

Hello,

As the Interim Dean of the Crane School of Music, I want to welcome you or welcome you back to Crane! The fall semester is rapidly approaching and more of our plans have been finalized. Thank you so much to those of you who have shared your questions and concerns through the online form. Some of your questions are addressed in the College [Academic FAQs](#) & [Campus Life FAQs](#). Most of your remaining questions will be answered here.

As a reminder, this semester you may elect to come to campus *or* to be fully remote and complete your coursework online from home. We, the faculty and staff of Crane, support whatever you decide and are preparing to provide engaging, high-quality musical and educational experiences, whether online or in person. Please be supportive of each other in this challenging time. For those that return to campus this fall, you will be required to commit to a [set of expectations](#) designed keep our community safe. Be sure to read this pledge carefully, as it will answer many of your questions about what will be allowed on campus.

Our primary goal is the safety of students, faculty, staff, and community. Based on the current research regarding musically produced aerosols and with the input of our campus facilities and environmental health teams, we are making plans for Crane courses and building use. In case you are interested in reading more about current research regarding the spread of COVID-19, I have included some links at the end of this message. As more information becomes available, the guidelines could change.

Courses

Courses labeled as “virtual” or “online” in BearPaws will be meeting fully remotely. In other words, there will be no on-campus, in-person components; though these courses may still have class components that happen at the scheduled course time, just in an online environment. For any course not designated as “online” or “virtual” in the course schedule, the professor is planning to include both online components and on-campus, in-person components (as possible and in line with health & safety regulations). You may still be enrolled in these courses even if you choose to be fully remote, completing coursework from your home. For those attending classes in person, you will be expected to clean your own workstations (chair, desk, music stand, etc.) upon entering the class. Cleaning protocols and supplies will be provided for these spaces. Finally, understanding that access to instruments for techniques courses is vital, we are developing a plan for tech instrument distribution.

Lessons

Lessons may be virtual or in person at the discretion of the instructor. Spaces for in person lessons will be finalized soon. Studies have shown that shorter lesson length and idle room time for air replacement are recommended (e.g. 30-minute lessons with 60 minutes between). Because of the down time needed between lessons, faculty may be unable to accommodate weekly in person lessons and supplemental virtual lessons will be required. The process for Levels & Juries are being determined by each area. These processes will be shared and posted on the Crane website once complete.

Practice Rooms

In order to reduce population density in Crane, practice rooms will be dispersed across campus. Our preliminary plan includes practice rooms in three different buildings. To minimize possible contact exposure, students will be assigned to individual practice rooms in small groups (process, including piano access needs, and number/room to be determined once spaces are finalized). Each group of students will need to coordinate their practice room schedule for remote class attendance and practice times, allowing for time between each student. Students will be expected to clean their own workstations (chair, music stand, etc.) upon entering a practice room. Cleaning protocols and supplies will be provided for these spaces.

Recitals

At this time, we plan to allow both virtual and degree-required live performances (as possible within safety guidelines). To provide the safest possible experience for all, no live audiences will be permitted. The only people allowed in the space are the performers on the stage, which must be limited to five people or less, abiding by all policies in regard to social distancing. If desired, students may have one person in the hall during the performance to assist with a Live stream. Comprehensive recital guidelines will be posted on the Crane website.

Other Building Policies

Access to Crane facilities will be limited to course requirements and assigned practice room access. No guest building access will be allowed. The Crane Commons will be closed with expanded food service being offered in the PAC Café. More details about restrictions in the Performing Arts Center will be forthcoming. Crane offices will be offering virtual office hours so you can easily connect with staff remotely. The Crane and Crumb Libraries are developing their policies for space use and access to materials. These will be shared soon.

Arrive Early

Per campus protocol, you will be required to be tested for COVID-19 upon arrival to campus. While awaiting test results, you will be required to self-quarantine in your dorm room. During this quarantine, you will not be allowed to access your practice room or go to classes. So, we recommend that you elect to come back to campus on the earliest date possible in order to complete your quarantine prior to classes commencing.

We are all looking forward to the day when we can be back on campus making music and learning together. Until that day, please remember we are here to support you and your progress to your goals in whichever format you decide is best for you.

Please watch for another email from me very soon requesting information from you about necessary course materials. Also, I will send updates as more details are finalized.

Take care,
Dr. Pearson

Recommended Reading

University of Minnesota study on classroom airflow:

- [Research Brief: New study explores how coronavirus travels indoors](#)
- [U Of M Study Measures How COVID-19 Particles Spread In Classrooms](#)

[Yes, the Coronavirus Is in the Air](#)

Performing Arts Aerosol Study – Round one preliminary results

- [PowerPoint presentation](#)
- [Summary of Recommendations](#)

[World Health Organization Brief](#)