

I want to thank all returning students for working with the faculty and staff to get us through the extraordinary challenges we faced in the winter term, and for your commitment to making the fall term a safe and successful one. As we near the start of the fall semester, the rapidly changing public health situation continues to make planning a challenge, but some things are now clear. Please email me if you have questions.

1) Advising- Keith Wittkopp (gambit@umich.edu) and I (rhume@umich.edu) will be doing all our major advising remotely by videochat (or phone call if your bandwidth is low). Please try to find a slot that will work for you by using the [Online advising appointment request system](#) but if none of the listed times will work for you, feel free to e-mail one of us to schedule an appointment at a time that will work.

a. We will also have peer advisors available. An announcement of their hours will be sent out soon.

2) Class availability

a. Moving to on-line only instruction has allowed us to increase the capacity of many of the large enrollment classes required in the neuroscience major (Bio 222, 225, 305, MCDB 310). If you are not currently enrolled but want to add one of these classes, please first see if the on-line system will allow you to add it. If not, email Keith Wittkopp (gambit@umich.edu) and request an override. It did not prove possible to increase the capacity of Psych 230, so the normal waitlist procedure will be followed for this course.

b. Most of the smaller upper level elective classes will remain at their originally capped size. We will be adding students to these classes only as students drop them.

i. If you are planning to graduate in December 2020 and need to add an upper level elective class to do so, please contact me (rhume@umich.edu) immediately.

ii. For all other students, there will be a large number of upper level elective classes available in winter term 2021 and we are confident that all students previously making normal progress towards their degree will be able to graduate on schedule.

c. At present we are still planning to offer most of the upper level lab classes with a mandatory in-person component, and extensive planning has gone into how to do so safely. However, we are ready to transition to an on-line only versions of these classes if the public health situation makes this necessary

i. It seems likely that some students currently enrolled may drop at their in-person classes at the last minute. If you are on a waiting list, DO NOT GO TO THE FIRST CLASS MEETING! We will contact any students we are able to add by email.

3) Undergraduate research

Research outside of labs

a. Current University policy is that undergraduates in any year of study are welcome to participate as members of research teams if their work can be done **remotely**.

- b. Many neuroscience focused labs do not have projects that are suitable for starting a student remotely, and will not be taking on new students until in-lab research is possible

Within lab research

- a. When the fall semester begins, the only undergraduates eligible to work in labs will be senior students who already have experience in the same laboratory.
 - i. Many labs will not be able to bring their seniors back at this time, because of limits on the total number of people allowed to work in University buildings. If you are a senior and want to return to a lab this fall, please contact your mentor immediately to determine whether that is possible. If not, some mentors will have projects that can be done remotely, but others will not.

- b. The University will review this policy in early October after students have fully re-engaged on campus to determine whether more undergraduates can safely resume in-person laboratory research.
 - i. If it turns out that additional undergraduates become eligible to begin lab research in October, it will be possible to add research courses such as Psych 326 and MCDB 360 well after the usual add/drop deadline.
 - ii. You should be prepared for the possibility that the University may decide that it will not be safe to start training any additional undergraduates in research labs until sometime in 2021. In this case, many labs that normally do not take on seniors will likely do so in order to make opportunities available for students whose entry into lab work was delayed beyond their preferred starting semester.

Richard I. Hume, Ph.D.
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental
Biology
Director, Undergraduate Program in Neuroscience
University of Michigan