

Dear Students,

Today, Vanderbilt University announced the resumption of on-campus, in-person classes for the Fall 2020 semester. The Vanderbilt announcement offers detailed information about the University's [policies and protocols for responding to the pandemic](#) as well as the safety measures we are implementing across campus. [<https://law.vanderbilt.edu/videos/2020-return-to-campus.php>]

At the Law School, we have developed a plan for Fall 2020 that will enable us to deliver the outstanding educational experience Vanderbilt Law is known for while being attentive to everyone's safety. We expect to offer the vast majority of classes in person, though each class will include an online option for students who wish to take a class remotely. We have also modified our building in innovative and creative ways to accommodate the safety needs of students, faculty and staff, and we will soon share a video to show you what we have done.

We will begin the semester a week earlier than originally planned so that we can complete classes and exams by Thanksgiving. These are the key dates:

2L/3L YES course registration: Dates TBD  
1L Orientation Week: Aug. 10-14  
First day of classes: Aug. 17  
*No fall break*  
Classes end: Nov. 13  
Reading period: Nov. 14-16  
Final exams: Nov. 17-21, 23-24  
Semester ends: Nov. 24

I am excited to welcome the Class of 2023 and to welcome back the Classes of 2021 and 2022. Should anything change, we will provide you with as much information as possible as soon as we can, and we will work with you to accommodate your needs. If you have any concerns or need accommodations for the fall semester, I encourage you to contact Dean Chris Meyers and Jasmin Felton at [vls.student.affairs@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:vls.student.affairs@vanderbilt.edu).

I wish you all a safe and healthy summer.

Best,

Chris Guthrie  
Dean and John Wade-Kent Syverud Professor of Law