

Online Policy for International and Exchange Students after Covid-19

I. PURPOSE

While Goucher College remains a residential, in-person campus, the COVID-19 pandemic has made it necessary to make occasional exceptions to this requirement. Due to the continuing concerns of the pandemic and the impact of continuing travel restrictions, embassy closures, and visa processing delays, international students, including exchange students, who are unable to travel to the United States can receive permission to attend classes online. This policy only applies while COVID-19 continues to pose a risk to public health.

II. REQUEST PROCESS

- A. Students who are seeking this exception must communicate their individual situation to the associate director of the Office of Global Education (GE) via email as soon as possible. Students should include in their email the specific classes in which they would like to enroll.
- B. The associate director of GE sends the request to the associate provost for faculty affairs, who consults with the affected faculty members to determine if the request can be approved.
 1. If the request is approved, the student registers for classes.
 2. If the request is not approved, the associate director of GE works with the student to find other more suitable classes.
- C. If students become able to travel to campus at any point during the semester, they may do so after consulting with the [Office of Global Education](#) and ascertaining their eligibility for re-entry. The associate director of GE assists in coordinating campus logistics.

Important: The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) issued COVID-19 Guidance in March 2020 which has remained in effect for the 2021-22 Academic Year. This COVID-19 Guidance allows students to engage in distance learning in excess of regulatory limits and to remain in “Active” status while studying full-time outside of the U.S. Students in F-1 status must consult with the [Office of Global Education](#) to determine the applicability of these accommodations for the fall 2021 semester. Furthermore, students should fully understand the implications that studying remotely may have on their F-1 status and their eligibility for work authorization should the accommodations be discontinued.

III. TIMELINE

- A. The associate director of GE communicates such likely exceptions to the associate provost of faculty affairs so that the affected faculty members can be notified in Mid-May.

- B. The associate director of GE provides an update to the associate provost of faculty affairs who in turn informs affected faculty members in mid-July.
- C. The associate director of GE communicates all approved requests to the associate provost for undergraduate studies prior to the start of the semester.

IV. RESOURCES/FAQ

Office of Global Education: <https://www.goucher.edu/learn/global-education/>

Immigration Regulations and COVID-19: <https://www.goucher.edu/experience/equity-and-identity/international-student-support/immigration-regulations-and-covid-19>

V. RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL

The official responsible for administering this policy is the [Associate Director](#) of the Office of Global Education.

VI. HISTORY

[Created June 2021]