

Greetings from the Office of International Education!

As you are aware, Southern Connecticut State University closed its physical campus and converted to online learning during the Spring 2020 semester in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The University has begun plans to reopen and resume in-person classes beginning August 24th with courses resuming August 26th.

Our university will adopt a HyFlex model of learning for the new semester – essentially offering a mix of classes both on-ground and online. Under Southern’s “OwlFlex” system, classes will commence Aug. 26, following a staggered move-in for our residence hall students.

All members of the campus community – faculty, staff, and students – will be required to wear a face covering, provided by the university, and maintain the recommended social distancing practice of being at least 6 feet (2 meters) apart from one another. There will be a staggered move in period for students who anticipate living on campus. Campus clubs and activities will be hosting virtual sessions and other alternatives.

The University’s goal is to complete the entire fall semester as scheduled, with one caveat – on-ground classes will end at the Thanksgiving Recess (November 25-29). After Thanksgiving, all remaining classes and final exams will be held online and all student services will be offered remotely.

Please note that the University must adhere to guidance from the Connecticut State Department of Public Health. This may mean that if prevailing public health conditions change and there is a resurgence of the virus, classes may need to be delivered online. At SCSU, safety is our first priority.

Embassies and consulates across the globe are slowly beginning to reopen to support new visa applications. Please keep our office informed of your visa appointment as it is scheduled. We will continue to monitor the Student and Exchange Visitors Program and Department of State recommendations regarding issuance of F-1 and J-1 student visas and assist wherever possible.

We understand how challenging these times are and we appreciate your patience and cooperation as we move into this new era for the University. If you have any questions or concerns about applying for an F-1 visa please reach out to Michael Schindel (schindelm1@southernct.edu). If you have questions about applying for a J-1 visa, please reach out to Jazmin Sharif (sharifj1@southernct.edu). For general questions about services offered by the Office of International Education, please write to oi@southernct.edu and we will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to seeing you in the Fall!

Sincerely,

The Office of International Education