

From: [Graduate Studies](#)
To:
Subject: Approval Process for Fall 2020 Phase I Return
Date: Thursday, August 6, 2020 3:46:02 PM

Dear <<First Name>> ,

As President Nellis has [announced](#), Ohio University has adopted a new plan for a phased return to the campus for fall semester as part of the University's ongoing response to COVID-19. In Phase 1, a limited number of graduate students will be permitted to return to the Athens campus based on their need for access to on-site facilities or activities. There are three categories for such access and each has an independent approval process, as described below.

1) Academic program requirements. In a small number of cases, academic program requirements necessitate that students participate in course-related activity on-site. The programs where this is the case have been identified by the academic colleges. Students in those programs will receive an email from the Graduate College notifying them that they are approved to be on campus for course-related activity during Phase 1. Students who need to be on campus to conduct work towards their thesis, dissertation, or capstone project are not approved via this process, and should obtain approval through the Research/Creative Activity Restart (see next item). New international students will receive guidance from ISFS.

2) Research and Creative Activity. Students can be approved for access to the Athens campus if necessitated by their participation in research and creative activity that utilizes on-site facilities. Approval is obtained via the Research/Creative Activity Restart process described at [this link](#). If you have already been approved for campus access via this process, that approval will remain in effect during the Fall Semester, including Phase 1.

3) Assistantships unrelated to Research and Creative Activity. If your duties as a Teaching Assistant or Graduate Assistant (including Graduate Recruiting Scholarship recipients) require that you access facilities on-campus, you can be authorized for access by your department/school and college via a process being finalized now. Details on this process will be forthcoming from the Graduate College.

Please note, these approvals to return are independent and approval to return in one role does not grant you approval in another role.

You can find more information about our phased return at www.ohio.edu/coronavirus/. If you have questions about returning to campus during Phase 1, please contact your graduate program director.

Note: With final enrollment not available, this message is going to all potential students. Please disregard this email if you are not enrolling in fall term courses.

Sincerely,

Joseph C. Shields
Vice President for Research and Creative Activity
and Dean of the Graduate College