

Dear SOM graduate students,

Many thanks for your continued commitment to your training as well as your flexibility and efforts toward maintaining a safe work-learning environment over the past 18 months. Your achievements are always impressive, but they have been doubly so during the COVID-19 era.

To expand on and operationalize the recent [guidance](#) from VCU regarding COVID-19 vaccination requirements for students, work arrangements and other important topics, please note that

- For Summer 2021
 - all students
 - current health and safety [guidance](#) applies
 - Entry Pass requirements will continue to apply
 - masks must be worn in congregate housing situations, health care settings, and to accommodate immune-compromised individuals
 - vaccinated students
 - masks are not required when in VCU facilities other than as noted above, but students are welcome to wear them
 - in-person, virtual or hybrid in-person/virtual formats for thesis and dissertation defenses are all options
 - students should coordinate with their advisors and graduate advisory committees regarding defense formats
 - unvaccinated students
 - masks must be worn at all times in VCU facilities
 - thesis and dissertation defenses will continue remotely, given the requirement for unvaccinated students to wear masks in VCU facilities
- For Fall 2021
 - students who will use VCU facilities in the fall are required to be vaccinated and report their vaccination to [University Health Services](#) by July 15th, 2021 (excluding those with religious or health exemptions)
 - additional guidance will be distributed as it becomes available

Please continue to contact your program directors with questions about your training. Many thanks again for all of your hard work and best wishes for a safe, successful and productive summer semester.

Sincerely,

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