, with health and safety as our foremost consideration.

**Approval process for seniors to access Divisions III and IV lab facilities:**

Should you decide to host rising seniors for thesis research in your department's lab facilities this summer, *we ask that you inform faculty of the two steps they will need to complete **by Tuesday, April 6, 2021** to request that a senior have access to their lab this summer:*

Step 1. Complete the [Senior Thesis Lab Access Form](#) to:

- Certify that the rising senior(s) doing thesis research in their lab do not require proximity training (that is to say, training that cannot be done while maintaining strict physical distancing). Research that requires proximity training of undergraduates is not allowed.
- Provide the name(s) of undergraduates who will conduct thesis research in their lab. (Note: Filling out the form is required even for faculty who are only hosting rising seniors previously approved in the spring. The form asks for additional information, such as building and room number, which will be used by the Office of the Dean of the College to ensure building access this summer.)

Step 2. Submit a revised [Research Laboratory Operations Plan](#) (RLOP).

- The plan should specify that students will be included in Level 2-only research activity.
- The plan should also explain how the student(s) will be incorporated in the space under the occupancy limits, the square footage minimum (minimum of 125 sq. ft./researcher at all times), and the strict physical distancing requirements (6 ft. minimum between people at all times).

**Approval process for seniors to access archival or special collections, or other University research resources:**

We ask that Divisions I and II departments submit a list of rising seniors who require in-person access to archival or special collections or other University research resources this summer for the purpose of thesis research by completing the [Senior Thesis Research Access Form](#) by Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

Following review and approval of these requests, the Office of the Dean of the College will confirm that these students are allowed to access relevant facilities this summer.

Students approved for senior thesis research on campus will be expected to reside on campus, adhere to the Social Contract, participate in the asymptomatic testing protocol, and complete the Daily Symptom Check. They must arrive on June 1, 2021, to begin arrival protocols, which will include arrival testing and a ten-day quarantine if they have not been vaccinated. Students must move out by August 2, 2021.

Please share this important information with your faculty. If you or your colleagues have questions, please contact Associate Dean for Research Karla Ewalt ([kewalt@princeton.edu](mailto:kewalt@princeton.edu)) or Director of Undergraduate Research Pascale Poussart ([poussart@princeton.edu](mailto:poussart@princeton.edu)).

Best wishes,

Jill and Pablo

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is a stylized cursive 'Jill' with a large loop. The signature on the right is a cursive 'Pablo' with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

cc: Academic Managers  
Marie Burns, Executive Assistant, Office of the Executive Vice President  
Karla Ewalt, Associate Dean for Research  
Rebekah Peeples, Associate Dean of the College  
Pascale Poussart, Director of Undergraduate Research